

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the Missouri Log Plate**

It's been an issue for quite some time. It seems that for every inspector, there is a different interpretation of the regulations that surround log plates in Missouri. Recently, representatives from the Missouri Highway Patrol and MODoT got together with MFPA Executive Director Brian Brookshire and several Master Loggers to discuss the issue. It was a great conversation. By the end of the day there were some answers and some hope that steps are being taken to fix future issues.

### **Are there different log plates available?**

There is only one plate that is available at the Department of Revenue. Your registration will be determined by the combination: Local Log Truck (and pup), Local Log Truck Tractor, and Log Truck. The Log Truck registration is generally used on vehicles that will be going farther than the 100 mile radius from a forested site or crosses state lines. Generally, this uses an Apportioned plate.

You do not request a specific registration and it is not determined by the combination you use. Instead, it reverts to how the vehicle was originally titled...Truck or Tractor.

Depending on when you purchase your actual log plate from Dept. of Revenue, it will be about \$300.

### **What are the differences?**

The Local Log Truck, typically a log truck or a truck and pup, transports harvested forest products exclusively in state and is operated solely at a forested site and in an area extending not more than a 100 mile radius of the site, unless you buy an extended permit at the license bureau. You can carry a load not in excess of 25 cubic yards per two axles with dual wheels. When operated on an interstate highway you cannot exceed the weight limit of 20,000 pounds on a single axle or 34,000 pounds on a tandem axle group. You cannot have more than four axles and you cannot pull a trailer that has more than two axles. This tag is used to transport harvesting equipment which is specifically used for cutting, felling, trimming, de-limbing, debarking, skidding, loading, unloading, and stacking.

The Local Log Truck Tractor is also for in state only, typically a semi with a log trailer, and can only be operated in an area not extending past 100 miles from the forested site. Unless you buy an extended permit, you can carry harvested forest products not exceeding 22,400 pounds on one axle or weight not exceeding 44,800 on any tandem axle. You cannot have more than 3 axles on the truck and cannot pull a trailer which has more than two axles.

Another difference is the kind of fine each tag has for overweight violations. If you are using the Local Log Truck, after it has been determined that you are carrying more than 25 cubic yards and the decision is made to weigh your truck...the fine is determined by the weight, reverting to the

80,000 pound limits. If you are using a Log Truck-Tractor tag...the violation is considered a registration violation and the fine is about \$100.

### **How is cubic yardage determined?**

The formula for measuring the 25 cubic yards is an average of:  
Length X Width X Height divided by 27

The measurement is to be taken at three locations on the load and then an average used, unless the load is uniform. If the load is uniform, only one measurement will be taken. If you feel that if only one measurement is taken or a measurement that only takes in the longest or tallest log is unfair, please take pictures of your load and immediately call Missouri Forest Products Association (573) 634-3252.

Depending on the species and the size of logs, 25 cubic yards may actually give you the ability to carry a slightly heavier load.

If you are carrying over 25 cubic yards, the overweight charges will go back from 80,000 pounds.

These weight limits are specifically for use on non-interstate roads. If a roadway is actually two roadways, for instance I-49 and US 71, but only one road, which restrictions should we follow?

Whenever a roadway has been designated as an Interstate, the interstate weight restrictions apply.

### **Why are we limited to 2 axles?**

Despite the known safety aspect, current statutes do not allow the use of more than two axles. This is an issue MFPA intends on pursuing during the legislative session. We will keep you informed on the progress.

### **Do I need to start using an e-log?**

If you, or your driver, travel more than 100 miles from the logging site, or if you drive between 12 – 14 hours a day, or you start and stop...in different locations...you MAY need an e-log. At the very least, you may be required to fill out a paper log. Short hauls are exempt.

Another item to consider is frequency of trips. If you make less than 8 trips in a month out of the 100 mile radius, you may be exempt.

### **Can I get an Apportioned plate to go with my Log Truck plate?**

You cannot display two plates in the state of Missouri. While we know there is still difficulty when crossing state lines, specifically Arkansas...there are no reciprocating license plates; however, the Apportioned plate will serve that role as it deals with crossing state lines.

Along with the Apportioned plate, if there were plates recognized on both sides of the state line, Missouri will not issue two plates for the same vehicle.

Farmers in the state are working with farmers in Kansas to develop a reciprocal farm tag. That might be a first step to reciprocal agreements, but at this time there are still plates that are not distributed in other states. We will keep you informed of any progress towards reciprocal agreements.

### **Do I need a US DOT number?**

If you are hauling your own product in a private carrier, Missouri does not require a US DOT number. However, if you cross state lines you will need one. The cost is \$300. Be prepared though, there is a lot of paperwork associated with the number.

If you are hauling for hire or carrying someone else's products, you will need the number.

### **Do I need other kinds of registration?**

If you are hauling over-sized equipment...over 8 ½ but less than 12 ½ feet wide, you will need to apply for a Specialized Oversized Load permit. You are required to follow the legal limits for load length, height, and weight. The Like Object Equipment – Logging Equipment permit is \$145.

There is an Extended Distance Local Log Plate permit. This permit costs \$300, and allows you to travel outside of the 100 mile. Outside of the 100 mile radius, you are restricted to 80,000 pound. This permit is an annual permit, and will need to be requested every year.

### **Do I need to secure my load?**

State law requires your load to be secured by two straps for the first 10 feet of the load. One strap for every 10 feet after that.

This resource is not a completed document. It is our intention to keep updating this document as often as needed to provide you with the most current information or interpretation. We hope this helps. If you have a question that has not been answered...please call MFPA (573) 634-3252.

If you DO get pulled over and inspected; be respectful and polite. If you feel you have been treated improperly or unfairly, again, call MFPA (573) 634-3252.