

Having clean, healthy, and productive forest ecosystems is the premier mission of the members of the Texas Forestry Association (TFA). TFA has been a conservation organization since 1914 and today TFA works for the people who grow, manage, harvest, process, and use the forest resources of Texas.

TFA’s goal is to represent the people in the forest sector by promoting healthy political and economic climates, and to encourage sustainable forest management which provides clean air, clean water, diverse wildlife habitat, products that enrich all our lives, and meaningful jobs.

Texas Boasts

- 12.1 million acres that is suitable for commercial forestry where 83 million trees are planted each year.
- Active forest management is the number one way to sequester carbon from the atmosphere and mitigate wildfire risks.
- Texas timberland is 92% privately owned and over half is owned in smaller tracts by family forest owners.
- Almost 40 percent of the surface drinking water supply in Texas originates from forests.



The Texas Logging Council (TLC), an affiliation of private business men and women who make their living from the harvesting and delivery of wood fiber to forest products mills all over East Texas, is a council formed under the umbrella of the Texas Forestry Association.

TLC works to improve and expand the use of professional logging and trucking practices responsive to the needs of customers, employees, landowners, and the general public.



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**State of Texas DMV Permits
for Timber Haulers**



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State of Texas - DMV Permits for Timber Haulers

From providing sustainable resources and jobs to conserving our natural landscapes, forestry is integral to state and regional prosperity and a vital component of the state’s economy and the working forests of East Texas, where products are produced and purchased daily.

- The value of harvested timber consistently ranks seventh as an agricultural commodity for Texas.
- Forestry’s economic impact on the state is (directly) \$21 billion annually and boasts nearly 70,000 jobs, with transportation playing a crucial role in this economic activity.

Forest landowners are totally dependent on harvest contractors to take their products to market. The rising transportation costs are increasingly affecting forest landowners, especially in already challenging markets. In some counties or precincts, service providers opt out of bidding on timber sales due to difficulties in transporting products. Additionally, delayed trucking and extended routes are causing logging companies to lose valuable time and significant revenue. By working with the tools the State of Texas provides, landowners and loggers can produce more efficiently even in a tough business climate.

What Haul Permits are Available?

Over Axle/Over Gross Weight Tolerance (2060 or 1547) Permit – (Subchapter B. General Permits, Section 623.011) available to Ag Products, O&G Equipment, Construction Materials, Manufacturing, etc.

HB 2060 passed the legislature in 1989, allowing a 5% tolerance on the gross vehicle weight (GVW) allowed by law and a 10% tolerance on axle weights. Vehicles moving under this permit may travel on county roads and state-maintained roadways, excluding the Interstate Highway System, in those counties selected on the permit application. They cannot operate the vehicle on a load-posted bridge if the gross weight of the vehicle and load, or the axles and wheel loads, are greater than the established and posted limits, unless the bridge provides the only public vehicular access to or from the origin or destination.

- Loggers may purchase a permit to cover one or more counties.
- Fees are based on the number of counties where the logger operates.
- Prior to being issued a permit, the contractor must have an Over Axle/Over Gross Weight Tolerance Permit Bond or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit on file with TxDMV.
- If a vehicle is operating in compliance with a permit issued under 623.011, a commissioners court may not issue a county permit or charge an additional fee, or otherwise regulate or restrict the operation of the vehicle because of weight or require the operator to comply with a road use agreement, apply to use a county road, or provide a bond since a bond was required by the state to purchase the permit.

For more information, go to <https://www.txdmv.gov/motor-carriers/oversize-weight-permits/annual-over-axle-over-gross-weight-tolerance>.

View ALL 2060/1547 permit holders by County at <https://txpros.txdmv.gov/County1547.aspx>.

Annual Timber Permit – (Subchapter Q. Vehicles Transporting Timber Section 623.321)

HB 2741 passed the legislature in 2013, allowing vehicles to haul up to 44,000 lbs on tandem axles as long as the gross vehicle weight (GVW) allowed by law does not exceed 84,000 lbs. This permit is offered as an alternative to a permit issued under section 623.011 at nearly triple the cost. Annual Timber Permit holders are required to give notice (through the TX DMV website) two business days before hauling, which is distributed to pertinent stakeholders. To receive notifications, update your contact email by sending your desired email address to MCD-TXPROS_Support@txdmv.gov.

- One permit covers all 43 counties.
- Fees are split with 50% to the State and 50% to the timber production counties, dedicated to county roads.
- Every vehicle issued an Annual Timber Permit will receive a sticker to be placed on its front windshield.
- A vehicle operating with this permit and displaying a sticker may operate on a road maintained by a county and on a state highway in counties where the county and TxDOT have been notified in accordance with Texas Transportation Code, Section 623.323 (TX DMV website).
- With this permit, a vehicle can operate on any state or county road regardless if it’s a load-restricted road or bridge.

For more information, go to <https://www.txdmv.gov/motor-carriers/oversize-weight-permits/timber-permit>.

Where Can I Find More Information?

View Rep. Keffer’s AG Request; Senator Staples request for AG Opinion; AG Abbott’s ON. GA-0509 at the Texas Forestry Association website at <https://www.texasforestry.org/> or scan



Texas Department of Motor Vehicles website at <https://www.txdmv.gov/> or scan



In 28 of the 43 East Texas counties, wood-based industries are among the top five manufacturing employers. In 2019, over 18 million tons of timber products were harvested from Texas forests, which equates to over 640,000 truckloads hauled by small, diverse logging companies to facilities that produce forest products for Texas and provide meaningful careers to sustain Texas facilities.

For a list of timber economic value by county, go to <https://texasforestinfo.tamu.edu/EconomicImpact/#/downloadreports>.

