



# THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

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BY THE GOVERNOR:

**WHEREAS:** On January 2, 21 and 22, 2017, severe weather systems moved in to the State of Georgia producing severe thunderstorms, excessive rainfall and long track tornadoes resulting in at least sixteen (16) fatalities as well as extensive property damage in Southwest and Southcentral Georgia; and

**WHEREAS:** The severe storm systems also downed or damaged thousands of acres of timber across the affected area; and

**WHEREAS:** Due to the timber damage, the Georgia Forestry Commission recommends specific restrictions be lifted on timber trucks to accommodate the removal of storm-damaged timber from counties listed in my State of Emergency Executive Orders dated January 9, 2017 and January 23, 2017; and

**WHEREAS:** The Georgia Forestry Commission further recommends the State of Georgia allow vehicles transporting the above mentioned timber loads to travel on preapproved state maintained roadways; and

**WHEREAS:** The Georgia Department of Transportation may issue over-dimensional permits accommodating the movement of vehicles and loads in coordination and cooperation with the Georgia Department of Public Safety, Motor Carrier Compliance Division, if warranted.

**NOW THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY**

**ORDERED:** That weight, height and length for any such vehicle transporting storm-related timber on roadways maintained by the State of Georgia, shall not exceed the following:

- A. A maximum gross vehicle weight for vehicles equipped with five (5) weight bearing axles, with an outer bridge span of not less than fifty one (51) feet, shall not exceed a gross vehicle weight of ninety five (95) thousand pounds, a maximum width of ten (10) feet and an overall length of one hundred (100) feet. Continuous travel is authorized, with the proper escorts.

B. If the width of said vehicle exceeds eight (8) feet six (6) inches and is traveling after daylight, defined as thirty (30) minutes before sunset to thirty (30) minutes after sunrise, the transporter is required to have a vehicle front and a rear escort/amber light when traveling on a two lane roadway and a vehicle rear escort when traveling on a four lane highway. Transporters are responsible for ensuring they have proper oversize signs, markings, flags and escorts as defined in the Georgia Department of Transportation Rules and Regulations.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That commercial vehicles operating outside the normal vehicle restrictions under the authority of this Executive Order shall be issued permits by the Georgia Department of Transportation. Said vehicles shall be subject to any special conditions the Georgia Department of Transportation may list on applicable permits. Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed to allow any vehicle to exceed weight limits posted for bridges and like structures, nor shall anything in this Executive Order be construed to relieve compliance with restrictions other than those specified in this Executive order or from any statute, rule, order or other legal requirement not specifically waived herein.

Permits may be issued by the Georgia Department of Transportation, Oversize Permits Unit, during normal business hours from 7:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday by calling 1-844-837-5500.

This Executive Order shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days, beginning on February 3, 2017, and ending at 11:59 pm on May 4, 2017.

This 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2017, at 12:00 ~~AM~~/PM.

*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR