

EXEMPTION FARM MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

THE LAW

Ohio Revised Code Section 5577.05 establishes the maximum dimensions at which a vehicle or vehicle/load may travel on the State Highway System without a special Hauling Permit. A noted exception to these statutory dimensions is “***farm machinery and equipment.***”

“This section does not apply to vehicles and pole trailers used in the transportation of wooden and metal poles, nor to the transportation of pipes or well-drilling equipment, nor to farm machinery and equipment.”

DEFINITION

Ohio Revised Code Section 4501.01(u)

(u) “Farm machinery” means all machines and tools used in the production, harvesting, and care of farm products, including trailers used to transport agricultural produce or agricultural production materials between a local place of storage or supply and the farm when drawn or towed on a public road or highway at a speed of twenty-five miles per hour, or less.

ODOT POLICY

Court rulings have determined that the intent of the law in section 5577.05 was to exempt the “***movement***” of farm machinery and equipment but not the “***transportation***” of this equipment.

“***Movement***” is defined as driving self-propelled farm machinery or towing farm machinery, where as “***transportation***” is defined as the hauling of farm machinery.

Inasmuch as the Ohio Revised Code does not exclude the transportation of farm machinery and equipment from the dimension limitations, various courts in overdimension violation cases have decided that farm machinery and equipment, when loaded onto a vehicle or vehicle combination, is then an oversize load and subject to normal permit requirements.

Farm Equipment Permit - this specialized permit is granted for the unlimited number of movements of farm machinery and equipment (as defined in Section 4501.01(u) of the ORC) to or from a farm or between two farm implement dealers. The farm equipment shall be part of an overdimension vehicle whose maximum weight, length and height do not exceed the limitations specified in Sections 5577.02 to 5577.05 of the Revised Code and whose width is fourteen (14.0) feet or less.

Single Trip Permit - is available through the superload section for the transportation of farm machinery and equipment when weights, and dimensions exceed those authorized by the “Farm Equipment Permit.” Additional escort requirements, including Ohio State Highway Patrol, may apply if authorized.
