



Guide for Maximum Dimensions and Weights of Motor Vehicles

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF STATE HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS

AASHTO

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Note to Reader

The charge of AASHTO's Subcommittee on Highway Transport states that it shall maintain the AASHTO *Guide for Maximum Dimensions and Weights of Motor Vehicles (Guide for Vehicle Weights and Dimensions)*. This 2016 edition replaces the previous edition of the guide, which was published in 2004.

Foreword

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has a unique leadership role in developing transportation policy, direction, and information for member states and the nation. In the area of vehicle weights and dimensions, AASHTO has articulated policy and recommendations since 1932. This guide represents part of AASHTO's continuing efforts to provide leadership and guidance in the vital areas of vehicle weights and dimensions.

In developing this updated guide, the AASHTO Subcommittee on Highway Transport (SCOHT) considered advice, information, and input from all states, other AASHTO committees and members, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), commercial carriers and their representative groups, the Department of Defense (DOD), and other interested parties.

The primary purposes of this guide are to:

- Provide a baseline of common terminology.
- Promote common permitting practices for overdimension/overweight operations.
- Promote improved transportation safety.
- Promote efficiency and productivity for government and industry.
- Provide necessary protection of the public infrastructure investment.
- Promote harmonization in regulation and process wherever possible while providing information and guidance to states, the military, and the private sector.
- Formalize operational procedures with the DOD.

This guide is focused on providing information and guidance for states as they manage their transportation systems and for commercial carriers and others as they utilize highway transport to meet the needs of shippers and the economy. It is recognized that a continued Federal role is necessary to provide a national view, facilitate interstate commerce, and work with states and interested parties to balance the often competing needs of shippers and carriers and other highway users, while protecting the vast public infrastructure investment and promoting improved safety.

This guide includes the efforts of SCOHT regarding the harmonization of permit conditions across jurisdictions. Harmonization is not the same as uniformity. Harmonization establishes baseline restrictive thresholds for various characteristics of an issued permit, but allows and encourages each state to find the appropriate, less restrictive, measures that will serve both the citizens of their state as well as the motor carrier industry. Establishing a harmonized baseline enables interstate carriers the opportunity to standardize their multi-state transport processes, while allowing each state to still innovate and allowing carriers to leverage those innovations when practical and prudent. Chapter 3 of this guide discusses harmonization in greater detail, and the relevant subsections of Chapter 4 contain information about the various harmonized thresholds.

Therefore, it is also the purpose of this guide to promote a continued dialogue for discussing vehicle size and weight issues, permit practices, and provide a focus for improving the safety, regulations, and processes related to these aspects of transportation. And, in recognizing the need for regional variations in vehicle size and weight, SCOHT encourages the development of regional guides such as the *Guide for Uniform Laws and Regulations Governing Truck Size and Weight Among the WASHTO States*. The WASHTO guide can be viewed on-line at:

http://www.washto.org/pdf/WASHTO_Guide_for_Uniform_Laws_and_Regulations_2005.pdf.

It is recommended that this guide be updated at least every five years based upon an evaluation of need by SCOHT.