

Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Vehicle Weights and Dimensions Rules

Effective January 12, 2010

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal advises the *Weights and Dimensions of Vehicles Regulations* have been amended, effective January 12, 2010.

Grandfathering Provisions

The main purpose of the regulatory amendment is to extend the grandfathering provisions of non-compliant vehicles model year 2002 and earlier. As such, most configurations that were previously only allowed to operate until December 31, 2009 will continue to be recognized with no sunset date. Although configurations with short wheelbases will be allowed to continue to operate, for safety concerns there will be a weight reduction based on the wheelbase length.

Configurations, model year 2002 and earlier, will be permitted as below:

- Triaxle semi-trailers - triaxle groups will continue to be allowed 21,000 kg, 24,000 kg and 26,000 kg
- Triaxle pony trailers - triaxle groups will continue to be allowed 21,000 kg
- Wide spread tandem semi-trailers (“Michigan Spreads”) - tandem groups will continue to be allowed 18,000 kg
- Wide spread tridem pony trailers - tridem axle groups greater than 2.4 m up to 3.7 m will continue to be allowed 21,000 kg
- Short wheelbase semi-trailers - will be allowed to operate, but with a weight penalty as per schedule A-4 of the amended regulations
- Short wheelbase pony trailers - will be allowed to operate, but with a weight penalty as per schedules A-2 and A-3 of the amended regulations.

Aerodynamic Devices

To allow for improved fuel economy, rear aerodynamic devices (“boat tails”) will be allowed to extend beyond the maximum overall length of a vehicle by 0.61 m without any increase in measured length.

Long Wheelbase Tractors

The maximum wheelbase of a tractor has been extended to 7.2 m; however, the length of the trailer must be reduced as per schedule A-1 of the amended regulations, and the overall length must not exceed 23 m (25 m for trucks with poles).

Self-steering Quad Axle Semi-trailers

Self-steering quad axle semi-trailers are now allowed to operate, but only on Maximum Weight Roads and only for bulk and raw forest products. The maximum weight for the self-steering quad axle group is 32,000 kg for spreads 3.6 m-3.7 m (30,500 kg for spreads 3.0 m-3.6 m). The maximum gross vehicle weight of this configuration is 55,500 kg with a self-steering quad axle spread of 3.6 m-3.7 m (54,000 kg with a self-steering quad axle spread of 3.0 m-3.6 m).

Overwidth Farm Vehicles

The farm tractor width limit of 4 m has been removed. All farm vehicles with widths greater than 2.6 m will continue to be allowed to operate without special move permits, but must have a slow moving vehicle sign and a revolving light on the vehicle, and flags or flashing lights at the width extremities. Farm vehicles with widths greater than 4.27 m will also require a pilot vehicle with a D sign and a revolving light.

Stinger Steer and High Mount Auto Carriers

Stinger steer and high mount auto carriers are allowed to operate without special permits. The overall length limit is 25 m loaded and 23 m unloaded, and the height limit is 4.3 m loaded and 4.15 m unloaded.

Wide Spread Tandem Steer Trucks

The maximum axle spread for the steering axle of a tandem steer truck has been increased from 1.85 m to 2.2 m; however, the minimum interaxle spacing of 3.65 m must be maintained. If the interaxle spacing is less than 3.65 m, there will be a weight penalty of 1,000 kg per every 0.5 m less than 3.65 m.

Road Listing Update

Included in the road listing update is an expanded Schedule D - Intermediate Weight Roads (47,500 kg).

The updated weight and dimension regulations can be found: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/mvwd.htm>

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For more information on trucking, visit the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal website at: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/tran/trucking>, or contact Mike Balsom, Vehicle Standards Engineer, 902-424-0070, e-mail: balsommg@gov.ns.ca