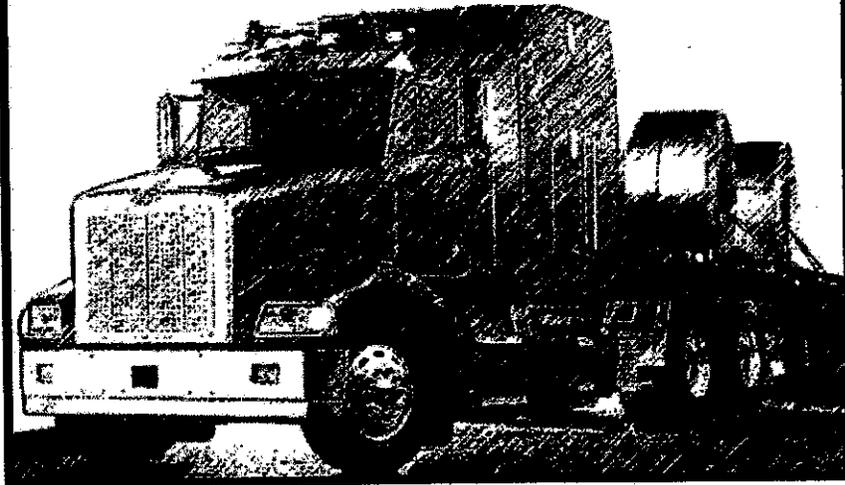


# Understanding the Illinois Size & Weight Laws



Illinois Department of Transportation

## **INTRODUCTION**

This booklet has been prepared by the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois State Police to assist you, the driver, in understanding Illinois size and weight laws. While it does not contain every rule, it can serve as a guideline for future problem avoidance on Illinois highways.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Definitions.....	1
The Illinois Bridge Formula.....	4
Legal Gross Weights .....	5
Legal Dimensions .....	6
Typical loadings.....	9
Overweight Citations.....	11
Fixed Scale Locations .....	12
Agency Addresses & Telephone Numbers.....	13

## DEFINITIONS

**Bridge:** The distance, measured to the nearest foot, between the centers of the extreme axles (external bridge) or the centers of two or more consecutive axles (internal bridge).

**Commercial Vehicle:** Any vehicle operated for the transportation of persons or property in the furtherance of any commercial or industrial enterprise. For-Hire or Not-For-Hire, but including a commuter van, a vehicle used in a ridesharing arrangement, when being used for that purpose, or a recreational vehicle not being used commercially.

**Farm Tractor:** Every motorized device designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing wagons, plows, mowing machines and other implements of husbandry, and every implement of husbandry which is self propelled, excluding all-terrain vehicles and off-highway vehicles.

**Gross Weight:** The weight of a vehicle whether operated singly or in combination without load plus the weight of the load thereon.

**Implement of Husbandry:** Every vehicle designed and adapted exclusively for agricultural, horticultural, or livestock raising operations, including farm wagons, wagon trailers or like vehicles used in connection therewith, or for lifting or carrying an implement of husbandry provided that no farm wagon, wagon trailer or like vehicle having a gross weight of more than 36,000 pounds, shall be included hereunder.

*Note: If the gross weight exceeds 36,000 pounds, the unit is no longer considered an implement of husbandry.*

**Interstate or Interstate Commerce:** Transportation between two or more states or transportation originating in one state and passing into or through other states for delivery in another state, and which is not intrastate.

**Intrastate or Intrastate Commerce:** Transportation originating at any point or place within this state, irrespective of the route, highway or highways traversed, and including transportation which passes into or through another state before delivery is made within the state, and including any act of transportation which includes or completes a pick up in Illinois for delivery within Illinois.

**Motor Carrier:** An operator of For-Hire vehicles pursuant to the Illinois Motor Carrier of Property Law.

**Pole Trailer:** Every vehicle without motive power designed to be drawn by another vehicle and attached to the towing vehicle by means of a reach or pole, or by being boomed or otherwise secured to the towing vehicle, and ordinarily used for transporting long or irregularly shaped loads such as poles, pipes or structural members capable, generally, of sustaining themselves as beams between the supporting connections.

**Public Utility:** Each firm lawfully licensed and engaged in any of the following: the transmission of telegraphic or telephonic messages; the production, storage, transmission, distribution, sale, delivery or furnishing of heat, cold, light, power, electricity, gas or water; the disposal of sewage; the conveyance of oil or gas by pipeline; the drilling of water wells; or the installation or repair of facilities for any of the foregoing activities.

**Road Tractor:** Every motor vehicle designed and used for drawing other vehicle and not so constructed as to carry any load thereon either independently or any part of the weight of a vehicle or load so drawn.

**Semitrailer:** Every vehicle without motive power, other than a pole trailer, designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that some part of its weight and that of its load rests upon or is carried by another vehicle.

**Mobile Equipment:** Every vehicle not designated or used primarily for the transportation of persons or property and only incidentally operated or moved over a highway, including but not limited to: ditch digging apparatus, well boring apparatus and road construction and maintenance machinery such as asphalt spreader, bituminous mixers, bucket loader, tractors other than truck tractors, ditches, leveling graders, finishing machines, motor graders, road rollers, scarifiers, earth moving carry alls and scrapers, power shovels and drag lines, and self-propelled cranes and earth moving equipment. The term does not include house trailers, dump trucks, truck mounted transit mixers, cranes or shovels, or other vehicles designed for the transportation of persons or property to which machinery has been attached.

**Special Hauling Vehicle:** Vehicle or combination of vehicles of the second division registered under Section 3-813 transporting asphalt or concrete in the plastic state or a vehicle or combination of vehicles that are subject to the gross weight limitations in subsection (b) of Section 15-111 for which the owner of the vehicle or combination of vehicles has elected to pay, in addition to the registration fee in subsection (a), \$100 to The Secretary of State for each registration year. The Secretary shall designate this class of vehicle as a Special Hauling Vehicle.

**Tandem:** Any two or more single axles whose centers are more than 40 inches and not more than 96 inches apart, measured to the nearest inch between extreme axles in a series.

**Trailer:** Every vehicle without motive power in operation, other than pole trailer, designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that no part of its weight rests upon the towing vehicle.

**Truck:** Every motor vehicle designed, used or maintained primarily for the transportation of property.

**Truck Tractor:** Every motor vehicle designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to carry a load other than a part of the weight of the vehicle and load so drawn.

## ILLINOIS BRIDGE FORMULA

The maximum allowable weight for vehicles on the Illinois Designated Highway System is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Bridge Formula: } W = 500 \left( \frac{LN + 12N + 36}{N-1} \right)$$

**W** = the maximum weight in pounds that can be carried on a group of two or more axles to the nearest 500 pounds.

**L** = spacing in feet between the outer axles of any two or more consecutive axles.

**N** = number of axles being considered.

### Definitions Specific To The Bridge Formula:

**External Bridge:** The distance, measured to the nearest foot, between the centers of the extreme (first to last) axles of the vehicle. These weights apply only to those highways (Class I, II, and III) designated by the Department of Transportation or local authorities as truck routes.

**Internal Bridge:** The distance, measured to the nearest foot, between the centers of two or more consecutive axles of the vehicle. These weights apply only to those highways (Class I, II, III) designated by the Department of Transportation or local authorities as truck routes.

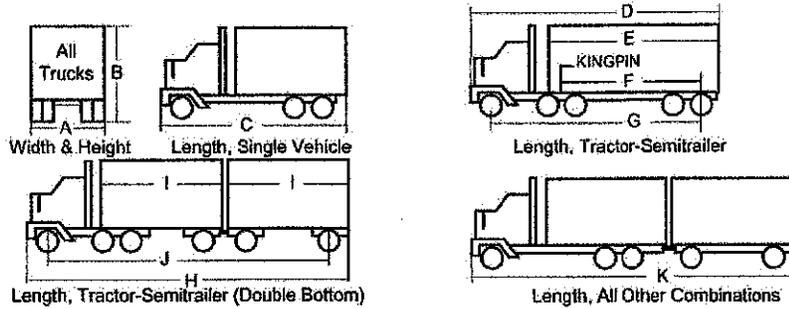
## LEGAL GROSS WEIGHTS

### Of Vehicles And Combinations Of Vehicles Authorized By Section 15-111, Illinois Vehicle Code

The following table denotes maximum gross weights for vehicles on highways which have been designated as Class I, II, Or III based on the Illinois Bridge Formula.

Distance	2 Axles	3 Axles	4 Axles	5 Axles	6 or more axles
4	34,000				
5	34,000				
6	34,000				
7	34,000				
8	34,000	42,000			
9	39,000	42,500			
10	40,000	43,500			
11		44,000			
12		45,000	50,000		
13		45,500	50,500		
14		46,500	51,500		
15		47,000	52,000		
16		48,000	52,500	58,000	
17		48,500	53,500	58,500	
18		49,500	54,000	59,000	
19		50,000	54,500	60,000	
20		51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000
21		51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500
22		52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000
23		53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000
24		54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500
25		54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000
26		55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500
27		56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000
28		57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000
29		57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500
30		58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000
31		59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500
32		60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000
33			64,000	68,500	74,000
34			64,500	69,000	74,500
35			65,500	70,000	75,000
36			66,000	70,500	75,500
37			66,500	71,000	76,000
38			67,500	72,000	77,000
39			68,000	72,500	77,500
40			68,500	73,000	78,000
41			69,500	73,500	78,500
42			70,000	74,000	79,000
43			70,500	75,000	80,000
44			71,500	75,500	
45			72,000	76,000	
46			72,500	76,500	
47			73,500	77,500	
48			74,000	78,000	
49				78,500	
50				79,000	
51				80,000	

## More Information Regarding Other Maximum LEGAL DIMENSIONS of Motor Vehicles in Illinois



Type of Highway or Street	Maximum Legal Dimensions											Maximum Weights		
	A	B	C	D	E	F <sup>1</sup>	G	H	I	J	K	Single Axle	Tandem Axle <sup>2</sup>	Gross <sup>3</sup>
Class I	8'-6"	13'-6"	42'	N.S.	53'	45'-6"	N.S.	N.S.	28'-6"	N.S.	60'	20,000	34,000	II
Class II	8'-6"	13'-6"	42'	N.S.	53'	45'-6"	N.S.	N.S.	28'-6"	65'	60'	20,000	34,000	II
Class III	8'	13'-6"	42'	65' <sup>1</sup>	53'	42'-6"	55' <sup>2</sup>	60'	N.S.	N.S.	60'	20,000	34,000	II
Other State Highway	8'	13'-6"	42'	65' <sup>1</sup>	53'	42'-6"	55' <sup>2</sup>	60'	N.S.	N.S.	60'	18,000	32,000	III
Local Roads and Streets	8'	13'-6"	42'	55'	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	60'	N.S.	N.S.	60'	18,000	32,000	III

N.S. indicates legal dimension not specified

**Notes:**

- ① 65 feet overall length (bumper to bumper) and/or 55 feet from center of front axle to center of rear axle.
- ② Tandem is defined as any 2 or more single axles whose centers are more than 40 inches and not more than 96 inches apart, measured to the nearest inch between extreme axles.
- ③ See tables II and III on reverse side.
- ④ Applies on semitrailers longer than 48 feet.

## NOTES

1. Axles are measured to the nearest foot between the extremes on any group of two or more consecutive axles.
2. Gross weights for 5 and 6 axle vehicles apply to combinations only. For vehicles not in combination (straight trucks), only 4 axles shall be used in determining maximum gross weight.
3. Two consecutive sets of tandems may carry 34,000 pounds each providing the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandems is 36 feet or more.
4. If the distance between the centers of the first and third axles in a group of consecutive axles does not exceed 96 inches, the group is a tandem.
5. The maximum weight of any single axle is 20,000 pounds and the maximum weight of any tandem is 34,000.
6. Combinations of vehicles, registered as Special Hauling Vehicles that include a semitrailer manufactured prior to or in the model year 2004, and first registered in Illinois prior to January 1, 2005, having 5 axles with a distance of 42 feet or less between extreme axles that can not comply with the above formula may have a gross weight of 72,000 pounds provided the weight shall not exceed 18,000 pounds on a single axle or 32,000 pounds on a tandem. On tractors manufactured after September 1, 1986, there must be at least 18 feet 6 inches between the first and last axles of the two sets of tandems.
7. Large vehicles shall have access for a distance of one highway mile to or from a Class I highway and 5 miles on a street or highway in the system of State highways, and upon any street or highway designated by local authorities, to points of loading and unloading and facilities for food, fuel, repairs and rest. These vehicles are prohibited on all streets and highways under local jurisdiction unless specifically designated by local officials.
8. Permits may be issued for an overweight load providing it consists of one object that can not be reasonably dismantled or disassembled.

Exceptions to **WIDTH** requirements above:

- Above restrictions do not include certain safety devices approved by the Department.
- Household goods carriers shall have access to points of loading and unloading and may have a maximum width of 8 feet 6 inches.
- A maximum width of 8 feet 6 inches is allowed on any street or highway to any point of loading or unloading for vehicle combinations that include a trailer or semitrailer not exceeding 28 feet 6 inches in length which was originally part of a truck tractor-semi-trailer-trailer combination (double-bottom).
- Width restrictions do not apply to vehicles transporting implements of husbandry operating in the daytime. Loads of hay, straw or other similar farm products are limited to a maximum of 12 feet.

Exceptions to **LENGTH** requirements of above:

- Length limits do not apply to vehicles operating in the daytime, except on Saturdays, Sundays or legal holidays when transporting poles, pipes, machinery or other objects of a structural nature which cannot be readily disassembled, provided the length of the object being transported does not exceed 80 feet and the overall length of the load does not exceed 100 feet.
- Stinger-steered vehicles specifically designed to transport motor vehicles or boats may have an overall length of 75 feet plus overhang of 3 feet in front and 4 feet in the rear on Class I and II highways. Conventional auto transporters are vehicles specifically designed to transport motor vehicles or boats may have an overall length of 65 feet plus overhang on these highways. The maximum overall length on all other streets and highways is 60 feet.

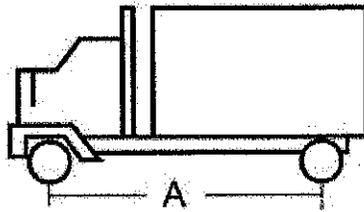
**GENERAL** exceptions to above:

- All large vehicles operating on Class I highways shall have access for a distance of one mile on any street or highway to points of loading and unloading, and facilities for food, fuel, rest and repair.
- Large vehicles operating on designated state highways shall have access for distance of 5 highway miles on any other state highway and on designated local streets and highways, to points of loading and unloading, and facilities for food, fuel, rest and repair. (This applies only on local streets and highways specifically designated and posted by local officials).
- Permits may be issued for overdimensional objects and vehicles if they have been reasonably disassembled. Multiple objects loaded side-by-side, end-to-end or on top of each other may not cause the overdimension.

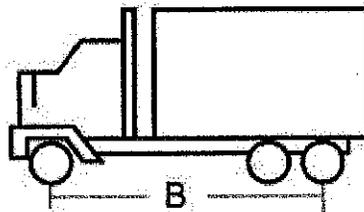
## TYPICAL LOADINGS

Vehicle or Combinations	Maximum Weight, Pounds
	Axle 1            20,000 Axles 2,3        34,000 Axles 1,2,3      54,000
	Axle 1            20,000 Axle 2            20,000 Axles 3,4        34,000 Axles 1,2        40,000 Axles 2,3,4      54,000 Axles 1,2,3,4    66,000
	Axle 1            20,000 Axles 2,3        34,000 Axles 4,5        34,000 Axles 1,2,3      50,000 Axles 2,3,4,5    68,000 Axles 1,2,3,4,5 80,000
	Axle 1            20,000 Axles 2,3        34,000 Axles 4,5,6      42,500 Axles 1,2,3      48,000 Axles 2,3,4,5,6 67,500 Axles 1,2,3,4,5,6 80,000

For non-designated highways (other state highways and local roads and streets) the following table indicates maximum weight limits.

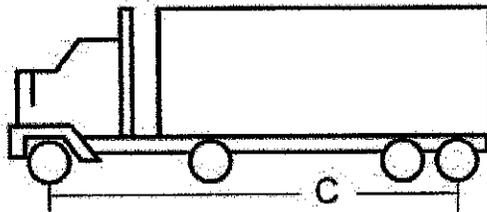


Gr. Wt.  
36,000  
(See note 1)



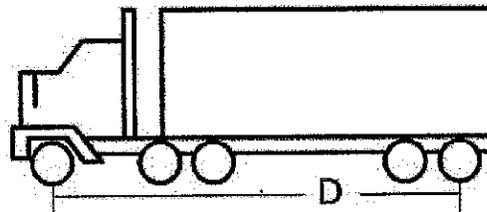
**Vehicle or Combination**

B	Gr. Wt.	B	Gr. Wt.
10'	41,000	16'	46,000
11'	42,000	17'	47,000
12'	43,000	18'	47,500
13'	44,000	19'	48,000
14'	44,500	20'	49,000
15'	45,000	21'	50,000
			or more



**Vehicle or Combinations**

C	Gr. Wt.	C	Gr. Wt.
15'	50,000	26'	57,500
16'	50,500	27'	58,000
17'	51,500	28'	58,500
18'	52,000	29'	59,500
19'	52,500	30'	60,000
20'	53,500	31'	60,500
21'	54,000	32'	61,500
22'	54,500	33'	62,000
23'	55,500	34'	62,500
24'	56,000	35'	63,500
25'	56,500	36'	64,000
			or more



**Combinations**

D	Gr. Wt.
42' or less	72,000
43'	73,000
44' or more	73,280

**Notes:**

1. Either axle on a two-axle vehicle may weigh 20,000 pounds providing the gross weight does not exceed 36,000 pounds and the vehicle is not part of a combination.
2. Maximum single axle 18,000 pounds, maximum tandem axle 32,000 pounds.
3. Permits may be issued for an overweight load providing it consists of one object that cannot be reasonably dismantled or disassembled.

## OVERWEIGHT CITATIONS

The following is provided to inform you of the methods used in calculating overweight fees on Illinois highways, should you find yourself in that situation. When assigning fees to the citation, the specific fine, penalty assessment, county fee, and county cost are added to arrive at the final figure. The specific fine amount and penalty assessment vary as the amount the truck is overweight increases. The specific fines and penalty assessments for overweight trucks are as follows:

Overweight Category	Specific fine	Penalty assessment
2,000 pounds or less	\$50	\$8
2,001 - 2,500 pounds	\$135	\$16
2,501 - 3,000 pounds	\$165	\$20
3,001 - 3,500 pounds	\$260	\$28
3,501 - 4,000 pounds	\$300	\$32
4,001 - 4,500 pounds	\$425	\$44
4,501 - 5,000 pounds	\$475	\$48
5,001 - or greater	\$75 for each increment of 500 pounds overweight or fraction thereof plus a 12.5%(rounded to the nearest \$5) penalty assessment.	

## ILLINOIS FIXED SCALE LOCATIONS

ROUTE	LOCATION
I-55	Litchfield at M.P. 55
I-55	Williamsville at M.P. 107
I-55	Bolingbrook at M.P. 267, SB & NB
I-55 & 70	Maryville at M.P. 14
I-57	Peotone at M.P. 330, SB & NB
I-57	Marion at M.P. 47, SB & NB
I-64	O'Fallon at M.P. 18
I-70	Marshall at M.P. 151
I-70	Brownstown at M.P. 71
I-74	1 mi. E of Carlock at M.P. 122, EB & WB
I-80	East Moline at M.P. 2, EB & WB
I-80	Frankfort at M.P. 143 EB and M.P. 147 WB
I-280 & I-74	Moline at M.P. 5.5 EB and 7.5 WB
US 12	Richmond, 1 mi N of S173
US 14	3 mi. N of Harvard
US 30	Chicago Heights at Torrence Ave
US 30	Compton E of I-251
US 36 & 54	Pittsfield
US 41	Rosecrans N of S173, SB
US 41	Wadsworth, N of S 173, NB
US 50	1/2 mi. E of Jct US51 at Sandoval
US 52	1/2 mi. E of Sheldon
US 14 & S 1	Near Crossville
IL3	Ware South of S146
IL83	Villa Park at St. Charles Rd.

Portable scales are also used to check compliance with the legal weight limits.

*Should you have further questions regarding:*

**VEHICLE REGISTRATION/RECIPROCITY**

Secretary of State  
Commercial & Farm Truck Division  
IRP & Prorate/Reciprocity Section  
Centennial Building  
Springfield, IL 62756  
1-800-252-8980 or (217) 785-0161

**OPERATING AUTHORITY**

Illinois Commerce Commission  
Motor Carrier Division  
527 E. Capital Ave.  
Springfield, IL 62706  
(217) 782-4654

**SIZES AND WEIGHTS-PERMITS**

Permits Section  
Department of Transportation  
117 Administration Bldg  
2300 South Dirksen Parkway  
Springfield, IL 62764  
1-(800)-252-8636 - In Illinois  
1-(217)-785-1477 - Outside Illinois

**FUEL/HIGHWAY USE TAXES**

Department of Revenue  
Motor Fuel Tax Division  
P. O. Box 19019  
Springfield, IL 62794  
(217) 785-1397

**ENFORCEMENT**

Illinois State Police  
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Section  
500 Iles Park Place Suite 104  
Springfield, IL 62718  
(217) 782-6267

*For a free copy of the "Designated State Truck Route System" map  
please call 217-782-6271.*

## NOTES