

## Basic Weight Law

For Government

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### Government Vehicle Applicability

There is not an exemption for Government vehicles.

**WEIGH  
STATION**

**ALL TRUCKS  
MUST WEIGH  
NO  
EXCEPTIONS**

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Single Axle = 20,000 lbs

Single Axle allowed 20,000 lbs

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Tandem Axle = 34,000 lbs



Tandem Axle allowed 34,000 lbs

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Tire Weight Rating

- A vehicle or combination of vehicles may not be operated over or on a public highway if the vehicle or combination has tires that carry a weight heavier than the weight specified and marked on the sidewall of the tire.



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Tire Weight Rating



The steer axle's tires are each rated for 6,175 lbs

The steer axle is a "Single axle" and the single axle law allows it to weigh 20,000 lbs. However, the tires are only rated for 6,175 lbs each so the front axle would only be allowed to weigh 12,350 lbs.

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### Gross Weight

- The overall gross weight on a group of two or more consecutive axles may not be heavier than 80,000 lbs.
- Can add allowed axle weights together.
- Can add tire weight rating plus axle weights.
- Number of axles and the distance between axles (bridge law).

**\*\*\*Will always use the most restrictive weight\*\*\***

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### Example of Allowed Gross



Tandem 34,000 lbs. + Single 20,000 lbs = **54,000 lbs**

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### Example of Allowed Gross



Tandem 34,000 lbs. + Tire Rating 12,350 lbs = **46,350 lbs**

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### Example of Allowed Gross (Bridge Law)



What is Bridge Law?

17 ft. on three axles = **48,500 lbs**

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### Which weight is the correct Gross?



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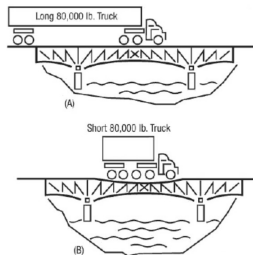
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### What is Bridge Law?

Congress enacted the Bridge Formula in 1975 to limit the weight-to-length ratio of a vehicle crossing a bridge. This is accomplished either by spreading weight over additional axles or by increasing the distance between axles. Basically, if you're in a short truck, your weight is reduced compared to a longer truck because it could more likely damage a bridge.



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### Bridge Law Example



51 ft with five axles allowed 80,000 lbs



46 ft with five axles allowed 76,500 lbs

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### Bridge Law Formula

$W = 500 \left( \frac{LN}{(N-1)} + 12N + 36 \right)$   
*Or*  
 $W = 500 \left( \frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36 \right)$

**W = Weight**  
**N = Number of Axles in Bridge**  
**L = Length of Bridge**

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### Permissible Weight Table

Not good at math?

Cheat Sheet!

DISTANCE IN FEET	AXLES 2	AXLES 3	AXLES 4	AXLES 5	AXLES 6	AXLES 7
4	30,000	30,000				
6	30,000	40,000				
8	30,000	40,000				
10	30,000	45,000				
12	30,000	45,000	30,000			
14	30,000	45,000	30,000			
16	30,000	45,000	30,000			
18	30,000	45,000	30,000			
20	30,000	45,000	30,000			
22	30,000	45,000	30,000			
24	30,000	45,000	30,000			
26	30,000	45,000	30,000			
28	30,000	45,000	30,000			
30	30,000	45,000	30,000			
32	30,000	45,000	30,000			
34	30,000	45,000	30,000			
36	30,000	45,000	30,000			
38	30,000	45,000	30,000			
40	30,000	45,000	30,000			
42	30,000	45,000	30,000			
44	30,000	45,000	30,000			
46	30,000	45,000	30,000			
48	30,000	45,000	30,000			
50	30,000	45,000	30,000			
52	30,000	45,000	30,000			
54	30,000	45,000	30,000			
56	30,000	45,000	30,000			
58	30,000	45,000	30,000			
60	30,000	45,000	30,000			

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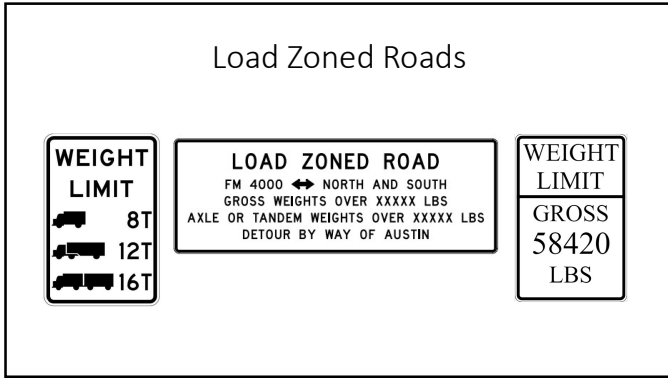
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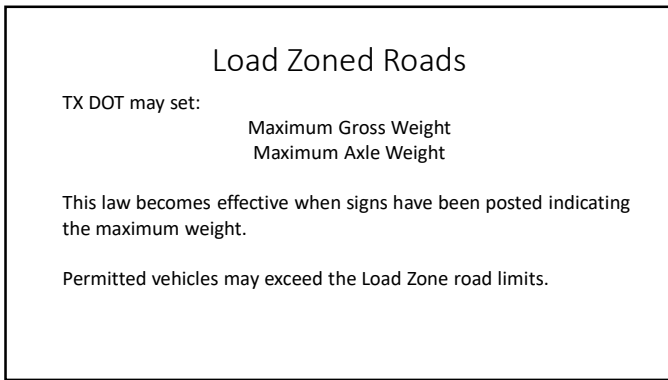
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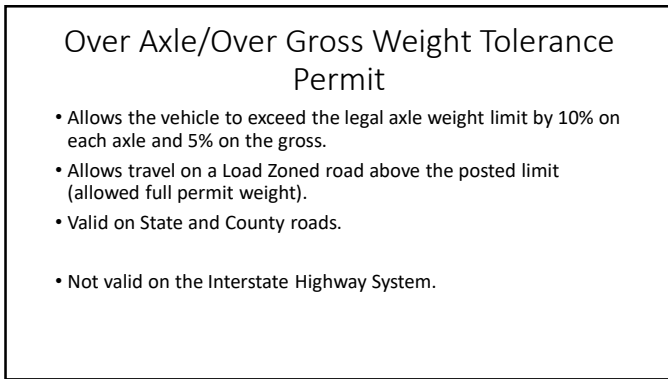
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### Over Axle/Over Gross Weight Tolerance Permit

- Free for Government vehicles with "Exempt" plates!

#### Texas Administrative Code

[TITLE 43](#)  
[PART 10](#)  
[CHAPTER 219](#)  
[SUBCHAPTER B](#)  
 RULE §219.16

TRANSPORTATION  
 TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
 OVERSIZE AND OVERWEIGHT VEHICLES AND LOADS  
 GENERAL PERMITS  
 Permits for Military and Governmental Agencies

(f) A military or government entity is not required to pay the fee for a permit issued under this chapter if the load is transported only on vehicles that display federal or state exempt license plates.

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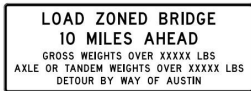
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### Over Axle/Over Gross Weight Tolerance Permit

- Not valid on Load Zoned bridge unless the bridge provides the only vehicular access to destination.




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Size




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### Size Limits

- Width = 102 inches
- Height = 14 feet
- Length
  - Single Motor Vehicle = 45 feet
  - Trailer = 59 feet
  - Truck and trailer/semi-trailer combination = 65 feet
  - Truck-tractor trailer/semi-trailer combination = No limitation
  - Front overhang = 3 feet
  - Rear overhang = 4 feet

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### Questions?

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Texas DPS-THP Commercial Vehicle Enforcement  
[casey.jones@dps.texas.gov](mailto:casey.jones@dps.texas.gov)



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