

The Governor's emergency declaration **Executive Order 20-03**, dated March 11, 2020, granted relief to **motor carriers and drivers providing direct assistance** in support of relief efforts related to the COVID-19 outbreaks, specifically granting emergency [relief from Parts 390 through 399 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations](#). These federal regulations were adopted by the Arkansas Highway Commission under Minute Order 2010-052, as **Rule 17.1**. This suspension coincides with a federal directive and is **in effect until further notice**.

The Governor's emergency declaration **Executive Order 20-06**, dated March 17, 2020, as extended by **Executive Order 20-16**, dated April 13, 2020, gives state agencies even greater leeway in granting **additional relief** for individuals and entities involved in providing direct assistance in support of COVID-19 relief efforts. Pursuant to that declaration, the Arkansas Department of Transportation will provide relief to motor carriers and individuals for the provisions of [Ark. Code Ann. §27-14-601 \(Fees for registration and licensing of motor vehicles\)](#). This suspension is **in effect until further notice**.

In addition, temporary movement of 90,000-pound gross weight vehicles under Ark. Code Ann. § 27-35-203 for carriers of certain commodities on five axles is also allowed per the following order:

A National Emergency has been declared and states are allowed to issue overweight permits to commercial vehicles transporting commodities considered a divisible load on the interstate highways. To assist with the transportation and delivery of critical commodities due to the COVID-19 national emergency, the Arkansas Department of Transportation is waiving the required weight permits and fees and is allowing a weight increase for commercial vehicles providing direct assistance supporting emergency relief efforts.

Direct assistance means transportation of items to meet the immediate need for: (1) medical supplies and equipment related to the testing, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19; (2) supplies and equipment, including masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, soap and disinfectants, necessary for healthcare workers, patient and community safety, sanitation, and prevention of community transmission of COVID-19; (3) farm to fork food and grocery items for emergency restocking of stores ; (4) equipment and supplies necessary for establishment and management of temporary housing and quarantine facilities related to COVID-19; and (5) pulpwood and wood chips used to manufacture paper products, including packaging for the transportation of groceries, etc.

Direct assistance does not include routine commercial deliveries or transportation of loads that include a mixture of supplies and equipment for both COVID-19 relief efforts and for regular commercial activity.

The maximum gross weight under this allowance is 90,000 pounds on a 5-axle commercial vehicle with a minimum of 51-foot outer bridge measurement. The maximum tandem limit is 40,000 pounds. This memo does not allow commercial vehicles to travel on any weight restricted highway or cross any bridge with a posted weight limit below the gross weight of the commercial vehicle. All other dimensions must be legal. A list of all weight restricted highways and bridges may be viewed on the Departments website at <http://www.ardot.gov/maps.aspx>.

In addition, due to closure of dine-in facilities and the inability of tractor-trailer combination units to negotiate existing restaurant drive-through lanes, temporary allowance of food services for drivers at selected locations within the State's right of way will be permitted by the Arkansas State Highway Commission (Commission), acting through the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT).

Specifically, the Commission and ARDOT are suspending Ark. Code Ann. § 22-3-1301, et seq., regarding Vendors, and Ark. Code Ann. § 27-86-111 concerning use of controlled access facilities for commercial establishments that cater to the motoring public.

Permits will be available:

- (1) For food trucks currently licensed by the Arkansas Department of Health;
- (2) In locations determined by the Department, each allowing for the simultaneous operation of two vendors in each direction; and
- (3) If necessary, based on a rotation set by the Arkansas Trucking Association.

Upon application accompanied by a copy of Vendor's required licensure submitted to Rex Vines, Assistant Chief Engineer of Operations, appropriate permits will be issued. Rex.Vines@ardot.gov.

In accordance with Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson's **Executive Order 20-06**, as extended by **Executive Order 20-16**, dated April 13, 2020, this suspension will remain in place **until further notice**.

In addition, only for purposes of informing the public relating solely to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Arkansas Highway Commission (Commission), acting through the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), is suspending Ark. Code Ann. § 27-67-304 concerning use of state right of way.

Signs may be placed upon the right of way of ARDOT under the following restrictions:

- Signs that will be placed on the Right-of-Way will be eighteen (18) inch by twenty-four (24) inch yard signs with a mounted height not to exceed thirty (30) inches;
- The signs will be placed a minimum of four (4) feet from the edge of pavement or the back edge of curb and gutter;
- Signs will not be placed closer than fifty (50) feet to private driveways or one hundred (100) feet to public road intersections;
- The content of the permitted signs shall relate solely to the COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis and will be removed within 3 business days following rescission or expiration of the Governor's Emergency Declaration in regard to the COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis; and
- Signs may not have any commercial or sponsor information, identification, or logos.

In accordance with Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson's **Executive Order 20-06**, as extended by **Executive Order 20-16**, dated April 13, 2020, this suspension will remain in place **until further notice**.