



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
1401 EAST BROAD STREET  
RICHMOND, VA 23219

**Stephen C. Brich, P.E.**  
Commissioner

September 16, 2026

**TO:** Affected Agencies and Shippers/Carriers  
**SUBJECT:** Waiver for carriers transporting hay for emergency relief.

In order to provide relief to areas affected by drought, the Governor declared a State of Emergency to exist for the Commonwealth of Virginia and is seeking to grant temporary over width, registration, license, and hours of service exemptions to all carriers transporting hay to, through and from any area of the Commonwealth. This authorization applies to and from any area of the Commonwealth to support the drought emergency response and recovery, regardless of their point of origin or destination.

As a result, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles authorizes a temporary waiver of registration and licensing requirements for carriers, and the Commissioner of Highways authorizes a temporary waiver of normal width restrictions on roads controlled by the Virginia Department of Transportation, for the express purpose of ensuring that emergency essential supplies of hay reach impacted areas in a timely manner. This waiver is effective beginning October 1, 2026, until October 30, 2026, and includes an exemption in coordination with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, which activates the FMCSA Section 390.23 Relief of Regulations, including hours of service. This waiver only pertains to statewide shippers and carriers associated with emergency hay relief efforts.

Width exemptions are not valid on interstate highways unless there is an associated federal exemption. This waiver will go into effect for 30 days beginning October 1, 2026, and shall not exceed the duration of the motor carrier's or driver's direct assistance in providing emergency hay relief, or 30 days, whichever is less.

Vehicles transporting loads exceeding the normal legal width or height limits must comply with all applicable Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles hauling permit requirements and safety guidelines. Vehicles must not exceed 12 feet in overall width or 14 feet in overall height.

This information is for immediate dissemination to preclude inadvertent ticketing or detention. Multi-agency support and cooperation is appreciated. If there are any questions, please contact Mr. Matt Lott at (804) 786-4692.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen C. Brich".

Stephen C. Brich, P.E.