

Government of the District of Columbia

Department of Transportation



DDOT Truck & Motor Carrier FAQ

Q: Can trucks park at the parking meters?

A: A commercial motor vehicle may park outside an on-street commercial loading zone between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. with a valid annual loading zone pass if it occupies no more than two (2) metered spaces or no more than forty feet (40 ft.) within a parking zone serviced by a multi-space meter.

Q: Is there any designated on-street truck parking in the District?

A: No. As per DCMR 2405.5 and 2405.6, a trailer may not park on any public thoroughfare adjacent to any private dwelling or apartment, house of worship, school, playground, or hospital when not engaged in work at such place; or adjacent to any public park. One of the few private lots that may accommodate tractor trailers is the [Union Station Parking Garage](#). Please plan accordingly.

Q: Are there suggested routes for trucks in the District?

A: Yes. DDOT has developed a map of designated routes for commercial vehicles traveling in the city. This truck & bus routes/restrictions map is available at <http://godcgo.com/freight>

Q: Are there any streets that I can't travel on in the District?

A: Yes. The District has a number of historic neighborhoods with streets that are not designed to support heavy vehicles. Trucks are restricted from traveling on these and many other residential streets. In addition, there are areas of the District where trucks are prohibited for security reasons, such around the US Capitol. Please refer to the restrictions displayed on DDOT's truck & bus routes/restrictions map here: <http://godcgo.com/freight>. All drivers must heed posted signage when operating in the District.

Q: What are the maximum dimensions for vehicles in the District of Columbia?

A: Unless otherwise posted, the maximum dimensions for vehicles and combinations are:

Width

- 8 feet [DCMR 18-2501.1] *
- 8 feet 6 inches for buses having a carrying capacity of more than 15 passengers [DCMR 18-2501.2]

Height

- 13 feet 6 inches for all vehicles [DCMR 18-2501.5]

Length

- 40 feet for all single unit vehicles [DCMR 18-2502.1]
- 60 feet for all buses [DCMR 18-2502.7]
- 55 feet for all semi-trailers and other combinations of vehicles [DCMR 18-2501.2] **

* A tractor-trailer on an interstate may be up to 8 feet-6 inches wide

** Combination vehicles will be subject to federal size limitations on interstate highways

Q: What are the maximum weight limits for vehicles in the District of Columbia?

Unless otherwise posted the maximum weight limits for vehicles and combinations are as follows:

Maximum Vehicle Weights*

- Weight on any one axle: 21,000 pounds [18-2505.1]
- Weight on any two consecutive axles less than 10 feet apart: 34,000 pounds [18-2505.5]

* Combination vehicles will be subject to federal size limitations on interstate highways. You can also find more a more detailed vehicle weight chart in DCMR 18-2505

Q: What do I do if my vehicle exceeds the limits listed above?

A: Oversized/overweight (OSOW) vehicles require a permit to travel within the District of Columbia. The DDOT Transportation Online Permitting System (TOPS) allows users to apply for permits to operate oversize and overweight vehicles in the District, including annual tags and single haul permits. Please note that there are certain limitations that will determine the type of permit available to operators based on the size of the vehicle and/or the load. To obtain a permit for your oversized/overweight vehicle, please visit [TOPS](#). You can also reach the Permitting Office at (202) 442-4670.

Q: Are there any weigh stations in the District?

A: The District operates two vehicle weigh stations:

- Half Street SW
- I-295 Blue Plains SE

Q: What is the legal route for 53-foot trailers in the District of Columbia?

A: In the District of Columbia, a 53-foot trailer may be operated on the National Network comprised of the following:

- I-295 from the District of Columbia - Maryland line to the Interchange with I-695 in the vicinity of 11th and L Streets, S.E.;
- I-695 from the interchange with I-295 in the vicinity of 11th and L Streets, S.E., to the interchange with I-395 in the vicinity of 2nd and E Streets, S.W.;
- I-395 from the Virginia - D.C. line to the interchange with I-695 in the vicinity of 2nd and E Streets, S.W.;
- The Anacostia Freeway from the 11th Street Bridge (I-295) to East Capitol Street; and
- Kenilworth Avenue, N.E. from East Capitol Street to the D.C. - Maryland line.

Q: Who can issue a ticket to truck operators in the District?

A: Because of its role as the nation's capital, the District is home to multiple enforcement agencies that can enforce the City's laws. There are over 17 enforcement agencies that can issue tickets to commercial vehicle operators, but the main agencies are:

- Metropolitan Police Department
- National Park Police
- United States Capitol Police
- District Department of Transportation
- Department of Public Works (Parking Enforcement)

Q: I received a ticket while operating in the District, can I pay my ticket online?

A: Yes, on the Department of Motor Vehicles website at the following link

https://wmq.etimspayments.com/pbw/include/dc_parking/info.jsp

Q: Does the District have a no-idling law?

A: Yes. Commercial vehicles may not idle for more than three minutes. There is an exception when the temperature drops below 32 degrees Fahrenheit (freezing) when drivers may idle for five minutes. The fine for violating the District's idling laws can be up to \$1,000 for a first offense and can double for subsequent offenses.