
SUBJECT Opermit Use by Road Controlling Authorities

Opermit

- The NZ Transport Agency has a software package called OPermit for assessing the availability of highway routes for Overweight vehicles (those vehicles exceeding “Class 1” weight limits that carry indivisible loads).
- OPermit is operated and managed by the Transport Agency. All State Highway routes are in the system.
- OPermit assesses the capacity of bridges for specific vehicles on specific routes.
- OPermit is available to other Road Controlling Authorities (RCA’s).
- Most RCA’s use OPermit only for their strategic ‘Overweight Routes’ which are usually only a small part of their roading network with links to the State Highway system.

What does OPermit Do?

- OPermit automates the assessment of vehicle load effects on bridges.
- Opermit can place conditions on the Overweight vehicle, such as reducing its speed or transverse position on a bridge, in order for it to be allowed to cross.
- An Overweight Permit is generated by OPermit with all the conditions of travel for the vehicle and the route under consideration.

Permit Applications

- Transport operators apply for an overweight permit by submitting the required vehicle and route information to the Transport Agency regional Permit Issuing Officer (PIO).
- The PIO uses OPermit to assess the capability of the route to accommodate the overweight vehicle.
- Currently some RCA’s delegate responsibility for assessing their routes using OPermit to the NZTA PIO. An RCA can of course appoint their own PIO if they wish.
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Costs

- The NZ Transport Agency does not currently charge other RCA’s for the use of Opermit.
- Bridge modelling costs are not paid for by the NZ Transport Agency

- An RCA will be required to provide appropriate information for the route and bridges to enable OPermit to operate.
- Bridge information is usually provided by the RCA's bridge consultant. The cost to model bridges will be dependent on the availability of structural data.

Benefits

- The system provides rapid and consistent outcomes
- Labour intensive analysis is avoided
- OPermit provides a process to effectively manage the risk of bridges being overloaded, thereby reducing the likelihood of sudden failure and extending their effective life.

Further Information

- For further information please contact the NZ Transport Agency Structures Manager