

CHAPTER 8 - Glossary

Advisory Committee on Permit Policy – See California Transportation Permit Advisory Council (CTPAC).

Air-Ride Suspension – An axle suspension system using air bags to provide equal distribution of weight to each axle in a group.

All-Terrain Crane – See Rough-Terrain Crane.

Annual Permit – A written permit for the operation or movement of vehicles and/or combination of vehicles of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum legal dimensions specified in the vehicle code over described routes, within described geographic limits and within specified hours of operations and movement. Annual Permits are issued for 12-month periods commencing on the date of issuance.

Appeals – A request by the permit applicant to have a review of the restriction, suspension of permit privileges, or permit denial decision by Caltrans.

Application – A written request for a permit for the movement of vehicles and/or loads that are extralegal in size and weight and are non-reducible.

Axle – An axle is a structure consisting of one or more shafts, spindles or bearings in the same vertical plane by which, in conjunction with the wheels mounted on the axle, a portion of the weight of a vehicle and its load is continuously transmitted to the roadway.

Axle (Flip) – A single axle which is pinned to the rear of a semitrailer. The axle is flipped up on to the rear of the semitrailer when not being used.

Axle (Hydraulic or Air Booster) – A booster axle is an axle generally having an air or hydraulic cylinder suspension system that can be actuated independently to assume a portion of the load that would otherwise be carried by adjacent axles. Usually, a pin-on axle with a spreader assembly placed between the rear of the trailer and the axle assembly. Does not qualify for extralegal weight and is not permitted for use in California.

Axle (Joe Dog) – A single axle jeep. Does not qualify for extralegal weight and is not permitted for use in California.

Axle (Lift) – An axle that is permanently attached to the frame of the vehicle on which it rides. The axle literally lifts or lowers by means of a switch activating a lift mechanism. The purpose of the lift axle is to increase the weight capacity or to distribute the weight between the adjacent axles.

Axle (Single) – An axle that has an axle spacing of no less than 8'-0" from any other axle. Two axles with a spacing less than 3'-6" are considered a single axle.

Axle (Tag) – See Axle (Lift).

Axle (Tandem) – Tandem axles that have a minimum spacing of 3'-6" and a maximum spacing of 8'-0", measured from the centerlines of the axles.

Axle (Tridem) – Three axles having a common suspension system that equally and equitably divides the weight in its axle group. Tridem axles that have a minimum spacing of 8'-0" and a maximum spacing of 10'-4".

Axle Capacity – The predetermined designed maximum load capacity.

Axles (Fixed Inline) – Axles mounted on a common, non-articulating, non-steering frame when the axle bridge dimension from the first axle to the last axle exceeds 10'-0".

Axle Spacing – Axle spacing is the distance from the center of the axle in one vertical plane to the center of the axle in another vertical plane.

Axle Width – Axle width is the distance from the outside of the tire sidewall on one end of an axle to the outside of the tire sidewall on the other end of the same axle. The measurement shall be to the normal upper bulge of the tire and shall not include load induced tire bulge.

Beam and Dolly Hauling Equipment – A combination of structural beams and dollies that when assembled forms a train of vehicles used for transporting a load suspended between the beams.

Boat Trailer – A specialty trailer specifically designed to transport boats.

Bonus Weight – Additional weight allowed when the number of tires per axle is increased from four to eight on the same axle of an axle group. Additional weight will be allowed when the axle width is increased to a minimum dimension of 10'-0" and is equipped with eight (8) tires per axle.

Boom Dolly – The vehicle detached from the crane and attached to the boom of a crane for the purpose of supporting a portion of the boom weight when moving the crane over the roadways.

Bridge Rating Classification – The load capacity of a bridge structure determined by the analysis or design indicating maximum allowable weight for the permitting of extralegal loads.

Bridge Structure – Structure with designated load-carrying capacity designed to carry vehicles or combination of vehicles over natural obstacles or other roadways.

California Transportation Permit Advisory Council (CTPAC) – The California Transportation Permit Advisory Council (CTPAC) is a group comprised of Caltrans staff and various representatives of the heavy haul industries. The purpose of the group is to provide a forum for government and industry viewpoints on state transportation permitting policies and procedures. CTPAC representatives use council and steering committee meetings to update their members on changes and help resolve permit related issues.

California Vehicle Code (CVC) – A published text of laws relating to the use of highways and the operation of motor vehicles in the State of California.

Caltrans – California Department of Transportation.

Close Coupling of Axles – A situation that occurs when two groups of axles are so close that three consecutive axles are 18'-0" or less when measured from the centerline of the first to centerline of the third successive axle.

Combined Vehicle Length – The actual length of the vehicle and/or vehicle combination measured from the most forward portion to the most rear portion of the vehicles. This length does not include overhang portions of the load.

Compliance Program – A program established by Caltrans to ensure the safety of the traveling public and the protection of the State's infrastructure by educating and informing the haulers on violations. Caltrans encourages full compliance of the permit program by restricting or suspending permit privileges for violators. See Chapter 7 – Compliance Program.

Concrete Pump – A vehicle or vehicle combination specifically designed for use in the placement of concrete.

Construction Equipment – See Special Construction Equipment.

Containerized Loads (Sea Containers) – Intermodal cargo containers of legal size and weight.

Counterweights – Weight used to counter balance loads lifted by a truck crane.

Curfew Area – A designated area where permit vehicles and/or loads in excess of 10'-0" in width are not permitted movement within specified morning and afternoon peak traffic periods.

Curfew Map – A map showing the curfew area, routes affected, and restricted peak traffic periods.

CVC – See California Vehicle Code.

Darkness – Per CVC 280, ‘darkness’ is any time from one-half-hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise and any other time when visibility is not sufficient to render clearly discernable any person or vehicle on the highway at a distance of 1000 feet.

Department – California Department of Transportation, unless otherwise stated.

Detour – A detour is a deviation from a direct continuous route. The use of direct off and on ramps does not constitute a detour (detour via ramps).

Direct Crossing Permit – Per CVC 4006, a vehicle which is driven or moved upon a highway only for the purpose of crossing the highway from one property to another in accordance with a permit issued by the Department of Transportation is exempt from registration. If extralegal dimensions or weight exist, the normal application of the permit program shall apply.

District – A district is one of the twelve geographical subdivisions of Caltrans.

Division of Traffic Operations – The Division of Traffic Operations includes the Office of Commercial Vehicle Operations and the Transportation Permits Issuance branch, which is in charge of issuing oversize and overweight permits.

Dolly (Trailer) – A vehicle that can be coupled to a truck or trailer and designed for supporting a portion of the load.

Dolly-Steering – A dolly in which an axle supporting a portion of the load is designed to accommodate turning movements of a load.

Doubles – A combination of vehicles coupled together, including any attachments thereto, which consists of a truck tractor, a semitrailer, and a trailer. See CVC Sections 35401(a), (b).

Drilling Rig (or Drill Rig) – A self-propelled vehicle or combination of vehicles specifically designed for drilling purposes.

Dual Lane Loading (or Double-Wide Hauling) – Hauling equipment using two dollies, which is hauled in a side-by-side configuration, in which the total width is 13'-0" or greater.

Dual Tires – A set of two independently mounted tires on one end of an axle.

Emergency – A condition which poses an imminent threat of loss of property or a hazard to life.

Encroachment Permit – An encroachment permit issued by the Department is a contract which allows the use and occupancy of the State highway right-of-way. The encroachment permit application is a separate process from the transportation permit application.

Expandable Equipment – A vehicle that has the capability to expand its width when needed for weight or for stability of the load. See Trailer (Expandable).

Extralegal Load – Per CVC 320.5, an "extralegal load" is a single unit or an assembled item which, due to its design, cannot be reasonably reduced or dismantled in size or weight so that it can be legally transported as a load without a permit as required by CVC Section 35780.

Facsimile Agreement – An agreement between Caltrans and a sending and/or receiving station authorizing facsimile transmittal and/or receipt of transportation permits.

Facsimile Permit – A transportation permit transmitted by a facsimile (FAX) machine is valid only when a permit number is assigned, signed and all attachments affixed thereto.

Fifth Wheel – A horseshoe-shaped coupling device located on the rear of the towing vehicle like a truck tractor or jeep. The fifth wheel device receives the king pin of the semitrailer.

Fixed Driven Vehicle – See Self-Propelled Fixed Load Vehicle.

Fixed In Line Axles – Axles in separate vertical planes mounted to the same structural frame member and that do not have steering capability.

Fixed Load – A vehicle or combination of vehicles which have been manufactured for a specific purpose and not for use in transporting loads. Does not include construction equipment or other similar vehicles designed for off road use.

Fixed Width Semitrailer – A semitrailer exceeding legal width dimension by design, which will accommodate loads that equal or exceed the semitrailer width.

Foot Pin – Point where the boom of a crane connects to the upper works (crane house) and provides the vertical axis for the crane boom articulation.

Formula B – The Federal Bridge Gross Weight Formula (also known as Bridge Formula B and the Federal Bridge Formula) is a mathematical formula in use in the United States by truck drivers and Department of Transportation (DOT) officials to determine the appropriate maximum gross weight for a commercial motor vehicle based on axle number and spacing.

Glad-Hands – A quick connect or disconnect coupling used to join two air lines.

Gooseneck – The part of a semitrailer that contains the kingpin and attaches to the tractor or to the forward and/or rear units in the combination.

Hazardous Material – Any material, substance, or device posing a risk to health, safety, or property during transportation. Per CVC 353, "hazardous material" is any substance, material, or device posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, or property during transportation, as defined by regulations adopted pursuant to Section 2402.7. "Hazardous material" includes explosives and hazardous wastes or substances as defined by regulations adopted pursuant to Section 25141 of the Health and Safety Code and medical wastes, as defined in Section 117690 of the Health and Safety Code.

HCD Decal – A license issued by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) authorizing transporters, dealers and manufacturers to move manufactured homes in California.

Height (Overall) – The height of a vehicle and/or load that is measured from the roadway surface to the highest point on the vehicle or load.

Height Pole – A nondestructive device used to check vertical clearances that is securely affixed to the pilot car.

House Move – Transporting a house over conventional State highways.

Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) – The State Department that issues transportation decals which is a requirement for the movement of manufactured homes as it relates to the transportation permit program.

Implement of Husbandry – A vehicle which is used exclusively in the conduct of agricultural operations and conforms to Sections 36000 or 36005 of the CVC.

Integral Structural Material – See CVC 35414.

Jeep – A multi-axle short wheelbase auxiliary dolly used to distribute weight between a truck tractor and the load carrying semitrailer.

Kingpin to Rear Axle Dimension (KPRA) – The measured distance from the centerline of the kingpin (of the trailer which is connected to the fifth wheel) to the centerline of the rear (or last) axle of the semitrailer.

Last Hard Metal – The point furthest to the front, rear, or side of any vehicle or load at which a measurement is taken.

Legal – In conformance with or permitted by law.

Length (Loaded Overall Length) – The distance measured from the foremost point of the vehicle or load to the rearmost point of the vehicle or load.

Liability – Being responsible for actions or inactions required by statute or permit.

Load – A non-reducible extralegal item that is authorized movement under a transportation permit.

Lowboy – A semitrailer that has been designed with a measurable drop from the gooseneck to the load-carrying deck.

Manufactured Home – Per CVC 387, a "manufactured home" is a manufactured home, as defined in Section 18007 of the Health and Safety Code, a commercial coach, as defined in Section 18001.8 of the Health and Safety Code, a mobilehome, as defined in Section 18008 of the Health and Safety Code, factory-built housing, as defined in Section

18971 of the Health and Safety Code, and a trailer coach which is in excess of 102 inches in width, or in excess of 40 feet in overall length measured from the foremost point of the trailer hitch to the rear extremity of the trailer. Manufactured home does not include a recreational vehicle, as defined in Section 18010 of the Health and Safety Code.

Mechanical Distribution Unit (MDU) – A mechanical device which is equivalent to a simple beam that proportionately distributes weight between groups of axles.

Military Certification – Certification from the individual military services, the Department of Defense (DOD), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) or the Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC), that an extralegal load is essential to the national defense and should be permitted movement to reach its destination when the load is needed.

Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC) – The national organization that certifies the movement of a military load by commercial transporters.

Mixed Suspension – A suspension system that mixes suspension types within an axle group. Not permitted for use in California.

Mobilehome – Per CVC 396, a "mobilehome" is a structure as defined in Section 18008 of the Health and Safety Code. For the purposes of enforcement of highway safety laws and regulations, a mobilehome is a trailer coach which is in excess of 102 inches in width, or in excess of 40 feet in overall length measured from the foremost point of the trailer hitch to the rear extremity of the trailer.

Motor Truck – Per CVC 410, a "motor truck" or "motortruck" is a motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property.

National Network – The National Network (or National Truck Network) is a network of approved state highways and interstates for commercial truck industry's use in the United States. The Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) of 1982 authorized the establishment of a national network of highways designated for use by large trucks. On these highways, Federal width and length limits apply. The National Network (NN) includes the Interstate Highway System and other specified non-interstate highways.

Night Movement (Movement During Darkness) – Per CVC 280, "darkness" is any time from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise and any other time when visibility is not sufficient to render clearly discernible any person or vehicle on the highway at a distance of 1000 feet.

Non-Qualifying Load – A “non-qualifying load” is any load that either does not comply with CVC 320.5 or does not justify the size or use of the hauling vehicle combination. STAA vehicles traveling on non-STAA routes without a load to justify the vehicle combination are illegal. See STAA.

Non-Reducible Load – A non-reducible or non-divisible load is a load that consists of a single item that is usually large and heavy such as a piece of construction, industrial, or structural equipment or machinery.

Outriggers – Extensions supported by the surrounding ground surface that are used to provide stability to the crane body. Retractable extensions can also be added to the side of a semitrailer to extend the width of its load-carrying deck.

Overhang – The portion of the load that extends beyond the front bumper of a vehicle or beyond the foremost part of the front tires of a vehicle if not equipped with a front bumper. If the overhang is to the rear, then the distance is measured from the last point of support.

Overheight – Amount of height that exceeds the allowed either by statute or permit.

Overlength – Amount of overall length that exceeds the allowed either by statute or permit.

Overweight – Amount of gross weight or axle group weight that exceeds the allowed either by statute or permit.

Overwidth – Amount of width that exceeds the allowed either by statute or permit.

Park Trailer (Park Model) – “Park trailer” as defined in Section 18009.3 of the Health and Safety Code, contains 400 square feet or less of gross floor area, excluding loft area space. Park Trailers do not qualify for mobilehome exemptions and are subject to equipment requirements of the CVC.

Permit – Written document issued by Caltrans authorizing the movement on specified highways of an extralegal vehicle or load.

Permit Privilege Suspension – Suspension of transportation permit privileges for a specific time period when a permit applicant violates the terms and conditions of the transportation permit.

Permit Service – A private business authorized to obtain permits for trucking companies and transmit the permits to an authorized receiving station.

Permit Weight – Weight stated on the issued permit.

Pickup Truck – Per CVC 471, a "pickup truck" is a motor truck with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of less than 11,500 pounds, an unladen weight of less than 8,001 pounds, and which is equipped with an open box-type bed not exceeding 9 feet in length. "Pickup truck" does not include a motor vehicle otherwise meeting the above definition that is equipped with a bed-mounted storage compartment unit commonly called a "utility body."

Pilot Car – A motor vehicle (except a motorcycle, motorized bicycle, or motorized quadricycle) that is used to escort vehicles due to the vehicle's size or load size. The escort shall abide to the terms and conditions of the transportation permit issued by Caltrans or by a local authority.

Pintle Hook – A pintle hook or pintle hitch is a tow hitch device that attaches to the towing vehicle and allows the trailer to swivel and articulate. The pintle hook or pintle hitch is usually a tow pin and jaw with a trailer loop, and is often used for large or agricultural vehicles where slack in the pivot pin allows the same movement.

Point System – Point value system based on the type and severity of a permit violation. See Chapter 7 – Compliance Program.

Pole Dolly (Pipe Dolly) – Per CVC 475, a "pole or pipe dolly" is a vehicle, other than a motor vehicle, having one or more axles which axles, if there be more than one, are not more than 54 inches apart, and two or more wheels, used in connection with a motor vehicle solely for the purpose of transporting poles, timbers, pipes, or integral structural materials and connected with the towing vehicle both by chain, rope, cable, or drawbar, and by the load, without any part of the weight of the dolly resting upon the towing vehicle.

Qualifying Load – Any load that complies with CVC 320.5 and justifies the size or use of the hauling vehicle combination.

Quick Disconnect – A manual hose connection which can be disconnected quickly. A coupling device that is attached to the air supply system on the tractor and twisted into a matching device on the trailer to supply air to the trailer brakes.

Radioactive Materials / Waste – Materials exhibiting radioactivity that may be hazardous.

Radius – A radius distance of 100 miles measured from the permit applicant’s base of operation, or state border, granted under an annual permit.

Reducible Load – A load that can be reasonably reduced in size or weight by removing elements or parts of the load.

Related Parts (of a load) – Parts of the load that are essential to the operation of the hauled load.

Removable Goose Neck (RGN) – The part on a semitrailer that contains the kingpin and attaches to the tractor, or to the forward and/or rear unit in a vehicle combination. The RGN can be removed to allow a large piece of equipment to be driven onto the front deck of the trailer for transport.

Repetitive Permit – A permit issued by Caltrans for an unlimited number of loads and/or vehicles moving between predetermined locations for a prescribed period of time (6 months maximum).

Restricted Holidays – National holidays where permit movement is not authorized.

Rider – An attachment to an original transportation permit that modifies specific elements of the original permit.

Rough-Terrain Crane (All-Terrain Crane) – A crane used for construction purposes and occasionally operated or moved over the highway.

Route Clearance – Approval of the route by Caltrans to transport extralegal loads.

Self-Propelled Fixed Load Vehicle – A vehicle designed to be driven with its load or equipment permanently attached and performs a singular task.

Self-Steering Vehicle – A vehicle with the ability to follow substantially in the wheel path of the power unit. The vehicle is activated by pneumatic, hydraulic or mechanical devices.

Semitrailer – Per CVC 550, a “semitrailer” is a vehicle designed for carrying persons or property, used in conjunction with a motor vehicle, and so constructed that some part of its weight and that of its load rests upon, or is carried by, another vehicle.

Sheave Pin – The sheave, at the end of the boom, is used to run the working cable on and off the cable drum and to measure the boom length.

Shoulder – The portion of roadway located adjacent to, and on either side of, the traveled roadway. The shoulder is used for emergency parking only.

Single Trip Permit – The written authority for the movement of vehicles, combination of vehicles, or special mobile equipment with a size or weight exceeding the maximum legal size or weight specified in the CVC.

Slider – A semitrailer with sliding axles that can be moved forward or backward to modify the load distribution and/or kingpin to rear axle dimension.

Special Construction Equipment – Per CVC 565, “special construction equipment” is any vehicle used primarily off the highways for construction purposes and which moves only occasionally over the highways and which because of the length, height, width, or unladen weight may not move over the public highways unladen without the permit specified in Section 35780.

Special Mobile Equipment – Per CVC 575, “special mobile equipment” is a vehicle, not self-propelled, not designed or used primarily for the transportation of persons or property, and only incidentally operated or moved over a highway, excepting implements of husbandry.

Spring Suspension – An axle suspension system constructed of steel leaf springs.

STAA – See Surface Transportation Assistance Act.

STAA Vehicles – These are vehicles that are described in the Surface Transportation Assistance Act. For example, a vehicle combination with a 48’-0” trailer has no limit for the king pin to rear axle dimension or overall length. A vehicle combination with a 48’-0” to 53’-0” trailer has a 40’-0” limit for the king pin to rear axle dimension, but no limit for the overall length. Another example is a truck tractor, semitrailer, and trailer (doubles), where each trailer does not exceed 28’-6” and there is no limit for the overall length.

Straight Weight – The maximum allowable extralegal weight on a group of axles measuring 8’-0” from sidewall to sidewall and consisting of four tires per axle. Refer to weight chart.

Stretch Trailer – See Trailer (Stretch).

Structural Section – The roadway structure which typically includes the sub-base, base, and surface (concrete or asphalt concrete).

Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) – The Federal Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 implemented and designed the highway system and access routes for specific vehicles types. See National Network.

Tactical Military Vehicles – Military vehicles designed and operated exclusively by the military for military purposes.

Tandem Axles – See Axles (Tandem).

Terminal Access Routes – Federal designated State highways that allow access to STAA vehicles.

Tire Capacity – The recommended load that a tire may carry at a specified pressure and speed per the manufacturer's specification. The tires are identified by their usage as a single tire or as dual tires. Overweight permits shall not be issued when the actual weight exceeds the tire's sidewall rating capacity.

Tire Size – A numerical or alpha identifier given to a tire that corresponds to the manufacturer's recommended load-carrying capacity.

Torsion Bar Suspension System – A suspension system where the vertical movement of the wheel is restrained by a torsion bar. The torsion bar is connected to each wheel via the frame.

Towable Units – See Trailer Mounted.

Tow Truck – Per CVC 615 (a), a "tow truck" is a motor vehicle which has been altered or designed and equipped for, and primarily used in the business of, transporting vehicles by means of a crane, hoist, tow bar, tow line, or dolly or is otherwise primarily used to render assistance to other vehicles.

Trailer – Per CVC 630, a "trailer" is a vehicle designed for carrying persons or property on its own structure and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that no part of its weight rests upon any other vehicle. As used in Division 15 (commencing with Section 35000), "trailer" includes a semitrailer when used in conjunction with an auxiliary dolly, if the auxiliary dolly is of a type constructed to replace the function of the drawbar and the front axle or axles of a trailer.

Trailer (Double Drop) – A trailer or semitrailer where the load-carrying deck is below the kingpin and rear axles.

Trailer (Expandable) – A trailer or semitrailer where the width of the running gear can be increased.

Trailer (Single Drop) – A trailer or semitrailer where the load-carrying deck is below the kingpin and above the rear axles.

Trailer (Stretch) – A trailer or semitrailer capable of increasing the length of its load-carrying deck.

Trailer Coach – See Park Trailer.

Trailer Mounted – Equipment permanently attached to the trailer or trailer frame and towed by a power unit.

Transporter (Permit Applicant) – Per CVC 645 (a), a "transporter" is a person engaged in the business of moving any owned or lawfully possessed vehicle by lawful methods over the highways for the purpose of delivery of such vehicles to dealers, sales agents of a manufacturer, purchasers, or to a new location as requested by the owner.

Traveled Way – The paved portion of the roadway excluding shoulders and auxiliary lanes.

Tridem Axles – See Axle (Tridem).

Tridem Bonus Weight – Extralegal bonus weight allowed on a group of three axles with four or eight tires per axle. Qualifying axle groups are allowed up to 52,000 pounds for bonus green weight and up to 60,000 pounds for bonus purple weight. See Chapter 3.

Truck Crane – An extralegal self-propelled device used for lifting loads.

Truck Crane Boom Length – The length of the crane boom measured from the centerline of the upper works rotation to the last hard metal. For lattice type booms, the length may be measured from the foot pin to the sheave pin.

Truck Crane Carrier – The vehicle or part of a mobile crane excluding the truck crane upper works.

Truck Crane Upper Works – The part of the mobile crane, including the house and boom, above the crane carrier deck.

Truck Tractor – Per CVC 655 (a), a "truck tractor" is a motor vehicle designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to carry a load, other than a part of the weight of the vehicle and the load so drawn.

Trunnion Axle – An axle configuration with two individual axles, with four tires on each axle, mounted in the same transverse plane connected at a pivot point. The pivot point allows each individual axle to oscillate in a vertical plane to provide constant and equal weight distribution on each individual axle.

Trunnion Axle Group – Two or more consecutive trunnion axles that are individually attached to, and/or articulated from, the vehicle by a weight equalizing suspension system.

Truss – Per CVC 657, a "truss" is an assemblage of beams, bars, or rods typically arranged in a triangle or combination of triangles to form a rigid framework and used as a structural support in buildings.

Un-Bonused Weight – See Straight Weight.

Unique Identifier – Any combination of letters or numbers that identifies a transportation permit.

Unladen – Vehicles carrying no load. See CVC 660.

Unladen Annual Permit – Annual permits authorizing the movement of extralegal vehicles carrying no load.

Unladen Extralegal Semitrailer – Any unladen semitrailer that exceeds legal dimensions as specified in the CVC. Unladen STAA vehicles are illegal on non-STAA routes.

Variance Loads – A vehicle or load with extralegal dimensions exceeding typical permit limits. Variance loads require a special permit process.

Vehicle Combination – Any combination of vehicles, which may consist of a truck tractor, semitrailer, jeep, dolly, or mechanical distribution unit, coupled together for the purpose of hauling extralegal loads.

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) – Per CVC 671 (a), a "vehicle identification number" is the motor number, serial number, or other distinguishing number, letter, mark, character, or datum, or any combination thereof, required or employed by the manufacturer or the department for the purpose of uniquely identifying a motor vehicle or motor vehicle part or for the purpose of registration.

Vehicle Inspection – An inspection by Caltrans to determine if a vehicle or vehicle combination meets the requirements of the permit program.

Vertical Clearance – The distance measured from the traveled roadway to the lowest point of a bridge structure.

Vertical Clearance Tolerance – A minimum vertical clearance of three inches (3") from the lowest point of a bridge structure to the highest point of a load or vehicle.

Weather (Inclement) – Foggy, rainy, or windy weather that restricts visibility to less than 1,000 feet. Movement is prohibited during these conditions and when road surfaces are hazardous due to rain, ice, snow or frost, or when use of tire chains is mandatory. Transport shall cease when the velocity of the wind is such that it causes the vehicle being towed to whip or swerve from side to side or fails to follow substantially in the path of the towing vehicle.

Weight (Legal) – The maximum weight allowed for total weight, weight per axle, weight per group of axles, or wheel weight as allowed by the CVC.

Weight Transfer – A portion of the crane weight that can be transferred between groups of axles.

Width – The total outside width of any vehicle or load at its widest dimension, excluding any load induced tire bulge.

Yarder – A piece of equipment, with or without running gear, used to move cut trees from otherwise inaccessible locations.