

Notice on Change to NC Truck Weight Tolerance Statues

Effective 6/27/12

NC SESSION LAW 2012-78 SENATE BILL 749



NC loggers and truckers of forest products now have an increased tolerance applied to vehicle gross and tandem axle weights. The section addressing forest products follows with pertinent changes highlighted. Note that in addition to the tolerance on gross weight there is an increase in both single and tandem axle tolerances to allow better weight distribution on truck and trailer configurations common in our industry. Exceeding the stated weights will eliminate the tolerances and enforcement penalties will be calculated on the basic bridge formula as is currently practiced. The increased tandem tolerance of 44,000 lbs on truck-trailer combinations with axle lengths as stated should particularly useful as tandem weight distribution with log trailers and chip vans can be difficult.

- (12) Subsections (b) and (e) of this section do not apply to a vehicle or vehicle combination that meets all of the conditions set out below:
- a. Is transporting any of the following items within 150 miles of the point of origination:
 - 1. Agriculture crop products transported from a farm to a processing plant or market.
 - 2. Water, fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, fuel, or animal waste transported to or from a farm by a farm vehicle as defined in G.S. 20-37.16(e)(3).
 - 3. Meats, livestock, or live poultry transported from the farm where they were raised to a processing plant or market.
 - 4. Forest products originating and transported from a farm or woodlands to market with delay interruption or delay for further packaging or processing after initiating transport.
 - 5. Wood residuals, including wood chips, sawdust, mulch, or tree bark from any site.
 - 6. Raw logs to market.
 - 7. Trees grown as Christmas trees from field, farm, stand, or grove to a processing point.
 - b. Repealed by Session Laws 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 761, s. 13.
 - b1. Does not operate on an interstate highway or exceed any posted bridge weight limits during transportation or hauling of agricultural products.
 - c. Meets any of the following vehicle configurations:
 - 1. Does not exceed a single-axle weight of 22,000 pounds, a tandem-axle weight of 42,000 pounds, or a gross weight of 90,000 pounds.
 - 2. Consists of a five or more axle combination vehicle that does not exceed a single-axle weight of 26,000 pounds, a tandem-axle weight of 44,000 pounds and a gross weight of 90,000 pounds, with a length of at least 48 feet between the center of axle one and the center of the last axle of the vehicle and a minimum of 11 feet between the center of axle one and the center of axle two of the vehicle.
 - 3. Consists of a two-axle vehicle that does not exceed a gross weight of 37,000 pounds and a single-axle weight of no more than 27,000 pounds, with a length of at least 14 feet between the center of axle one and the center of axle two of the vehicle.

Visit www.ncloggers.com or www.foresthauling.org for additional forest product transportation information or contact@ncloggers.com. Doug Duncan, NCAPL Executive Director, can be reached at (919) 271-9050.

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