WSDOT Oversize / Overweight (OSOW) Permits & Superloads: Moving Launch Stages and Tankage

Pillar: Space Hardware | **Basis:** Agency Regulation | **Primary Source:** WSDOT Commercial Vehicle Operations / RCW 46.44 | **As Of:** 2026-11-16

WSDOT allows self-issued OSOW permits up to 16 ft wide, 16 ft high, 125 ft long, and 200,000 lbs GVW where routes clear—while heavier or taller space hardware triggers multi-week superload engineering reviews.

Operational Continuity & Corridor Facts

• Under WA RCW 46.44 and WSDOT Commercial Vehicle Operations rules, carriers moving non-divisible extra-legal loads require Single-Trip, monthly/annual, or Superload permits.

• Routine self-issue single-trip permits generally cover up to 16 feet wide, 16 feet high, 125 feet long, and 200,000 lbs gross vehicle weight, subject to route clearances.

• Loads exceeding 200,000 lbs or extreme dimensions require special WSDOT bridge/structural engineering reviews before permit issuance.

WSDOT OSOW Permit Tiers for Space Hardware

Permit Tier	Typical Envelope	Review Lead Time	Hardware Examples
Self-Issue Single-Trip	<=16' W, <=16' H, <=125' L, <=200k lbs	Same-day (route clear)	Upper stages, small-sat containers
Superload Permit	>200,000 lbs GVW or extreme dims	Multi-week engineering	Large boosters, autoclaves, GSE

Corridor Exposure, Triggers & Facility Actions

• Design shipping fixtures and transport cradles to stay within the 16' × 16' × 125' × 200k lb envelope whenever possible to avoid superload delays.

• Never assume a route permitted in summer remains clear in winter when I-90 chain laws or SR 167 flood detours activate.

• Verify pilot-car / escort and night-move lighting requirements on every permit.

Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

• **WA Space Cluster Hub (#1382):** https://bcesg.org/washington-space-cluster-census/

• **Kent WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/kent-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Moses Lake WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/moses-lake-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Program Manager Desk Brief:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-role-program-manager-desk-brief/

• **Launch Segment Continuity Exposure:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-launch-continuity-corridor-exposure/

• **WSDOT Commercial Vehicles & OSOW:** https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/commercial-vehicles

• **WA RCW 46.44 Size, Weight, Load:** https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=46.44

Provenance Note: Thresholds per WSDOT Commercial Vehicle Operations and WA RCW 46.44.