

Chapter 13

(Senate Bill 72)

AN ACT concerning

Motor Vehicles – Weight and Axle Load Limits

FOR the purpose of ~~establishing that certain provisions of law governing motor vehicle weight limits and single axle load limits do not apply to motor homes or certain buses; repealing a provision of law establishing a certain enhanced single axle load limit for certain buses; prohibiting a motor home from exceeding a certain rated load capacity for any tire on the motor home~~ exempting certain buses from certain provisions of law establishing tandem axle weight limits; clarifying that certain vehicle weight limits apply to certain buses; increasing to a certain amount the weight limit tolerance for the use of certain equipment that promotes fuel economy and reduced emissions; making conforming changes; and generally relating to motor vehicle weight and axle load limits.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section ~~24-108, 24-109, 24-109~~ and 24-113.2(c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Transportation

~~24-108.~~

~~(a) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection and except as otherwise provided in this section, the gross weight imposed on the ground surface by the wheels of an axle of a vehicle may not exceed the following limits:~~

	Single Axle Weight	
	Registered Gross Weight of Vehicle (in Pounds)	Gross Maximum Weight (in Pounds)
Single axle	73,000 or less	22,400
Single axle	More than 73,000	20,000

~~(2) Except for vehicles operated under a permit issued under § 24-112 of this subtitle, the gross weight imposed on the ground surface by the wheels of a front axle of a vehicle combination may not exceed either the lesser of:~~

~~(i) The sum of the rated load capacities for each tire on the axle, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section; or~~

~~(ii) The sum of the rated load capacities indicated by the manufacturer as to each tire on the axle with which the vehicle is currently equipped.~~

~~(3) (i) Except as provided in subparagraphs (ii) and (iii) of this paragraph, any vehicle with a gross maximum weight in excess of 73,000 pounds may travel only on State highways, except while making a delivery or pickup, and then only when traveling by the shortest available legal route to or from the State highway for the purpose of making such delivery or pickup. In Baltimore City, the shortest available legal route shall be only on designated truck routes.~~

~~(ii) If approved by the local governing body and the State Highway Administration, in Dorchester County, a vehicle with a gross maximum weight in excess of 73,000 pounds may use the Linkwood Road when traveling between East New Market and Linkwood.~~

~~(iii) 1. The County Commissioners of Garrett County may, by ordinance, establish the authorized gross maximum weight of a vehicle that:~~

~~A. Has at least 6 axles;~~

~~B. Is a truck tractor and semitrailer combination; and~~

~~C. Is using any part of Table Rock Road and Wilson Run Road in Garrett County that is owned and maintained by the county.~~

~~2. The gross maximum weight established under this subparagraph may not exceed 87,000 pounds.~~

~~(b) Except on interstate highways, a vehicle carrying farm products as defined under § 10-601 of the Agriculture Article or forest products that have been loaded in fields or other off-highway locations is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of 10 percent.~~

~~(c) (1) In Anne Arundel County and Baltimore County, garbage and refuse trucks that make collections on a fixed route and are owned by or doing business with any governmental entity in the respective county are permitted rear axle load limit tolerances of 10 percent if:~~

~~(i) The overweight is due to bad weather; and~~

~~(ii) The truck does not exceed its registered gross weight limit.~~

~~(2) A privately owned truck is permitted this tolerance only while actually engaged in the business of the governmental entity.~~

~~(d) [Any] A MOTOR HOME, AN over the road bus, or any vehicle that is regularly and exclusively used as an intrastate public agency transit passenger bus may not exceed:~~

~~(1) A single axle weight limit of 24,000 pounds; or~~

~~(2) The tire manufacturer's rated load capacity for any tire on the vehicle.~~

24-109.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Single axle weight" means the total weight transmitted by all wheels whose centers may be included between 2 parallel transverse vertical planes 40 inches apart extending across the full width of the vehicle.

(3) "Tandem axle weight" means the total weight transmitted to the road by 2 or more consecutive axles whose centers may be included between parallel vertical planes spaced more than 40 inches apart but not more than 96 inches apart extending across the full width of the vehicle.

(b) ~~IN THIS SECTION, A MOTOR HOME, AN OVER THE ROAD BUS, AN OVER-THE-ROAD BUS OR ANY VEHICLE THAT IS REGULARLY AND EXCLUSIVELY USED AS AN INTRASTATE PUBLIC AGENCY PASSENGER BUS:~~

~~(1) IS EXEMPT FROM AXLE WEIGHTS; AND TANDEM AXLE WEIGHT LIMITS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION; BUT~~

~~(2) SHALL COMPLY WITH THE VEHICLE AND COMBINATION OF VEHICLES WEIGHT LIMITS IN SUBSECTIONS (D) AND (E) OF THIS SECTION PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION THAT ARE NOT TANDEM AXLE WEIGHT LIMITS.~~

(c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this title, the overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecutive axles may not exceed an amount produced by application of the following formula:

$$W = 500 \left(\frac{LN}{\quad} + 12N + 36 \right)$$

$$\left(\frac{W}{L} \right)^{N-1}$$

where “W” = overall gross weight on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, “L” = distance in feet measured horizontally between the vertical centerlines of the extreme of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles, and “N” = number of axles in group under consideration, except that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each providing the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more; provided, that such overall gross weight may not exceed eighty thousand (80,000) pounds, including any enforcement or statutory tolerances.

[(c) (D)] The following table indicates the permissible overall gross weights based upon the above formula:

Distance in feet between the extremes of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles	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						
and less	34,000	34,000				
More than						
8	38,000	42,000				
9	39,000	42,500				
10	40,000	43,500				
11		44,000				
12		45,000	50,000			
13		45,500	50,500			
14		46,500	51,500			
15		47,000	52,000			
16		48,000	52,500	58,000		
17		48,500	53,500	58,500		
18		49,500	54,000	59,000		
19		50,000	54,500	60,000		
20		51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000	
21		51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500	
22		52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000	
23		53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000	
24		54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500	74,000

25		54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000	74,500
26		55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500	75,000
27		56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	75,500
28		57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000	76,500
29		57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500	77,000
30		58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000	77,500
31		59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500	78,000
32		60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000	78,500
33			64,000	68,500	74,000	79,000
34			64,500	69,000	74,500	80,000
35			65,500	70,000	75,000	
36	Exception: See subsection [(b)] (c), this section					
			(66,000)	70,500	75,500	
37			(66,500)	71,000	76,000	
38			(67,500)	72,000	77,000	
39			68,000	72,500	77,500	
40			68,500	73,000	78,000	
41			69,500	73,500	78,500	
42			70,000	74,000	79,000	
43			70,500	75,000	80,000	
44			71,500	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		
52			76,500			
53			77,500			
54			78,000			
55			78,500			
56			79,500			
57			80,000			

[(d)] (E) The gross weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles may not exceed the following limits:

	Number of axles	Gross weight (in pounds)
Three or less		55,000

Four	66,000
Five as provided for in § 13–916 or § 13–923 of this article	80,000

[(e)] (F) A trailer with metal tires and a gross weight of more than 6,000 pounds may not be moved on a highway.

[(f)] (G) (1) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with 3 axles, or a combination of vehicles with a trailer less than 32 feet long or a semitrailer less than 45 feet long, either registered as a farm vehicle or carrying farm products as defined under § 10–601 of the Agriculture Article that were loaded in fields or other off-highway locations, is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of 5 percent from subsections **[(b) and] (c) AND (D)** of this section, except during harvest time when an axle load limit tolerance of 15 percent from subsections **[(b) and] (c) AND (D)** of this section is permitted for a vehicle carrying the following agricultural products:

- (i) Wheat, for the period from June 1 to August 15;
 - (ii) Corn, for the period from July 1 to December 1;
 - (iii) Soybeans, for the period from September 1 to December 31;
- and
- (iv) Vegetable crops, for the period from June 1 to October 31.

(2) (i) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with at least 3 axles or a combination of vehicles with a trailer length of less than 32 feet carrying forest products that have been loaded in forests or other similar off-highway locations is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of 10 percent from subsections **[(b) and] (c) AND (D)** of this section, except for the period from June 1 through September 30 when an axle load limit tolerance of 15 percent from subsections **[(b) and] (c) AND (D)** of this section is permitted.

(ii) Except on interstate highways, a combination of vehicles with a semitrailer length of 45 feet or less carrying forest products that have been loaded in forests or other similar off-highway locations is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of 5 percent from subsections **[(b) and] (c) AND (D)** of this section, except for the period from June 1 through September 30 when an axle load limit tolerance of 15 percent from subsections **[(b) and] (c) AND (D)** of this section is permitted.

[(g)] (H) (1) Any vehicle that uses an auxiliary power unit or an idle-reduction technology unit in order to promote reduction of fuel use and emissions from engine idling shall be allowed up to an additional **[400] 550** pounds total in gross, axle, tandem, or bridge formula weight limits.

(2) To be eligible for the additional weight limit allowed under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the vehicle operator must:

(i) Obtain and make available to law enforcement officers written certification of the weight of the auxiliary power unit or idle-reduction technology unit; and

(ii) By demonstration or certification, prove that the idle-reduction technology unit is fully functional at all times.

(3) The additional weight limit allowed under paragraph (1) of this subsection may not exceed the certified weight of the auxiliary power unit or idle-reduction technology unit.

24-113.2.

(c) A combination of vehicles operating under the authority of an exceptional hauling permit issued under subsection (b) of this section shall:

(1) Comply with the following weight limits:

(i) A maximum of 20,000 pounds gross weight on a single axle;

(ii) For any consecutive axle configuration of two or more axles on individual vehicles in the combination, the maximum gross weight specified in § [24-109(c)] **24-109(D)** of this subtitle; and

(iii) A maximum of 87,000 pounds gross combination weight;

(2) Twice each year, submit to and pass a North American Standard Driver/Vehicle Level 1 inspection; and

(3) Be allowed a load limit tolerance of only 1,000 pounds for gross combination weight and 15% for axle weights.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014.

Approved by the Governor, April 8, 2014.