

WAC 468-38-080 Emergency load restrictions for heavy vehicles.

(1) **When would the department implement a load restriction?** Pursuant to RCW 46.44.080, when the department determines that an emergency road condition exists, a freeze thaw condition for example, and that vehicles with gross tire loadings exceeding acceptable limits will damage the highway or endanger other traffic using the highway, the department shall without delay restrict or close that highway segment temporarily to all vehicles or to a designated class of vehicle.

(2) **How will vehicle operators be notified of the restrictions?** Signs will be erected at each end of the closed/restricted highway segment, and at all intersecting state highways. Depending upon conditions, one of the following signs will be in use:

(a)

EMERGENCY LOAD RESTRICTIONS			
CONVENTIONAL TIRES		TUBELESS OR SPECIAL WITH .5 MARKING	
Tire Size	Gross Load Each Tire	Tire Size	Gross Load Each Tire
7.00	1800 lbs.	8-22.5	2250 lbs.
7.50	2250 lbs.	9-22.5	2800 lbs.
8.25	2800 lbs.	10-22.5	3400 lbs.
9.00	3400 lbs.	11-22.5	4000 lbs.
10.00	4000 lbs.	11-24.5	4000 lbs.
11.00	4500 lbs.	12-22.5	4500 lbs.
12.00 and over	4500 lbs.	12-24.5 and over	4500 lbs.

(b)

SEVERE EMERGENCY LOAD RESTRICTIONS			
CONVENTIONAL TIRES		TUBELESS OR SPECIAL WITH .5 MARKING	
Tire Size	Gross Load Each Tire	Tire Size	Gross Load Each Tire
7.00	1800 lbs.	8-22.5	1800 lbs.
7.50	1800 lbs.	9-22.5	1900 lbs.
8.25	1900 lbs.	10-22.5	2250 lbs.
9.00	2250 lbs.	11-22.5	2750 lbs.
10.00	2750 lbs.	11-24.5	2750 lbs.
11.00 and over	3000 lbs.	12-22.5 and over	3000 lbs.

Note: The department recommends that carriers check the department's website www.wsdot.wa.gov/freight/mcs for possible advance warning on road restrictions.

(3) **Are the tires identified in the aforementioned table the only tires authorized for use under permit when the signs in subsection (2) of this section are posted?** During periods when "emergency load restrictions" or "severe emergency load restrictions" are in effect, only vehicles equipped with tires required by the table in subsection (2) of this section may operate under permit.

(4) **Will there be an allowance for any second axle that is suspended from the frame of a vehicle independent of the regular drive axle, commonly known as a "rigid trail axle"?** No.

(5) **Will there be an allowance for more than two tires on the steering, or front, axle?** No.

(6) **What restrictions are there on axle load distributions?** The load distribution on any axle must not load the tires on that axle in excess of the prescribed load listed in subsection (2) of this section: Provided, That a truck, truck-tractor, passenger bus or school bus having conventional 10:00 x 20 tires or 11:00 x 22.5 tires, or larger, may carry a maximum load of ten thousand pounds on the front axle over any highway placed under emergency load restrictions.

(7) **Is there a permitting process to allow necessary vehicles to use the restricted highway segment?** Permits may be issued by the department to allow the operation of school buses and vehicles transporting perishable commodities or commodities necessary for the health and welfare of local residents. These vehicles will be subject to specific weight and speed restrictions, as directed by the department.

(8) **Will a temporary additional tonnage permit supersede the restrictions?** Operators of vehicles that have been issued a temporary additional tonnage permit must comply with the posted restriction and related rules.

(9) **Can this rule supersede or modify any rule in force that has established a lower load limitation on a state highway bridge?** No.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.44.090. WSR 05-04-053, § 468-38-080, filed 1/28/05, effective 2/28/05; WSR 82-18-010 (Order 31, Resolution No. 156), § 468-38-080, filed 8/20/82. Formerly WAC 468-38-130. Statutory Authority: 1977 ex.s. c 151. WSR 79-01-033 (DOT Order 10 and Comm. Order 1, Resolution No. 13), § 468-38-080, filed 12/20/78. Formerly WAC 252-24-090.]