

OHIO TURNPIKE COMMISSION  
682 Prospect Street  
Berea, OH 44017

**PROVISIONS COVERING PERMITS FOR OPERATION OF LONG COMBINATION  
VEHICLES (LCV'S) FOR TRIPLE TRAILER COMBINATIONS IN EXCESS OF 90  
FEET IN LENGTH ON THE OHIO TURNPIKE**

Triple trailer combinations in excess of 90 feet in length (Triple) may operate on the Ohio Turnpike under a "Triple Trailer Permit" (Permit) issued by the Commission subject to compliance by the Permittee with the following provisions:

**I. GENERAL CONDITIONS**

1. A Triple shall consist of a tractor, first semi-trailer, a dolly, a second semi-trailer and dolly, and a third semi-trailer. Neither the first semi-trailer, the second semi-trailer nor the third semi-trailer shall be longer than 28 feet 6 inches. The minimum length permitted to operate as a Triple shall be 90 feet and the maximum length of such a Triple shall be 113 feet. The number of axles of a triple shall be a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 9.

2. The total gross weight for a Triple shall not exceed 115,000 pounds. The maximum allowable gross loads on the axles are as follows:

- Maximum gross weight on any one axle ..... 21, 000 pounds
- Maximum combined axle load of any two successive axles, spaced four feet or less apart ..... 24,000 pounds
- Maximum combined axle load of any two successive axles, spaced more than four feet apart, but less than eight feet apart ..... 34,000 pounds

**II. EQUIPMENT**

1. A tractor used in the operation of a Triple shall be capable of hauling 115,000 pounds at a speed of not less than 40 miles per hour on all portions of the Turnpike. The maximum upgrades on the Ohio Turnpike are 2% and the longest is approximately 3 miles.

2. Each unit used for towing other units in a Triple shall have sufficient structural strength to insure the safe and secure attachment of any coupling device used to tow the other units. The forward semi-trailers must be reinforced and the Permittee must certify that forward trailers have sufficient strength for satisfactory attachment of the rear-coupling device so that they can tow the trailers and dollies safely.

3. Coupling devices shall be so designed, constructed and installed, and the units of a Triple shall be so designed and constructed, as to insure that any towed units when traveling on a level, smooth, paved surface will follow in the path of the towing unit without shifting or swerving more than three inches to either side of the path of the towing unit when the latter is moving in a straight line.

4. Units used in a Triple shall be equipped with coupling devices as required per current applicable Economic and Safety Regulations of the PUCO, and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and as further provided herein.

- A. Every dolly shall be coupled with a safety chain or chains (stay chains or cables) attached directly to the frame of the semi-trailer by which it is to be towed. Attachment to the pintle hook will not meet this requirement. Each chain or cable and means of attachment shall have an ultimate strength at least equal to the gross weight of the dolly and trailer being towed.
- B. Chains or cables shall be connected to the towed and towing vehicle and to the tow bar, so as to prevent the tow bar from dropping to the ground in the event the tow bar fails or becomes disconnected.
- C. Safety chains or cables shall have no more slack than is necessary to permit proper turning.

5. Each unit in a Triple shall be equipped, at a minimum, with electric lamps, turn signals, reflectors and with conspicuity treatment as required by current applicable Economic and Safety Regulations of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, except that the trailers shall be equipped with two red tail lamps and two red stop lamps mounted one set on each side. The additional lamps required herein shall comply with said PUCO regulations as to visibility.

6. A triple shall be equipped with brakes as required per current applicable Economic and Safety Regulations of the PUCO, and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. The brakes on a Triple shall also comply with the following:

- A. A Triple shall be equipped with full air brakes or air activated hydraulic brakes on the tractor and either air or electric brakes on the trailers. Trailers shall be equipped with brakes designed to be applied automatically and promptly upon breakaway from the towing vehicle, and means shall be provided to maintain application of the brakes on the trailer in such case for at least 15 minutes.
- B. A Triple, at all times and under all conditions of loading, upon application of the service (foot) brake shall be capable of: developing a brake force that is not less than 43.5% of the gross combination weight; decelerating to a stop from not more than 20 miles per hour at not less than 14 feet per second; stopping from a speed of 20 miles per hour in not more than 30 feet, such distance to be measured from the point at which movement of the service brake pedal or control begins. Tests for deceleration and stopping distance shall be made on substantially level (not to exceed plus or minus 1% grade), dry, smooth, hard surface that is free from loose material.
- C. The emergency brake system shall be capable of being applied by the driver's muscular effort or by spring action. The emergency brake system operation may be assisted by the service brakes or other source of power provided that failure of the service brakes or other power assisting mechanism will not prevent the emergency brake system from being applied in conformance with the forgoing requirements. The emergency brake system shall be so designed that when once applied they shall remain in the applied position despite exhaustion of any source of energy or leakage of any kind.

Upon application of its emergency brake system and with no other brake system applied, a Triple, under any condition of loading in which it is found on a public highway, shall be capable of stopping from 20 miles per hour in 90 feet, measured from the point at which movement of the emergency brake control begins.

- D. Every unit in a Triple shall be equipped with brakes acting on all wheels, which shall include the front axle of the power unit.
- E. Brake hoses shall conform to the appropriate specification set forth in the Society of Automotive Engineers Standards for "Hydraulic Hose" or "Automotive Air Brake Hose and Hose Assemblies".
- F. Every tractor used in the triple shall be equipped with a reserve capacity, or reservoir for air storage, to insure that, with the engine stopped, a full service brake application may be made without depleting such reservoir pressure by more than 30% when such reservoir is fully charged with air at maximum pressure as regulated by the vehicle's air compressor governor cutout setting. Each such reservoir shall be proved with a means for readily draining it of accumulated oil or water.
- G. Every tractor used in the Triple utilizing compressed air for the operation of its own brakes or the brakes of other vehicles in a Triple, shall be provided with a warning signal readily audible and visible to the driver, which signal will operate at any time the air reservoir pressure of such vehicle is below 50% of the air compressor governor cut-out pressure. In addition, each such vehicle shall be equipped with a pressure gauge arranged to indicate, in pounds per square inch, the pressure available for braking.

- H. The brakes on a Triple shall be designed and equipped so that braking action shall take place on all wheels as nearly simultaneously as possible to reduce to a minimum any possible tendency of a Triple to move out of alignment when stopping. All brake chambers of all axles in a Triple shall be compatible.

7. The distance between the rearmost axle of a semi-trailer and the front axle of the next semi-trailer in a coupled Triple unit shall not exceed 12 feet 6 inches. In no event shall the distance between the semi-trailers coupled in a Triple exceed 9 feet.

8. All wheels of the Triple shall be equipped with tires that conform to the Federal Motor Carrier's Safety Regulation 393.75.

9. A Triple must be equipped with adequate, properly maintained, "spray suppressant" anti-sail mud flaps, on all individual and tandem axles, except the steering axle (smooth faced mud flaps do not qualify as "spray suppressant" mud flaps).

10. The exterior rear vision mirrors of a Triple shall be heated for the removal of frost and ice.

### **III. EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATION**

1. A certification number will be issued by the Commission for each approved tractor. The certification number shall be placed at a designated location on the tractor. The certification numbers are to be three-inch high block letters in a color that contrasts with the tractor color. The certification number shall be removed from the tractor upon expiration of the certification card. The Commission will issue a certification card for the approved tractor, which certificate must be carried in the cab of the tractor in a place readily available for inspection. The certification card shall be returned to the Commission in the event that a Triple is retired from operation prior to expiration of the certification.

2. Each application for a permit to operate a Triple shall include a copy of a certification by an officer of the Permittee stating that all units to be incorporated in the Triple have actually been inspected and road-tested by the Permittee and that the specified units, modifications thereof and attachments thereto, comply with rules and standards per current applicable Economic and Safety Regulations of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations as well as those found herein.

The Commission reserves the right to inspect all units making up the Triple prior to and after certification. The Commission, or an agent of the Commission, may conduct an equipment inspection anytime the equipment is located on, or is operated within, Ohio Turnpike right-of way.

### **IV. DRIVERS CERTIFICATION**

1. Applications for drivers of a Triple shall be made by the Permittee on a form provided by the Commission prior to driving on the Ohio Turnpike. Each application shall include a \$10.00 non-refundable processing fee.

No such Triple shall be driven on the Ohio Turnpike by any person other than a driver approved by the Ohio Turnpike Commission.

Drivers must carry identification cards issued by the Commission and be able to produce them when requested by any police officer, toll collector, or administrative employee of the Commission.

- A. (1) Drivers must possess a current commercial drivers license (CDL) with appropriate endorsements for operation of Triples with air brakes. Drivers must be over 26 years of age, in good health, and shall have not less than 5 full years of documented experience driving double trailer combination units. Such driving experience shall include experience throughout the four seasons.
- (2) Drivers must comply with the applicable current requirements of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and Federal Hazardous Materials Regulations and the Economic and Safety Regulations of the PUCO, as well as the requirements found herein.

- B. (1) An application for certification of a driver must include a photocopy of the applicant's current CDL and all information concerning the applicant's driving and safety record, as well as an official abstract of the applicant's driving record and copies of all accident reports for the last five years.
- (2) The application must include evidence that the driver has undergone physical examination of the type and frequency required by the rules of the PUCO and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.
- (3) Each driver must have special training on triple combinations to be provided by the Permittee. The extent of the special training shall be mutually agreed by the Commission and the Permittee, but must consist of at least 8 hours combined total of: (1) classroom review of provisions and safety requirements; and (2) actual hooking, unhooking, driving and familiarization with a Triple at an off-turnpike site.

Furthermore, each driver on his/her first trip on the turnpike must be accompanied by an experienced Triple driver/coach between the entry and exit assembly areas used for the trip. The successful completion of such a trip will be part of the training requirement for final driver certification and documentation thereof shall be forwarded to the Commission. Training for drivers with previous Triple experience may be waived upon written request to the Commission.

- (4) The Permittee shall notify the Commission in writing when any driver ceases to be an employee of the Permittee.
- C. (1) Driver's applications shall be submitted only by an authorized officer of the Permittee. All correspondence in connection therewith shall be with Permittee, not the driver.
- (2) Driver certification is valid only for the operation of tractors owned by, or under the control of, the Permittee requesting certification of the driver.
- (3) Driver certification is valid for a period not to exceed 48 months and will expire on the month and day of the CDL expiration.
- (4) Re-certification must include a photocopy of the renewed CDL, an updated safety record, an official current abstract of driving record, evidence of a current physical examination and a \$10.00 non-refundable processing fee.
- (5) In submitting a driver application, the Permittee is responsible for the accuracy thereof. If it is determined that information about a driver is inaccurate, it may result in revocation of the Permit.
- D. The safety and well being of the traveling public is of primary importance to the Commission. Drivers of a Triple shall be experienced, capable and safety conscious and must recognize that their primary responsibility is the safety of other users of the Turnpike. The Commission will not permit a Triple to be operated by a driver who has failed to demonstrate the aforesaid requirements.

If the Commission becomes aware that a driver of a Triple does not meet the requirements of the Commission, it shall notify the Permittee, as well as the driver, of such determination and may suspend the driver for a period of time or permanently. Either the driver or the Permittee may, within ten (10) calendar days of the mailing of the letter submit, in writing, reasons why the suspension should not take place. The Commission shall review and give consideration to the information submitted and shall advise the Permittee and/or driver of its conclusions after such review.

Suspension of the driver will not be effective until after the ten-day period or the review by the Commission in the event written request for reconsideration is given unless the Commission believes that the actions of the driver are so serious that immediate suspension is necessary. In such event the suspension shall be effective on the date of mailing of the notice.

Driver certification will be rejected, suspended or revoked, upon consideration of the following factors, although those may not be the only factors given consideration:

- (1) Driver has been convicted of an offense involving alcohol or a controlled substance in any state or violation of the Ohio Revised Code, Sections 4506.15 or 4511.19, during the past five years. A second conviction of an offense involving alcohol or a controlled substance will disqualify a driver permanently for certification.
- (2) Driver's license has been suspended twice in the past three years in any state.
- (3) Driver's record of convictions for moving traffic violations shows either, (A) two or more violations in the last two years while driving a commercial vehicle in any state; or (B) three or more violations in the last two years while driving a commercial and non-commercial vehicle in any state.
- (4) Driver's record of chargeable (preventable) accidents shows two or more accidents in the last three years while driving a commercial or non-commercial vehicle.

#### **V. OPERATING CONDITIONS**

1. An annual permit fee of \$1,200 will be charged for each tractor unit certified.

All tractor certifications issued to the Permittee will be set to expire on the same date, as determined by the Commission. The initial permit fee will be \$100.00 per full month for each unit certified within that year. Permit fees are non-refundable. However, when a Triple is retired from operation, the balance of the permit fees may be applied to a replacement unit provided that the replacement unit is certifiable. A \$25.00 processing fee will be charged for each transferred certification.

2. Tolls charged for a Triple will be the same as for other vehicles currently being based on total gross weight as determined automatically by the toll plaza scales, computerized classification system and toll rate schedule (with Class 10 rates charged for all units over 90,000 pounds gross weight), plus a \$12.00 fee for each trip.

3. In the assembly of a Triple prior to their operation on the Ohio Turnpike, the Permittee shall ascertain the total gross weight of each trailer of the proposed combination. In the event that the gross weights of the trailers vary by more than 20% the Permittee shall couple them according to their gross weights with the heavier trailer coupled to the tractor.

4. After all of the vehicles in a Triple are completely assembled, and prior to the departure of the unit from the assembly area, the driver or mechanic shall inspect the combination of vehicles to determine whether each item is in proper operating condition. A checklist, furnished by the Commission, or approved equivalent, shall be completed and signed by the driver or mechanic prior to departure from the assembly area. The signed check list shall be carried during the entire trip and shall be available for inspection by any police officer or employee of the Commission.

5. Transportation of Division 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 Explosives as defined in 49 CFR 173.50; Division 2.3 Gas, Poisonous by Inhalation, as defined in 49 CFR 173.115; Division 6.1 Poisonous Materials as defined in 49 CFR 173.132 and included in Table 1 of 49CFR 172.504(e); and Class 7 Radioactive Materials as defined in 49 CFR 173.403 is prohibited in a Triple in quantities that require placarding of any trailer. Other DOT regulated hazardous materials may be transported in quantities that require placarding of individual trailers provided the said materials are not placed in more than two of the three trailers and the said materials are not placed in the third (rear) trailer unless doing so is necessary to comply with the weight coupling requirements of Section V, Paragraph 3 of the Provisions. All DOT regulated hazardous materials transported in quantities below the threshold for which placarding is required may be transported in any trailer of a Triple.

6. A minimum distance of 500 feet shall be maintained between Triple units and/or Double LCV units except when overtaking and passing another vehicle. Except when passing or when emergency or work-zone conditions exist, a Triple shall remain in the right-hand, outside lane.

7. There is limited space available at the assembly sites within the right-of-way of the Ohio Turnpike. In order to maintain safe and efficient operations, not only for the Commission but also for the Permittee, the Commission reserves the right to coordinate and control the use of the assembly areas, through restricting the number of total Permittees, number of certified units, time of use and/or other measures which are deemed necessary to manage the Triple program.

8. Permittees shall not leave any unit of a Triple in an assembly area for more than 4 hours.

9. Parking facilities in the Commission's service plazas are limited in both area and ability to accommodate long units. A Triple may not stop at service plazas for more than 30 minutes and LCV's should not congregate in plazas.

10. When, in the opinion of the Commission, the weather conditions are such that operation of a Triple is inadvisable, the Commission will notify the Permittee that travel is prohibited for a certain period of time. The Permittee must provide the Commission with the name of a person and number to be called in such an event. This person then will be responsible for relaying the suspension notice to all-appropriate facilities and units of the Permittee. The Permittee will be notified by the Commission when operation of a Triple may be resumed.

11. Safety of the traveling public is of utmost concern. The Permittee shall maintain a "Satisfactory Safety Rating" as assigned by The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, as authorized by Part 385 of The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. Evidence of the "Satisfactory Safety Rating" shall accompany all permit and equipment applications, and equipment certification renewals. If The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration revokes the "Satisfactory Safety Rating", the Permittee shall notify the Commission within forty-eight (48) hours in writing.

All accidents on the Turnpike involving a Triple must be reported to the Commission by telephone before the end of the next workday and within ten (10) days in writing.

The Permittee shall submit a monthly report to the Commission which will include the number of Triple runs, miles traveled, breakdowns, avoidable and unavoidable accidents, documentation of all accidents, and comments.

12. If the Commission determines that the operation of Triple trailer combination jeopardizes safety of the traveling public or is detrimental in any way to the Turnpike's operation, the Permit will be withdrawn upon reasonable notice to the Permittee.