



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 48
[2013 Assembly Bill 355]

**Michigan Border Permits for
Vehicles That Exceed Statutory
Limits on Size, Weight, or Load**

Under current law, the Department of Transportation may issue annual, consecutive-month, or multiple-trip permits for vehicles that exceed statutory limits on size, weight, or load to transport loads near the Michigan-Wisconsin state line (Michigan border permits). Prior to the enactment of 2013 Wisconsin Act 48, such permits authorized:

1. The transportation of loads over any class of highway for a distance not to exceed 11 miles from the Michigan-Wisconsin state line.
2. The transportation of exclusively peeled or unpeeled forest products cut crosswise, wood chips, or forestry biomass anywhere upon U.S. Highway 2 in Iron County, Ashland County, Florence County, and certain parts of Bayfield County, if the vehicle is traveling between Wisconsin and Michigan and does not violate length or weight limitations established under Michigan law.
3. The transportation of exclusively peeled or unpeeled forest products cut crosswise, wood chips, or forestry biomass upon U.S. Highway 2 from State Highway 13 in the City of Ashland through Hart Lake Road in Bayfield County.
4. The transportation of raw forest products or lumber on certain specified stretches of highway, including a portion of U.S. Highway 8 in Oneida and Forest Counties, if the vehicle does not violate Michigan law.

“Raw forest products” is defined as logs, pilings, posts, poles, cordwood products, wood chips, sawdust, pulpwood, intermediary lumber, fuel wood, and Christmas trees not altered by a manufacturing process off the land, sawmill, or factory from which they are taken.

2013 Wisconsin Act 48

2013 Act 48 modifies the authority for vehicles operating under a Michigan border permit in the following ways. The Act:

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

- Provides that a vehicle operating under the second through fourth circumstances described above may transport, instead of the products listed under current law, raw forest products, lumber, and forestry biomass.
- Eliminates the requirement under the second circumstance described above that the vehicle must travel between Wisconsin and Michigan.
- Provides that a vehicle operating under the first three circumstances described above may not violate Michigan law.
- Authorizes vehicles operating under Michigan border permits to operate on additional segments of U.S. Highway 8.
- Provides that a vehicle operating under a Michigan border permit may operate unladen when returning from the delivery of a load, or operating to or from a point of fueling, servicing, or purchase or sale of the vehicle.
- Specifies that a Michigan border permit may not authorize the operation of any vehicle or vehicle combination with a maximum gross weight in excess of 164,000 pounds.

Effective date: The Act took effect on October 25, 2013 and first applies to permits issued that day.

Prepared by: David Moore, Staff Attorney

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