

Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Smart Series

Smart Motor Carrier

Texas Size and Weight Limits

Overview

Texas has established size and weight limits for vehicles and loads moving with or without an oversize and/or overweight permit on Texas roadways and bridges.

- Width is measured from the outside points of the widest extremities, excluding safety devices.
- Height is measured from the roadbed to the highest point of the load.
- Length is measured from the foremost point of the vehicle or load, whichever extends further, to the rearmost point of the vehicle or load, whichever extends further.
- Weight includes the weight of the vehicle or combination, plus the weight of the load being transported.

Legal Size and Weight Limits

The following maximum dimensions may be operated on Texas' highways without a permit:

- Width:
 - Passenger vehicle (and its load) - 8'
 - All other vehicles (and loads) - 8'6"
- Height – 14'



- Length:

Vehicle Type	Length Limit
Single motor vehicle	45 feet
Truck-tractor	Unlimited
Semitrailer, of two-vehicle combination	59 feet
Two-vehicle combination, other than a truck-tractor combination ¹	65 feet
Three-Vehicle combination other than truck-tractor combination ²	65 feet
Each trailer or semitrailer of a twin-trailer combination	28.5 feet
Stinger-steered auto/boat or traditional auto/boat transporter (truck-tractor) ³	Unlimited
Truck towing a trailer transporting boats	65 feet
Front overhang	3 feet
Rear overhang	4 feet

¹ Length limit may only be increased with a permit if the vehicle combination complies with the permit requirements both with and without a load

² Length may not be increase with a permit

³ Semitrailer length may not be increased with a permit

- Weight: ⁴
 - Gross - 80,000 pounds maximum
 - Single axle - 20,000 pounds
 - Tandem axle group - 34,000 pounds ⁵
 - Triple axle group - 42,000 pounds ⁵
 - Quad axle group - 50,000 pounds ⁵

⁴ The basis for maximum legal weight is the number of axles. This information, in conjunction with the Permissible Weight Table, is used to determine maximum legal weight for a vehicle.

⁵ An axle group must have a minimum spacing of 40 inches between axles within the group

Permissible Weight Table

The permissible weight table provides a guide to determine the maximum legal weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles. The table may be applied to inner axle groups such as the drive axles and the trailer or trailers, or the entire combination of axles from the steering axle of the power unit to the last trailing axle of the trailer.

The number for gross weight in pounds is the required distance in feet between the extremes of any group of two or more consecutive axles. The remaining column indicates the maximum weight for various numbers of axles in the group of axles being considered.

The maximum weights shown in the table are based on either of these formulas:

- $W=500 [(LN/(N-1)) +12N+36]$
- L=length and N=number of axles



Distance in Feet	Axles					
	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	34,000					
5	34,000					
6	34,000					
7	34,000					
8	34,000	34,000				
8+	38,000	42,000				
9	39,000	42,500				
10	40,000	43,500				
11		44,500				
12		45,000	50,000			
13		45,500	50,500			
14		46,500	51,500			
15		47,500	52,000			
16		48,000	52,500	58,000		
17		48,500	53,500	58,500		
18		49,900	54,000	59,000		
19		51,400	54,500	60,000		
20		52,800	55,500	60,500	66,000	
21		54,000	56,000	61,000	66,500	
22		54,000	56,500	61,500	67,000	
23		54,000	57,500	62,500	68,000	
24		54,000	58,700*	63,000	68,500	74,000
25		54,500	59,650*	63,500	69,000	74,500
26		55,500	60,600*	64,000	69,500	75,000
27		56,000	61,550*	65,000	70,000	75,500
28		57,000	62,500*	65,500	71,000	76,500
29		57,500	63,450*	66,000	71,500	77,000
30		58,500	64,000*	66,500	72,000	77,500
31		59,000	65,350*	67,500	72,500	78,000
32		60,000	66,300*	68,500	73,000	78,500
33			67,250*	68,500	74,000	79,000
34			68,200*	69,000	74,500	80,000
35			69,150*	70,000	75,000	



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36			70,100*	70,500	75,500	
37			71,050*	71,050	76,000	
38			72,000*	72,000*	77,000	
39			72,000*	72,500	77,500	
40			72,000*	73,000	78,000	
41			72,000*	73,500	78,500	
42			72,000*	74,000	79,000	
43			72,000*	75,000	80,000	
44			72,000*	75,500		
45			72,000	76,000		
46			72,500	76,500		
47			73,500	77,500		
48			74,000	78,000		
49			74,500	78,500		
50			75,500	79,000		
51			76,000	80,000		

*These figures were carried forward from Article 6701d-11, Section 5(a)(4) when Senate Bill 89 of the 64th Texas Legislature amended it on December 16, 1974. The amendment provided that axle configurations and weights that were lawful as of that date would continue to be legal under the increased weight limits.

+These figures apply only to an axle spacing greater than 8 feet but less than 9 feet.

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