



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY  
GOVERNOR

October 27, 2005

The Honorable Richard F. "Ric" Williamson  
Chairman  
Texas Transportation Commission  
125 East 11th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701-2483

Dear Chairman Williamson:

The Texas forest industry was greatly impacted by Hurricane Rita. An estimated 967 million cubic feet of Texas timber, worth \$833 million, has been affected. The estimated amount of damaged timber that requires salvage nearly equals the entire volume of timber harvested in all of East Texas in 2004. The Hurricane Rita Forest Recovery Task Force has set a goal of salvaging 40 percent of the damaged timber and is currently working under the September 23, 2005, waiver letter that expires October 31, 2005. The task force estimates that it will take several months to meet this goal.

To facilitate this salvage, I direct the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to suspend the oversize/overweight permitting requirements and fees for motor carriers involved in the transport of timber damaged as a result of Hurricane Rita.

The following exceptions apply to this waiver:

- loads cannot exceed 5 percent over allowable gross weight;
- loads cannot exceed posted weight limits on bridges; and
- carriers transporting loads that exceed 14' high are required to contact TxDOT's Motor Carrier Division at 512/ 465-3592 between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, or 512/658-1149 outside of normal business hours.

I direct that all requirements concerning Motor Carrier Registration, Single State Registration, the International Registration Plan, and the International Fuel Tax Agreement be suspended for motor carriers traveling within or into Texas to assist with efforts directly related to salvaging timber damaged as a result of Hurricane Rita. I am also suspending the requirements regarding

The Honorable Richard F. "Ric" Williamson

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the purchase of trip permits for registration and fuel for commercial motor carriers engaged in these efforts.

Unless explicitly provided for in this letter, the size and weight rules and regulations enforced by the Texas Department of Public Safety and other law enforcement entities are not suspended and remain in effect. Also not suspended are insurance, commercial driver's license and safety requirements associated with the above mentioned permits, registration, and programs. Motor carriers traveling into or within Texas must, at the minimum, have liability insurance at limits required by Texas or their home state.

I ask that all Texas law enforcement and other federal and state officials honor this letter as a blanket permit issued to the motor carriers directly involved with the Hurricane Rita Forest Recovery Task Force efforts.

This waiver will be in effect until March 31, 2006, unless extended or repealed.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style with a large, sweeping "R" and "P".

Rick Perry  
Governor

RP:khp

cc: The Honorable Carol Keeton Strayhorn  
Mr. Ernest Angelo, Jr., Chairman, Texas Public Safety Commission



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY  
GOVERNOR

November 1, 2005

The Honorable Richard F. "Ric" Williamson  
Chairman  
Texas Transportation Commission  
125 East 11th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701-2483

Dear Chairman Williamson:

This letter is to provide additional guidance and clarification to vehicle, load, and weight limit requirements outlined in my October 27, 2005 waiver letter regarding the Texas Forest Service recovery efforts resulting from Hurricane Rita.

- In addition to timber, the waiver applies to commodities, supplies, services, equipment and materials directly associated with this salvage effort, including single piece and multi-piece loads.
- Transporters of loads exceeding 14 feet high or 14 feet wide shall contact the Texas Department of Transportation's Motor Carrier Division at 512/465-3592 between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, or at 512/658-1149 outside of normal business hours, for routing.
- Prior to transporting oversize or overweight loads, carriers shall be responsible for checking current restrictions at <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/hcr/main.htm>.
- Axle weights shall not exceed 20,000 pounds on a single axle, 40,000 pounds on a dual axle group, or 48,000 pounds on a three axle group.
- Maximum gross weight shall not exceed:
  - Five percent over allowable gross weight for vehicles equipped with four or more weight bearing axles with an outer bridge span of at least 39 feet;
  - 90,000 pounds for vehicles equipped with five or more weight bearing axles (including the steering axle) with an outer bridge span of not less than 40 feet; or

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--95,000 pounds for vehicles equipped with five or more weight bearing axles (including the steering axle) with an outer bridge span of not less than 51 feet.

All exceptions apply to state maintained roadways only. None of the size and weight exceptions outlined in either letter are applicable to non-state maintained roadways.

The revised expiration date is January 15, 2006, unless repealed or revised.

Unless changed or noted in this letter, all other restrictions, exceptions, and requirements indicated in the October 27, 2005 letter remain in effect and the original letter must be retained to accompany this letter.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The first letter "R" is large and loops around the "i" and "c". The "P" is also large and loops around the "e" and "r". The "y" has a long, sweeping tail.

Rick Perry  
Governor

RP:khp

cc: Mr. Ernest Angelo, Jr., Chairman, Public Safety Commission