

Chapter Trans 251

VEHICLE WEIGHT AUTHORIZED BY MULTIPLE TRIP PERMITS

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Note: Chapter [Trans 251](#) was created as an emergency rule effective October 3, 1981.

Trans 251.01 Definitions. (1) Words and phrases defined in ss. [340.01](#), [348.01](#), and [348.15 \(1\)](#), Stats., are used in the same sense in this chapter unless a different definition is specifically provided.

(2) “Axle-group” means one or more axles which support one end of a vehicle.

Note: Normally a motor vehicle or a trailer will have 2 axle-groups and a semi-trailer only one axle-group under this definition, but a trailer may also have only one axle-group if it is located near the center of the trailer with the trailer and load balanced over it.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1982, No. 313, eff. 2-1-82.

Trans 251.02 Vehicle weight authorized by annual permits. (1) Unless otherwise provided in the approved permit, the gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of any axle-group or by any axle or combination of 2 or more consecutive axles within an axle-group on a vehicle or combination

of vehicles being operated under an annual permit issued under s. [348.27 \(2\)](#), Stats., may not exceed:

NUMBER OF AXLES IN AXLE-GROUP	WEIGHT IN POUNDS	LIMITATIONS
1	20,000	If the axle has less than 4 tires
1	30,000	If the axle has 4 or more tires
2	55,000	If axle-group has less than 16 tires
2	60,000	If axle-group has 16 tires or more
3	70,000	
4 or more	80,000	

(2) Unless otherwise provided in the approved permit, the gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of any 2 consecutive axle-groups on a vehicle or combination of vehicles being operated under an annual permit issued under s. [348.27 \(2\)](#), Stats., may not exceed the gross weights in the following table for each of the respective distances between axle-groups and the respective numbers of axles in each axle-group when the distance between the axle-groups is measured between the centers of the nearest axles of the 2 axle-groups:

Figure 1: Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds on Two Consecutive Axle-Groups of:

Number of axles in one axle-group	1	1	1	1	1	2 (with 15 or fewer tires)	2 (with 15 or fewer tires)
Number of axles in the next axle-group	1	2 (with 15 or fewer tires)	2 (with 16 or more tires)	3	4 or more	2 (with 15 or fewer tires)	2 (with 16 or more tires)
18 or more	60,000	85,000	90,000	100,000	110,000	110,000	115,000
17	59,500	84,000	89,000	98,500	108,500	107,500	112,500
16	59,000	82,500	87,500	97,000	107,000	105,500	109,400
15	59,000	81,500	86,500	95,500	105,500	103,000	107,000
14	58,500	80,500	85,500	94,000	104,000	101,000	104,500
13	58,000	79,000	84,000	92,500	102,500	98,500	101,500
12	57,500	78,000	83,000	91,000	101,500	96,000	99,000
11	57,500	77,000	82,000	89,000	99,500	94,000	96,000
10	57,000	76,000	81,000	87,500	97,500	91,500	93,500
9	56,500	74,500	79,500	86,000	96,000	89,000	91,000
8	56,000	73,500	78,500	84,500	94,500	87,000	88,000
7	56,000	72,500	77,500	83,000	93,000	84,500	85,500
6	55,500	71,000	76,000	81,500	91,500	82,500	82,500
5 or less	55,000	70,000	75,000	80,000	90,000	80,000	80,000

Continued—Figure 1: Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds on Two Consecutive Axle-Groups of:

Number of axles in one axle-group	2 (with 15 or fewer tires)	2 (with 15 or fewer tires)	2 (with 16 or more tires)	2 (with 16 or more tires)	2 (with 16 or more tires)	3	4 or more
Number of axles in the next axle-group	3	4 or more	2 (with 16 or more tires)	3	4 or more	3	4 or more
18 or more	125,000	135,000	120,000	130,000	140,000	140,000	150,000
17	122,500	132,500	117,000	127,000	137,000	137,000	146,000
16	119,500	129,500	114,000	124,000	134,000	134,000	142,500
15	117,000	127,000	111,000	121,000	131,000	131,000	138,500
14	114,000	124,000	107,500	117,500	127,500	127,500	134,500
13	111,500	121,500	104,500	114,500	124,500	124,500	131,000
12	109,000	119,000	101,500	111,500	121,500	121,500	127,000
11	106,000	116,000	98,500	108,500	118,500	118,500	123,000
10	103,500	113,500	95,500	105,500	115,500	115,500	119,000
9	101,500	111,500	92,500	102,500	112,500	112,500	115,500
8	98,000	108,000	89,000	99,000	109,000	109,000	111,500
7	95,500	105,500	86,000	96,000	106,000	106,000	107,500
6	92,500	102,500	83,000	93,000	103,000	103,000	104,000
5 or less	90,000	100,000	80,000	90,000	100,000	100,000	100,000

(3) The overall gross weight imposed on the highway by all of the wheels on a vehicle or combination of vehicles being operated under an annual permit issued under s. 348.27 (2), Stats., may not exceed the maximum gross weight shown on the face of the permit.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1982, No. 313, eff. 2-1-82.

Trans 251.03 Vehicle weight authorized by pole length and pulpwood permits and by transportation of coal permits. (1) In this section:

(a) “Tandem axle” means 2 axles not less than 42 inches apart but less than 108 inches apart articulated from a common point provided there is no other axle closer than 108 inches to either of them.

(b) “Single axle” means one axle not less than 108 inches from any other axle.

(2) The gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of any axle of an overweight vehicle or combination of vehicles being operated under a pole length and pulpwood permit issued under s. 348.27 (9), Stats., or a transportation of coal permit issued under s. 348.27 (10), Stats., may not exceed:

(a) 18,000 pounds for a single axle;

(b) 16,000 pounds for each axle of a tandem axle, except that, on a vehicle or combination of vehicles with a gross weight of more than 73,280 pounds, only one tandem axle may have axle weights of 16,000 pounds each and any additional tandem axles may have axle weights of not more than 13,000 pounds for each axle;

(c) 13,000 pounds for any other axle.

(3) The gross weight imposed on the highway by all of the wheels of an overweight vehicle or combination of vehicles being operated under a pole length and pulpwood permit issued under s. 348.27 (9), Stats., or a transportation of coal permit issued under s. 348.27 (10), Stats., may not exceed whichever of the following is the least:

(a) The maximum gross weight shown on the face of the permit;

(b) The sum of the weights authorized on the axles of the vehicle or combination of vehicles, calculated in accordance with sub. (2); or,

(c) 154,000 pounds.

Note: This section adopts Michigan law to apply to the special commodity permits allowed by the statutes referred to. By statute, permits are only valid within 5 (for coal) or 11 miles of the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1982, No. 313, eff. 2-1-82.

Trans 251.04 Vehicle weight authorized by other multiple trip permits. The axle, axle-group, and gross weights authorized by a general permit, an industrial interplant permit, or an emergency energy conservation permit shall be as stated in the permit.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1982, No. 313, eff. 2-1-82.

Trans 251.05 Vehicle weight authorized by transportation of garbage or refuse permits and by the transportation of scrap permits. (1) Unless otherwise provided in the approved permit, the gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of any axle group or by any axle or combination of 2 or more consecutive axles within an axle group on a vehicle or combination of vehicles being operated under a transportation of garbage or refuse permit issued under s. 348.27 (12), Stats., or under a transportation of scrap permit issued under s. 348.27 (9r), Stats., may not exceed the lowest of the following weights:

(a) The sum of the manufacturer’s rated weight-carrying capacity of the tires on the axle, combination of axles, or axle-group;

(b) The sum of the manufacturer’s rated weight-carrying capacity of the axle or axles in the combination of axles or axle-group; or

(c) The weights shown in the following table:

NUMBER OF AXLES IN AXLE-GROUP	WEIGHT IN POUNDS		LIMITATIONS
	ON CLASS A HIGHWAYS	ON CLASS B HIGHWAYS	
1	20,000	14,000	If the axle has less than 4 tires
1	25,000	17,000	If the axle has 4 or more tires
2	42,000	28,400	
3 or more	55,000	38,200	

(2) Unless otherwise provided in the approved permit, the gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of any 2 consecutive axle-groups on a vehicle or combination of vehicles being operated under a transportation of garbage or refuse permit issued under s. 348.27 (12), Stats., or under a transportation of scrap permit issued under s. 348.27 (9r), Stats., may not exceed the sum of the weights authorized on the individual axle-groups under sub. (1).

(3) The overall gross weight imposed on the highway by all of the wheels on a vehicle or combination of vehicles being operated under a transportation of garbage or refuse permit issued under s. 348.27 (12), Stats., or under a transportation of scrap permit issued under s. 348.27 (9r), Stats., may not exceed the maximum gross weight shown on the face of the permit or the sum of weights authorized on the individual axle-groups on the vehicle or combination of vehicles under sub. (1), whichever is less.

History: Emerg. cr. eff. 5-10-82; cr. Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83; am. (1) (intro.), (2) and (3), Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.

Trans 251.06 Vehicle weight authorized by transportation of raw forest and agricultural products permits. (1) Unless otherwise provided in the approved permit, the gross weight imposed on the highway by any wheel, axle, or any group of 2 or more consecutive axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles being operated under a transportation of raw forest and agricultural products permit issued under s. 348.27 (9m), Stats., may not exceed the weights authorized in s. 348.15 (3), Stats., by more than 12.5%.

(2) The overall gross weight imposed on the highway by all of the wheels on a vehicle or combination of vehicles being operated under a transportation of raw forest and agricultural products permit issued under s. 348.27 (9m), Stats., may not exceed the maximum gross weight shown on the face of the permit or 90,000 pounds, whichever is less.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1982, No. 313, eff. 2-1-82; renum. from Trans 251.05, Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83; r. and recr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.