STATE *of* MINNESOTA

Executive Department **Governor Tim Walz**

Emergency Executive Order 26-12

Providing for Emergency Relief from Regulations to Motor Carriers and Drivers Operating in Minnesota

I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order.

Earlier this month, I issued Executive Order 26-11 to give Minnesotans relief from soaring diesel costs caused by President Trump's reckless war with Iran. As the President's war rages on, diesel prices remain sky high. Minnesota's corn, soybean, sugar beet, and timber producers are in the middle of the harvest and are acutely feeling the pain of $6 per gallon diesel. While the President thinks only about the size of his wallet, we know that our friends, neighbors, and communities are suffering and that we must help ease the pain he is inflicting on Minnesota's farmers and loggers.

I am ordering the Minnesota Department of Transportation to issue temporary emergency harvest permits allowing vehicles transporting corn, soybeans, wheat, potatoes, sugar beets, carrots, and forest products to operate on Minnesota roads above regular weight limits, allowing them to conserve fuel and save money. Additionally, relief from hours of service regulations remains needed to allow for the continued movement of fuel products as carriers and drivers provide necessary and time-sensitive assistance. Strict enforcement of certain hours of service regulations would prevent or hinder the efficient transportation of these essential supplies.

Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 169.86, subdivision 1(a), provides that the commissioner of transportation may, in their discretion, upon good cause being shown therefore, issue special permits authorizing the movement of a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum specified in chapter 169.

Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 221.0314, subdivision 9, adopts federal safety regulations, including hours of service requirements for drivers. Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 221.0269, provides: "The governor may declare an emergency and grant relief from any of the regulations incorporated in section 221.0314 to carriers and drivers operating motor vehicles in Minnesota to provide emergency relief during the emergency." There has been a declared national emergency with respect to energy since January 20, 2025.

For these reasons, I order as follows:

1. For purposes of this Executive Order, "covered harvest products" includes corn, soybeans, wheat, potatoes, sugar beets, carrots, and forest products.

2. A state of emergency exists in Minnesota. In lieu of issuing special permits to individual carriers or drivers, the Commissioner of Transportation shall issue a temporary emergency harvest permit that authorizes vehicles transporting covered harvest products to exceed the weight limitations governed by the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 169, as prescribed by the remainder of this Order.

3. Vehicles operating under this Executive Order are subject to the condition that no single axle, no group of axles, and no gross weight may exceed the limitations provided in sections 169.823, 169.824, 169.827, or 169.829 by more than ten percent.

4. The relief provided by this Executive Order applies only to the movement of covered harvest products from the location of harvest to the point of the first unloading. Transfer of the product from a farm vehicle or small farm trailer, within the meaning of chapter 168, to another vehicle is not considered to be the first unloading. Transport beyond that must comply with the normal weight limits.

5. Vehicles that wish to operate under the relief provided by this Executive Order are not required to be licensed for the increased weights which they intend to carry.

6. Vehicles operating under this Executive Order may travel only on state and local highways and may not travel on interstate highways or forest roads maintained by the state or any county.

7. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 221.0269, subdivision 1, a state of emergency exists in Minnesota that requires relief from regulations incorporated in Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 221.0314, subdivision 9, pertaining to hours of service for motor carriers and drivers of commercial motor vehicles providing direct assistance to emergency relief efforts by transporting fuel products, including diesel, fuel oil, gasoline, ethanol, and biodiesel.

8. Motor carriers and drivers providing direct assistance to the emergency relief efforts by transporting fuel products, including diesel, fuel oil, gasoline, ethanol, and biodiesel are exempted from paragraphs (b) and (c) under the Code of Federal Regulations, title 49, part 395.3, incorporated in Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 221.0314, subdivision 9, pertaining to hours of service.

9. Nothing in this Executive Order may be construed to relieve motor carriers and drivers providing direct assistance to the emergency relief efforts by transporting fuel products, including diesel, fuel oil, gasoline, ethanol, and biodiesel from the requirements under paragraph (a) of the Code of Federal Regulations, title 49, part 395.3, incorporated in Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 221.0314, subdivision 9, which states, in part, that a driver may drive only 11 hours during a period of 14 consecutive hours after coming on duty following 10 consecutive hours off duty.

10. A motor carrier operating under the terms of this Executive Order must not require or allow a fatigued or ill driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle. A driver who informs a carrier that they need immediate rest must be given at least 10 consecutive hours off duty before the driver is required to return to service.

11. Upon the expiration of this Executive Order, or when a driver or motor carrier has been relieved of all duty and responsibility to provide direct assistance to the emergency relief efforts, a driver must take at least 34 consecutive hours off duty.

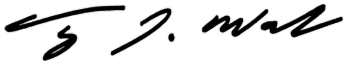
12. For purposes of this Executive Order, and as defined in Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 221.0269, subdivision 3, paragraph (c), direct assistance to an emergency relief effort terminates when a driver or commercial motor vehicle is used to transport cargo not destined for the emergency relief effort, or when the carrier dispatches that driver or vehicle to another location to begin operations in commerce.

13. This Executive Order does not relieve motor carriers or drivers from regulations pertaining to driver qualifications; driving of commercial motor vehicles; commercial drivers' licenses; drug and alcohol testing for drivers; or equipment, parts, and accessories necessary for the safe operation of vehicles.

This Executive Order is effective immediately under Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 4.035, subdivision 2, and it will remain in effect until it is rescinded by proper authority or November 29, 2026, whichever occurs first.

A determination that any provision of this Executive Order is invalid will not affect the enforceability of any other provision of this Executive Order. Rather, the invalid provision will be modified to the extent necessary so that it is enforceable.

Signed on October 30, 2026



Tim Walz, GOVERNOR

Filed According to Law:

Steve Simon, SECRETARY OF STATE

Filed October 30, 2026
Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State
Steve Simon