

### 321.463 Maximum gross weight exceptions penalties.

1. An axle may be divided into two or more parts, except that all parts in the same vertical transverse plane shall be considered as one axle.
2. The gross weight on any one axle of a vehicle, or of a combination of vehicles, operated on the highways of this state, shall not exceed twenty thousand pounds on an axle equipped with pneumatic tires, and shall not exceed fourteen thousand pounds on an axle equipped with solid rubber tires. The gross weight on any tandem axle of a vehicle, or any combination of vehicles, shall not exceed thirty-four thousand pounds on an axle equipped with pneumatic tires. This subsection does not apply to implements of husbandry.
3. Notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter to the contrary, indivisible loads operating under the permit requirements of sections 321E.7, 321E.8, 321E.9, and 321E.29A shall be allowed a maximum of twenty thousand pounds per axle.
4. *a.* Self-propelled implements of husbandry used exclusively for the application of organic or inorganic plant food materials, agricultural limestone, or agricultural chemicals shall be operated in compliance with this section.  
*b.* (1) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, the weight on any one axle of a fence-line feeder, grain cart, or tank wagon operated on the highways of this state shall not exceed twenty-four thousand pounds from February 1 through May 31 or twenty-eight thousand pounds from June 1 through January 31, provided, however, that the maximum gross vehicle weight of the fence-line feeder, grain cart, or tank wagon shall not exceed ninety-six thousand pounds.

Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, a tracked implement of husbandry operated on the highways of this state shall not have a maximum gross weight in excess of ninety-six thousand pounds.

A fence-line feeder, grain cart, tank wagon, or tracked implement of husbandry shall comply with the other provisions of this section and chapter when operated over a bridge in this state. A local authority may issue a special permit, based on a statewide standard developed by the department, allowing the operation over a bridge within its jurisdiction of a fence-line feeder, grain cart, tank wagon, or tracked implement of husbandry with a weight in excess of the weights allowed under this chapter.

(2) For purposes of this paragraph "b", "highway" does not include a bridge.

For purposes of this paragraph "b", "fence-line feeder, grain cart, or tank wagon" means all of the following:

- (a) A fence-line feeder, grain cart, or tank wagon manufactured on or after July 1, 2001.
- (b) After July 1, 2005, any fence-line feeder, grain cart, or tank wagon.

The year of manufacture of a fence-line feeder, grain cart, or tank wagon manufactured on or after July 1, 2001, shall be permanently made a part of the identification plate on the vehicle. Fraudulently altering or defacing or attempting to fraudulently alter or deface the year of manufacture or other product identification number on a fence-line feeder, grain cart, or tank wagon is a violation of section 321.92.

*c.* The maximum gross weight allowed to be carried on a livestock or construction vehicle on noninterstate highways is as follows: **NONINTERSTATE HIGHWAYS MAXIMUM GROSS WEIGHT TABLE**  
**LIVESTOCK OR CONSTRUCTION VEHICLE**

Distance in feet	6 Axles	7 Axles	\$YUL
44	80,500	80,500	
45	81,000	81,500	46
46	81,500	82,500	47
47	82,000	83,500	48
48	83,000	84,000	49
49	83,500	85,000	50
50	84,000	86,000	51
51	84,500	87,000	52
52	85,000	88,000	53
53	86,000	88,500	54
54	86,500	89,500	55
55	87,000	90,500	56
56	87,500	91,500	57
57	88,000	92,000	58
58	89,000	93,000	59
59	89,500	94,000	60
60	90,000	95,000	61
61	95,500	96,000	62

Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, the maximum gross weight allowed to be carried on a noninterstate highway by a livestock vehicle with five axles, a minimum distance in feet between the centers of the first and fifth axles of sixty-one feet, and a minimum distance between the two rear axles of at least eight feet and one inch is eighty-six thousand pounds.

d. For the purposes of the maximum gross weight tables in paragraphs "a", "b", and "c", distance in feet is the measured distance in feet between the centers of the extreme axles of any group of axles, rounded to the nearest whole foot.

e. The maximum gross weight allowed to be carried on a tracked implement of husbandry when operated on a noninterstate highway bridge is as follows: **NONINTERSTATE HIGHWAY BRIDGES MAXIMUM GROSS WEIGHT TABLE TRACKED IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY**

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

"Length of track in feet" means the length of track on one side of the tracked implement of husbandry which is in contact with the ground or roadway surface.

6. The weight on any one axle, including a tandem axle, of a vehicle which is transporting livestock on highways not part of the interstate system may exceed the legal maximum weight given in this chapter providing that the gross weight on any particular group of axles on such vehicle does not exceed the gross weight allowable under this chapter for such groups of axles.

7. The weight on any one axle, including a tandem axle, of a vehicle which is transporting raw materials from a designated borrow site to a construction project or transporting raw materials from a construction project, and which is operating on a highway that is not part of the interstate system and along a route of travel approved by the department or the appropriate local authority, may exceed the legal maximum weight otherwise allowed under this chapter by ten percent if the gross weight on any particular group of axles on the vehicle does not exceed the gross weight allowed under this chapter for that group of axles. If the vehicle exceeds the ten percent tolerance allowed under this subsection, the fine shall be computed on the difference between the actual weight and the ten percent tolerance weight allowed for the axle or tandem axle.

8. A vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting materials or equipment on nonprimary highways to or from a construction project or commercial plant site may operate under the maximum gross weight table for primary highways in subsection 5, paragraph "a", if the route is approved by the appropriate local authority. Route approval is not required if the vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting materials or equipment to or from a construction project or commercial plant site complies with the maximum gross weight table for noninterstate highways in subsection 5, paragraph "c".

9. A vehicle designed to tow wrecked or disabled vehicles shall be exempt from the weight limitations in this section while the vehicle is towing a wrecked or disabled vehicle.

10. a. A person who operates a vehicle in violation of this section, and an owner, or any other person, employing or otherwise directing the operator of a vehicle, who requires or knowingly permits the operation of a vehicle in violation of this section shall be fined according to the following schedule: **AXLE, TANDEM AXLE, AND GROUP OF AXLES WEIGHT VIOLATIONS**

Pounds Overloaded	Amount of Fine
Up to and including \$12	

1,000 pounds	Over 1,000 pounds up to and including \$22
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including 2,000 pounds Over 2,000 pounds up to and \$155

including 3,000 pounds Over 3,000 pounds up to and \$240

including 4,000 pounds Over 4,000 pounds up to and \$375

including 5,000 pounds Over 5,000 pounds up to and \$585

including 6,000 pounds Over 6,000 pounds up to and \$850

including 7,000 pounds Over 7,000 pounds up to and \$950

including 8,000 pounds Over 8,000 pounds up to and \$1,050

including 9,000 pounds Over 9,000 pounds up to and \$1,150

including 10,000 pounds Over 10,000 pounds up to and \$1,300

including 11,000 pounds Over 11,000 pounds up to and \$1,400

including 12,000 pounds Over 12,000 pounds up to and \$1,500

including 13,000 pounds Over 13,000 pounds up to and \$1,600

including 14,000 pounds Over 14,000 pounds up to and \$1,700

including 15,000 pounds Over 15,000 pounds up to and \$1,800

including 16,000 pounds Over 16,000 pounds up to and \$1,900

including 17,000 pounds Over 17,000 pounds up to and \$2,000

including 18,000 pounds Over 18,000 pounds up to and \$2,100

including 19,000 pounds Over 19,000 pounds up to and \$2,200

including 20,000 pounds Over 20,000 pounds \$2,200 plus ten cents per pound in excess of 20,000 pounds

*b.* Fines for gross weight violations for vehicles or combinations of vehicles shall be assessed at one-half of the fine rate schedule for axle, tandem axle, and groups of axles weight violations.

*c.* Except as otherwise provided, the amount of the fine to be assessed shall be computed on the difference between the actual weight and the maximum legal weight specified in this section.

*d.* The schedule of fines may be assessed in addition to any other penalties provided for in this chapter.

11. Overloads on axles and tandem axles and overloads on groups of axles or on an entire vehicle or combination of vehicles shall be considered as separate violations of the provisions of this section.

12. A person who issues or executes, or causes to be issued or executed, a bill of lading, manifest, or shipping document of any kind which states a false weight of the cargo set forth on such bill, manifest, or document, which is less than the actual weight of the cargo, shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

[C24, 27, 31, 35, § 5065; C39, § **5035.12**; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 321.463; 81 Acts, ch 110, § 1, ch 111]

89 Acts, ch 200, § 1, 2; 92 Acts, ch 1238, § 35; 94 Acts, ch 1199, §79; 95 Acts, ch 118, §26; 96 Acts, ch 1089, §4; 97 Acts, ch 100, §5, 12; 97 Acts, ch 104, §22; 98 Acts, ch 1103, §2; 98 Acts, ch 1178, §6, 7; 99 Acts, ch 108, §7; 2000 Acts, ch 1016, §17; 2000 Acts, ch 1040, §1; 2001 Acts, ch 32, §2325; 2002 Acts, ch 1063, §33, 55; 2005 Acts, ch 20, §57, 12, 13

### **Footnotes**

For applicable scheduled fines, see §805.8A, subsection 12, paragraph e