New York State Department of Transportation
Central Permit Office
50 Wolf Road, 1st Floor
Albany, New York 12232

NOTICE
Special Hauling OS / OW Permits

Subject: Pilot Annual Crane Permit

Code: SHN 10-04
Date: April 9, 2010
Supercedes: n/a

DISTRIBUTION:

- Central Office
- Regions
- TSC / PSC
- Industry
- Website Posting

GENERAL:

- Background:
The Department’s annual permit for self-propelled cranes (Type 14) is issued under the legal authority and criteria noted in NYCRR 154-1.2(b)(14). Contained within the paragraph of this regulation is a provision that notes “This paragraph will expire on December 31, 1997.” It was previously thought that this provision only applied to the requirement that the permittee maintain a log of all moves taken under this permit. However the Department’s Legal Affairs has determined that this provision applies to the entire paragraph, removing the Department’s legal authority to issue this permit.

Discontinuing the issuance of an annual permit would require crane operators to obtain a trip permit for each move. This would result in a substantial negative impact for users of this permit. Discontinuance would also require Department staff to review each individual trip permit. Self-propelled cranes that meet the proposed criteria should be able to travel safely over all non-restricted New York State highways and bridges under the jurisdiction of NYSDOT, making individual trip permit reviews an unnecessary burden on Department Staff.

There are also concerns with the method of analysis noted in the regulations. The overstress method noted in the regulations was developed at a time when load rating data was not as accurate or complete as what is currently available. While accurate the majority of the time, there are instances when the actual over stresses are beyond the operating stress level for some bridges. This could result in serious damage or collapse, especially for fracture-critical structures.

- Purpose:
To provide information on the Department’s efforts to continue to provide annual permits for self-propelled cranes. The Department has issued a Special Hauling Waiver of Regulations allowing an annual crane permit to be issued until December 31, 2011. This waiver can be accessed via the NYSDOT Permits website www.nypermits.org. The approval criteria have been modified to address the above issues.
Administration:
Effective April 12, 2010 all annual permits for self-propelled cranes will be issued using the below criteria. The majority of cranes will continue to be eligible for an annual permit issued under these criteria. In order to minimize the impact of this change, the Department will continue to issue annual permits to cranes that have been issued an annual crane permit in any year since 2005. If the owner of the crane does not renew the grandfathered crane on an annual basis (i.e. fails to renew in each subsequent year, starting in 2011), the grandfathered annual permit exemption will be discontinued for that specific crane. The owner will still have the option to obtain trip permits. The grandfathered permit exemption may not be transferred to a subsequent owner.

Eligibility for this permit can be determined by filling out a “Special Hauling Pre-approval Application Form for a Future Crane Permit” (PERM13) and sending to the Central Permit Office.

The waiver will remain in place until December 31, 2011. After one year, the waiver will be evaluated based on feedback from customers, the Department’s Office of Structures, and law enforcement. Based on this feedback the Central Permit Office and the Office of Structures will formulate a recommendation on whether this permit type should be implemented in regulation via the formal regulatory process, and if so what limits and restrictions should be included.

NEW CRITERIA:

Dimension Limits:
12’ wide
85’ long
13’-6” high

Weight Limit: Annual cranes will only be issued when the permit vehicle produces a load effect of not more than 55% greater than a standard three-axle design vehicle with the following criteria: 14 foot steering axle to second axle spacing; 14 foot second axle spacing to third axle spacing; a gross weight of 72,000 pounds; a steering axle to second axle load ratio of 1:4; a steering axle to third axle load ratio of 1:4.

Other Weight Limits:
Single axle: 40,000 pounds
Tandem axle grouping: 62,000 pounds
Tridem axle grouping: 72,000 pounds

Cranes are prohibited from carrying counterweights, with the exception of when the manufacturer’s vehicle specifications specifically require a small amount of counterweight to allow the vehicle to operate safely on the highway.

Permits will be issued for either the county in which the permittee is located or for an area 25 miles in the radius of the city, town, or village in which the permittee’s business is located. A base county permit may also authorize movements in counties contiguous to the base county upon application.

Fees:
25 Mile Radius Permit: $360
Base County Permit: $360
Additional Counties (Base County Permit only): $120 per county.