

S.I. 25 of 1983

FEDERAL HIGHWAYS ACT 1971

(1971 No. 4)

Federal Highways (Permissible Weights and Weighbridges)
Regulations 1983*Commencement : 11th March 1983*

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 26 of the Federal Highways Act 1971, and of all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I, the Minister of Works, hereby make the following regulations:—

1. As from the commencement of these regulations, no person shall cause or permit a vehicle to be used on any federal highway or shall drive or have charge of a motor vehicle or trailer when so used on such highway unless all the conditions hereinafter set forth are satisfied, that is—

Conditions
relating to
weight of
vehicles on
federal
highways.

(a) a vehicle, if its net weight exceeds 250kg., shall be capable of being so worked that it may travel either forwards or backwards;

(b) no motor vehicle or trailer inclusive of the load thereon shall exceed 2.5 metres in overall width; and the overall length of an articulated vehicle shall not exceed 14 metres and the overall length of a vehicle and trailer drawn by such vehicle shall not exceed 18 metres;

(c) no load may protrude more than one metre beyond the front elevation of a motor vehicle or trailer or more than 2 metres beyond the rear elevation of the vehicle or more than 75mm beyond either side of the vehicle and where the load projects more than one metre from the rear of such vehicle, a red flag shall be fixed by day and a red lamp by night in a similar position and the flag or lamp shall be clearly visible from the rear;

(d) the height from the ground level of any motor vehicle or trailer with any freight or load placed thereon shall not at any point exceed 3.5 metres; so however that where the freight or load is entirely composed of seed cotton or cotton lint the height of the highest point of such freight or load from the ground may be increased to not more than 4 metres;

(e) any freight or load on any motor vehicle or trailer shall be secured in such manner as to render it impossible for such freight or load or any part thereof to fall or be jolted off that motor vehicle or trailer when in motion or to come into contact with the road while the motor vehicle or trailer is in motion;

(f) no freight or load of greater weight than that which the vehicle is constructed to carry as registered and stated in the registration book shall be placed on any commercial vehicle or trailer, and the owner shall cause the net weight of the vehicle or trailer, the weight of such freight or load and the axle weights to be painted on some conspicuous part of the off-side of the motor vehicle in figures and letters not less than 2.5cm

in height and of such shape and colour as to be legible and clearly distinguishable from the colour of the background whereon the letters and figures are painted or marked.

Vehicles not to exceed 32 tonnes gross weight, etc.

2.—(1) No vehicle shall be used on a federal highway if the single axle and tandem axle weight exceeds 10 tonnes and 16 tonnes respectively or if the gross weight of the vehicle exceeds 32 tonnes except as specified in Parts I and II of the Schedule to these regulations.

(2) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this regulation, any authorised officer may grant a permit for a particular occasion or occasions for the use of a motor vehicle or trailer which does not conform to the requirements of these regulations and such permit shall be subject to such conditions as may be imposed thereon and shall be carried by the driver of the motor vehicle on all occasions and be produced by him on demand by a police officer or an authorised officer.

(3) An owner of a motor vehicle above 10 tonnes but not exceeding 32 tonnes shall obtain an annual permit in such form as the Minister may determine to operate the said vehicle on any federal highway.

Establishment of weighbridges.

3.—(1) The Minister may install at such locations on any federal highway as he may determine, weighbridges for the purpose of weighing of vehicles in pursuance of these regulations.

(2) An authorised officer may, if he so requires with the assistance of a police officer, at any time and for reasonable cause require a vehicle affected by these regulations to be driven to a weighbridge location to have its net, gross or axle weight ascertained and the person driving the vehicle or in charge thereof shall comply with such requirement.

(3) The provisions of these regulations shall not apply to an omnibus, being a vehicle capable of carrying a load of not less than 750kg. designed and constructed for the sole purpose of carrying passengers and their luggage.

Penalty.

4.—(1) No person shall cause or permit to be used on any federal highway or thereon have charge of a motor vehicle or a trailer which is not in all respects in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.

(2) Any person who operates a motor vehicle in contravention of these regulations shall pay at the weighbridge location a penalty of ₹100 and in addition, the owner shall at his own risk and expense, remove the excess load from his vehicle.

(3) Any person who fails to pay the penalty in paragraph (2) of this regulation or who fails to comply with or acts in contravention of any provision of these regulations shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of ₹200 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 6 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Interpretation.

5. In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires —
“authorised officer” means any officer in the Ministry authorised in that behalf by the Minister ;

“owner” includes the agent, driver or other employee of the owner or hirer, charterer or any other person in control of the vehicle at the material time.

Citation.

6. These regulations may be cited as the Federal Highways (Permissible Weights and Weighbridges) Regulations 1983.

SCHEDULE

PART I

Regulation 2 (1)

PERMISSIBLE MAXIMUM WEIGHT FOR MOTOR VEHICLES

VEHICLE WEIGHTS

The permissible maximum weight for various categories of heavy vehicles which may be operated on a Federal highway is as specified hereunder, that is—

A. For motor vehicles and trailers in each case not forming part of an articulated vehicle, the following class of such vehicles are permitted:—

Class of Vehicle

Permissible
gross weight

(a) Two-axled vehicles—

tonnes

(i) Where the distance between the axles is less than 2.65 metres .. 14

(ii) Where the distance between the axles is at least 2.65 metres .. 16

(b) Three-axled vehicles—

Their weight shall not exceed 16260 kilograms except as specified below :

(i) Where the distance between the foremost and rearmost axle is at least 3 metres 18

(ii) Where the distance between the foremost and rearmost axle is at least 3.2 metres and the maximum axle weight is not more than 8130 kilograms .. 20

(iii) Where the distance between the foremost and rearmost axle is at least 3.9 metres and the maximum axle weight is more than 8130 kilograms .. 20

(iv) Where the distance between the foremost and rearmost axle is at least 3.9 metres and the maximum axle weight is not more than 8640 kilograms .. 22

(v) Where the distance between the foremost and rearmost axle is at least 4.6 metres and the maximum axle weight is more than 8640 kilograms .. 22

(vi) Where the distance between the foremost and rearmost axle is at least 4.9 metres and the maximum axle weight is not more than 9400 kilograms .. 24

(vii) Where the distance between the foremost and rearmost axle is at least 5.1 metres and the maximum axle weight is more than 9400 kilograms .. 24

(c) Vehicles with four or more axles, their weight shall not exceed 18290 kilograms except in a case below, where the weight opposite that case shall apply—

(i) Where the distance between the foremost and rearmost axle is at least 3.7 metres and the maximum axle weight is not more than 8640 kilograms .. 20

(ii) Where the distance between the foremost and rearmost axle is at least 4.6 metres and the maximum axle weight is not more than 8640 kilograms .. 22

*Class of vehicle**Permissible
gross weight
tonnes*

(iii) Where the distance between the foremost and rear-most axle is at least 4.7 metres and the maximum axle weight is not more than 8640 kilograms	24
(iv) Where the distance between the foremost and rear-most axle is at least 5 metres and the maximum axle weight is not more than 9150 kilograms	24
(v) Where the distance between the foremost and rear-most axle is at least 5.6 metres and the maximum axle weight is not more than 9150 kilograms	26
(vi) Where the distance between the foremost and rear-most axle is at least 6 metres and the maximum axle weight is not more than 9660 kilograms	26
(vii) Where the distance between the foremost and rear-most axle is at least 5.9 metres and the maximum axle weight is not more than 9150 kilograms	28
(viii) Where the distance between the foremost and rear-most axle is at least 6.3 metres and the maximum axle weight is more than 9660 kilograms	28
(ix) Where the distance between the foremost and rear-most axle is at least 6.3 metres and the maximum axle weight is not more than 9400 kilograms	30
(x) Where the distance between the foremost and rearmost axle is at least 6.4 metres and the maximum axle weight is not more than 9660 kilograms	30

B. For articulated vehicles, the following class of vehicles are permitted.

*Class of articulated vehicles**Inner axle spacing in metre**Gross
weight
tonnes*

(a) Two-axled motor vehicle with—

(i) 1 axled trailer	Less than 2.1	20
(ii) 1 axled trailer	at least 2.1	22
(iii) 1 axled trailer	at least 3.1	24
(iv) 2 or more axled trailer	less than 2.9	24
(v) 2 or more axled trailer	at least 2.9	26
(vi) 2 or more axled trailer	at least 3.1	28
(vii) 2 or more axled trailer	at least 3.6	30
(viii) 2 or more axled trailer	at least 4.2	32

(b) Three or more axled motor vehicle with—

(i)	1 axled trailer	..	..	..	less than 2	..	..	..	22
(ii)	1 axled trailer	..	..	..	at least 2	..	..	..	24
(iii)	1 axled trailer	..	..	..	at least 2.7	..	..	..	26
(iv)	1 axled trailer	..	..	..	at least 3	..	..	..	28
(v)	1 axled trailer	..	..	..	at least 4	..	..	..	30
(vi)	1 axled trailer	..	..	..	at least 4.4	..	..	..	32
(vii)	2 or more axled trailer	..	..	..	less than 2	..	..	..	24
(viii)	2 or more axled trailer	..	..	..	at least 2	..	..	..	26
(ix)	2 or more axled trailer	..	..	..	at least 2.3	..	..	..	28
(x)	2 or more axled trailer	..	..	..	at least 3.2	..	..	..	30
(xi)	2 or more axled trailer	..	..	..	at least 4	..	..	..	32

C. Maximum weight for two closely-spaced axles.

<i>Distance between axles</i>										<i>Total weight</i>
<i>Metres</i>										<i>tonnes</i>
less than 1.02	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
at least 1.02	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
at least 1.05	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
at least 1.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
at least 1.35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.5
at least 1.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
at least 1.85	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20

D. Maximum weight for three closely spaced axles.

<i>Distance between outer axles</i>										<i>Axle weight</i>
<i>Metres</i>										<i>tonne</i>
less than 1.4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.66
at least 1.4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
at least 1.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
at least 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6.51
at least 2.55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
at least 3.15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.51

PART II

Section 2 (1)

MAXIMUM WEIGHTS FOR CLOSELY—SPACED AXLES
TWO CLOSELY—SPACED AXLES

<i>Distance Between Axles</i>		<i>Permissible Combine l</i>
<i>Less than</i>	<i>At least</i>	
<i>Metres</i>		<i>Weight</i>
		<i>tonnes</i>
1.0	—	11
—	1.02	16
—	1.05	17
—	1.2	18
—	1.35	18.5
—	1.5	19
—	1.85	20

F—THREE CLOSELY—SPACED AXLES

<i>Distance Between Outer Axles Metres</i>		<i>Permissible Axle Weight</i>
<i>Less than</i>	<i>At least</i>	<i>tonnes</i>
1.4	—	3.66
—	1.4	4
—	1.5	6
—	2	6.5
—	2.55	7
—	3.15	7.5

MADE at Lagos this 11th day of March 1983.

S. ESSANG,
Minister of Works.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note does not form part of the above Regulations but is intended to explain its purpose.)

The Regulations prescribe the maximum net, axle and gross weights of heavy motor vehicles and trailers authorised for use on federal highways. The Regulations also authorise the installation of weighbridges at different locations on federal highways for ascertainment of the gross, axle and net weight of such vehicles. Provisions are made for the enforcement of the regulations and penalties are imposed for infringement thereof.