



Texas Department of Motor Vehicles

Motor Carrier Guide

Size and Weight



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Size & Weight

Texas Size and Weight Limits

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.

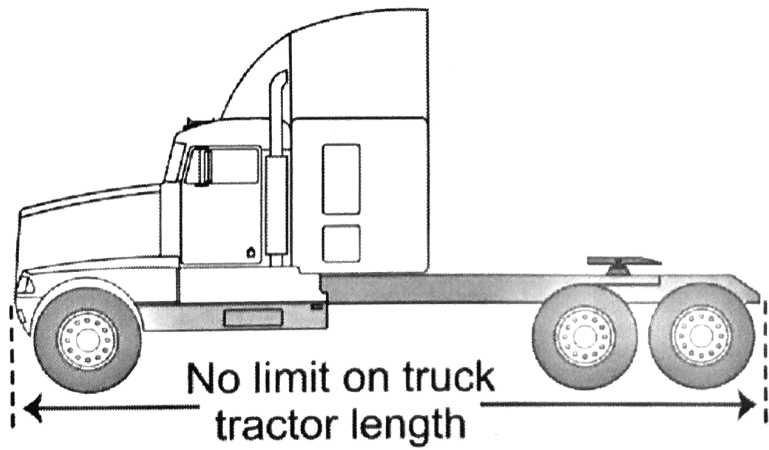
| Explanation | Measurement |
|--|---------------|
| Legal width limit | 8', 6" (102") |
| Legal height limit | 14' |
| Truck or single vehicle length | 45' |
| Truck-tractor | Unlimited |
| Semitrailer length, of a two-vehicle combination | 59' |
| Each trailer or semitrailer of a twin-trailer combination | 28.5' |
| Truck and trailer combination length, other than truck-tractor & semitrailer | 65' |



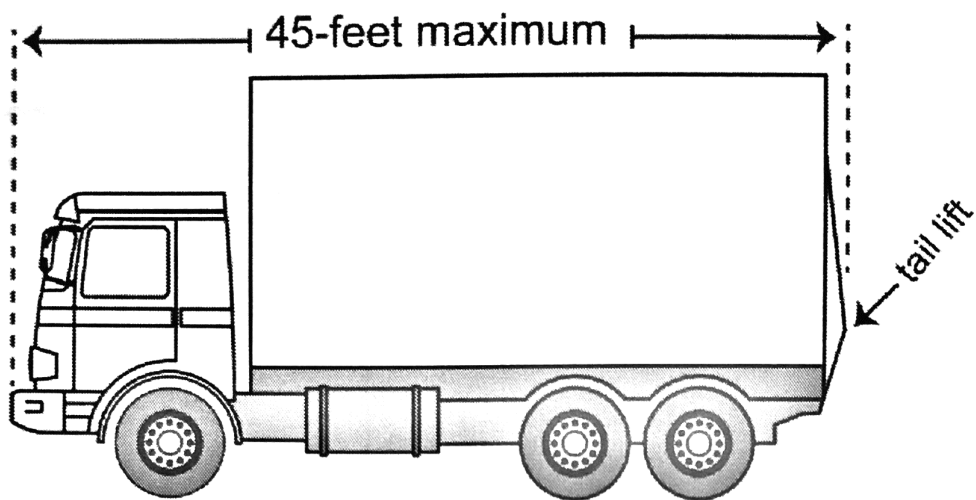
| Explanation | Measurement |
|--|-------------|
| Front overhang | 3' |
| Rear overhang | 4' |
| Maximum legal weight for a single axle | 20,000 lbs. |
| Maximum legal weight for a tandem axle group | 34,000 lbs. |
| Maximum legal gross weight | 80,000 lbs. |

Vehicle Length Limits

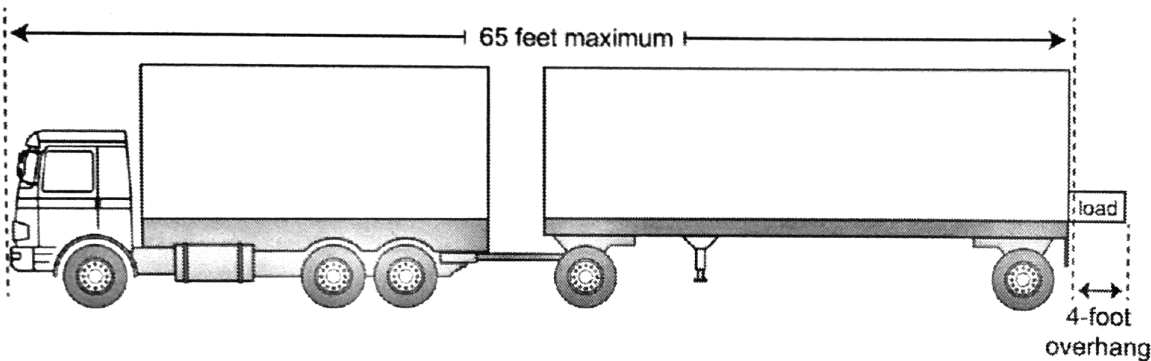
Truck Tractor - State law does not limit the length of a truck tractor.



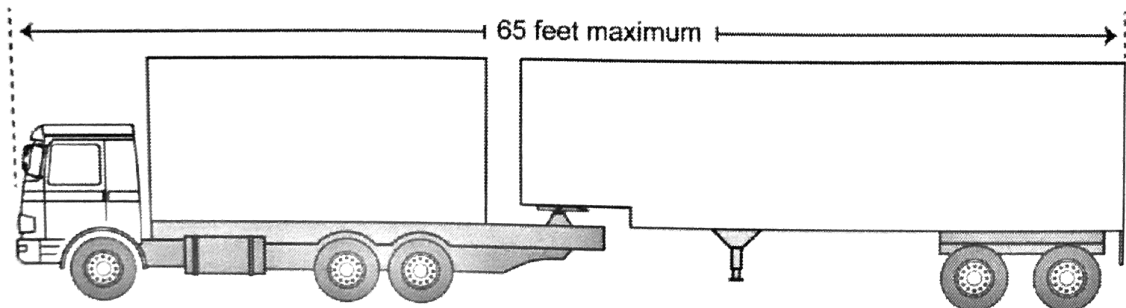
Truck – The length of a single vehicle, other than a truck tractor, may not exceed 45 feet.



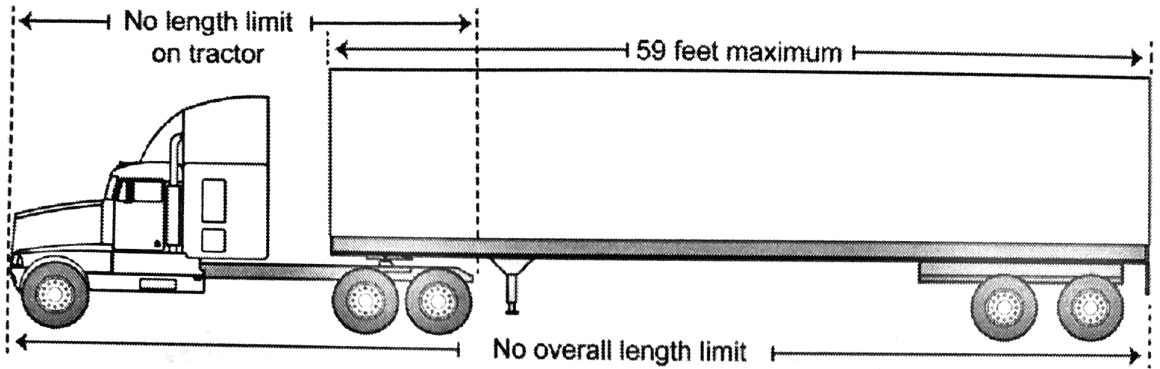
Truck and Trailer Combination – A truck and trailer combination may not exceed 65 feet in overall length.



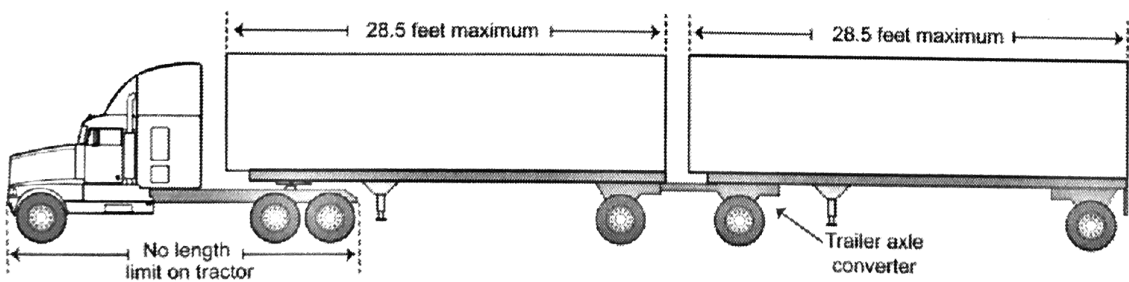
Truck and Semitrailer Combination – A truck and semitrailer combination may not exceed 65 feet in overall length.



Truck Tractor and Semitrailer Combination – A semitrailer operated in a truck tractor and semitrailer combination is limited to 59 feet. There is no length limitation for a truck tractor or overall length limitation for this combination. Length limitation on a semi-trailer is based on the distance from the front of the semitrailer to the back of the semitrailer.



Truck Tractor, Semitrailer, Trailer Axle Converter and Semitrailer Combination – A semitrailer and trailer operated in a truck tractor, semitrailer, and trailer combination is limited to 28 ½ feet for each trailer or semitrailer. Length limitation on a semitrailer is based on the distance from the front of the semitrailer to the back of the semitrailers. There is no length limitation for a truck tractor or overall length limitation for this combination.



Permissible Weight Table

This 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 gross weight in lbs. is determined by the distance in feet between the extremes of any group of two or more consecutive axles. The columns below indicate 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 | 2 axles | 3 axles | 4 axles | 5 axles | 6 axles | 7 axles |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 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 | |
| 36 | | | 70,100* | 70,500 | 75,500 | |

| Distance in Feet | 2 axles | 3 axles | 4 axles | 5 axles | 6 axles | 7 axles |
|---------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| 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, §5(a)(4)* when Senate Bill 89 of the 64th 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.

+ This figure applies only to an axle spacing greater than 8 feet, but less than 9 feet.

Over Axle & Over Gross **Weight Tolerance Permit (1547)**

Permit Eligibility

Texas Transportation Code (TRC), §623.011, authorizes an annual weight tolerance permit to allow commercial motor vehicles (truck or truck-tractor in combination with trailer and/or semitrailer) to operate with weight that exceeds the allowable axle or gross weight for those vehicles. This weight tolerance permit is issued only to the power unit.

Route Restrictions

A permit issued under this section does not authorize the operation of a vehicle on:

- The national system of interstate and defense highways in the state (main lanes).
- City streets.
- A bridge for which a maximum weight and load limit has been established and posted if the gross weight of the vehicle and load or axles and wheel loads are greater than the limits established and posted.

Load-Posted Bridges

A vehicle moving with a weight tolerance permit may not travel over a load-posted bridge when exceeding the posted weight limits, unless the bridge provides the only public vehicular access to or from the permitted vehicle's origin or destination.

Vehicles Transporting Non-Agricultural Products

The weight tolerance permit authorizes a vehicle transporting non-agricultural products to travel on state maintained and county roads, selected at time of permit purchase, to exceed legal operating weight as follows:

- Up to 10% above legal axle weight
- Up to 5% above gross vehicular weight



Vehicle Transporting Agricultural Products

Agricultural products include timber, pulp wood, wood chips, cotton, livestock, or agricultural products in their natural state that are being transported from the place of production to the place of first marketing or processing (*Texas Transportation Code §621.508*).

This permit authorizes the operation of a vehicle transporting agricultural products to travel on state maintained and county roads or counties selected on the permit with a tolerance of:

- Up to 12% above legal axle weight on one tandem
- Up to 10% above legal on all other axles
- Up to 5% above gross vehicular weight

Bond or Irrevocable Letter of Credit

A \$15,000 bond or an irrevocable letter of credit is required for vehicles hauling non-agricultural products. An applicant must file the bond payable to TxDOT. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) must guarantee deposits of financial institutions that issue letters of credit.

The bond is effective until the insurance or bonding company notifies TxDOT that the bond is no longer valid. For vehicles hauling agricultural products, a bond or letter of credit is not required.



Fees

The Weight Tolerance Permit is valid for one year from the permit start date. The fee includes:

- \$90 base fee
- \$5 administrative fee
- fee based to the following scale:

| No. of Counties | Total Fee |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 - 5 | \$270 |
| 6 - 20 | \$345 |
| 21-40 | \$545 |
| 41-60 | \$720 |
| 61-80 | \$895 |
| 81-100 | \$995 |
| 101-254 | \$1,095 |



30/60/90 Day Permits

Permit Eligibility

TxDMV issues 30, 60 and 90 day permits for the transport of loads exceeding Texas legal width or length limits. Permits expire 30, 60 or 90 days from "movement to begin" date, depending upon the type of permit purchased.

In order to qualify for a 30, 60 or 90 day permit, vehicles and loads must be:

- No greater than 13 feet wide, 14 feet high or legal length for an over width permit, and
- No greater than 8-1/2 feet wide, 14 feet high, 110 feet long for vehicles and loads on a trailer for an over length permit, or
- No longer than 75 feet long for single vehicles moving empty or hauling a load.

An over width 30/60/90 Day Permit may be used in conjunction with an over length 30/60/90 Day Permit.

Note: Overwidth and overlength permits are not valid for manufactured homes or portable buildings.

Fees

- 30 day time permit \$120
- 60 day time permit \$180
- 90 day time permit \$240



Annual Length Permits

Permit Eligibility

TxDMV issues an annual length permit for the transport of loads exceeding Texas legal length limits. This permit is an annual permit that expires one year from the “movement to begin” date.

In order to qualify for an annual length permit, vehicles and loads must be:

- No greater than 8-1/2 feet wide, 14 feet high, 110 feet long for vehicles and loads on a trailer, or
- No longer than 75 feet long for single vehicles moving empty or hauling a load.

Note: This permit adds an annual option to the existing 30-, 60-, 90-day length permit.

Fees

- The annual length permit fee is \$960.

