GENERAL:

- **Background:**
  Current Department policy allows many overweight vehicles running under a Special Hauling Permit to cross R-posted Bridges. If a vehicle has a gross vehicle weight (GVW) of 116,000 lbs or less, and a major spacing of at least 30ft-0", this vehicle can cross an R-Posted Bridge without restriction. If a vehicle has a GVW of 116,000 lbs or less and a major spacing less than 30'-0", or a GVW greater than 116,000 lbs and less than 160,000 lbs; this vehicle is allowed to an R-Posted Bridge at a reduced speed of less than 5 mph.

Following the legislation change of 2004, the New York State Department of Transportation increased its efforts to reduce the number of bridges on the State Highway system that have been designated as R-Posted. Through this effort, the number of State Highway bridges that are designated as R-Posted has been reduced in number from 239 to approximately 184 bridges. The remaining bridges that are designated as R-Posted are defined as such due to the fact that they typically have little reserve capacity above legal truck weight limits. As such, in order to preserve the structural integrity and remaining service life of these R-Posted bridges, overloads should be considered only on an exceptional basis when little or no alternatives exist.

In addition to the structural issues noted above, there is also a concern with the requirement to drive less than 5 mph. Not strictly adhering to this requirement could result in damage to the structure(s). Department policy requires a NYS Certified Escort to accompany a move while crossing a bridge at reduced speed in order to warn approaching motorists. There is a concern that haulers are not always hiring the required escort because the escort is only needed on a relatively short portion of the move.

As a result of the above factors, the Department revising the policy of overweight Special Hauling permit vehicles crossing R-Posted Bridges.
• **Purpose:**
  To update Department policy regarding overweight vehicles running under a Special Hauling Permit crossing R-Posted Bridges.

• **Administration:**
  Effective January 1, 2009 no vehicle running under a Special Hauling Permit that is over legal weight, as determined by Sections 8, 9, and 10 of the NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law, will be permitted to cross an R-Posted Bridge without specific approval from the Department. For the infrequent occurrences when no reasonable alternative exists, a thorough structural review will be required to determine the possibility of allowing the move, as well as any specific crossing requirements.

**NEW POLICY:**

• **Explanation:**
  **Trip Permits:** If an application is received for a vehicle over legal weight, and the vehicle is crossing an R-Posted Bridge, the application will be denied.

  The applicant may request permission to cross a specific R-Posted Bridge. The applicant must note the request, including the Bridge Identification Number, on the route description of the permit application. This request will be reviewed by the Office of Structures or the Load Rating Engineer of the respective region. It is possible that an approval could include additional conditions such as the presence of a Certified Escort, police escort, or Department personnel.

  **Annual Permits:** All annual permits for vehicles over legal weight will be issued with the following restriction: “Cross No “R” OR load posted structures”.

• **Effective Date:** This policy is effective January 1, 2009.

**REFERENCE:** n/a