

Truck Weights – Wood Hauling

Legal Load Limits:

Summer Hauling Weight Limit – 5 Axle Units: 80,000 lbs

Summer Hauling Weight Limit – 6 Axle Units: 90,000 lbs

Winter Hauling Weight Limit – 5 Axle Units: 88,000 lbs

Winter Hauling Weight Limit – 6 Axle Units: 98,000 lbs

You must have a MN DOT permit to haul the extra weight with 6 axles. A copy of this permit must be kept in the truck at all times.

Relevant Evidence Exemption:

The “Relevant Evidence Exemption” provides that a civil overweight case may not be issued based on information gathered at scales if the total weight of the loaded truck is within 10% of the legal limit. This does not apply to trucks weighed on the road. This does not mean that a load 10% over the limits as shown above is a legal load.

5% Tolerance Law:

The “5% Tolerance Law” provides that overweight tickets may not be issued when a truck is weighed at a roadside scale if the total weight of the truck and the weight on individual axles are within 5% of the legal limits. This does not mean that a load 5% over the limits shown is a legal load.

Note: Do not mistakenly combine these two tolerances for a total exemption. They are independent of each other. 5% is for roadside only and 10% is for civil case exemptions at the point of delivery.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the legal weight limit for summer hauling?

A: 80,000 lbs with a 5 axle unit and 90,000 lbs with a 6 axle unit

Q: What is the legal weight limit for winter hauling?

A: 88,000 lbs with a 5 axle unit and 98,000 lbs with a 6 axle unit

Q: Do I need a permit to haul the extra 10,000 lbs with a six axle unit?

A: Yes. The permits are issued by Mn/DOT. A copy of the permit must be kept in the truck at all times.

Q: If I have a 6 axle unit and a permit can I haul the extra weight allowed anywhere?

A: No. You may not haul the extra weight on Interstate Highways or on any roads or across any bridges that are posted for lower weight limits.

Q: What is the “Relevant Evidence” exemption?

A: The “Relevant Evidence Exemption” provides that civil penalties may not be issued based on information gathered from weight receipts at delivery sites, if the total weight of the loaded truck is within 10% of the permitted limit with a permit or legal limit without a permit. This does not apply to trucks weighed on the roadside. This does not mean that a load 10% over the limits as shown above is a legal load.

Q: Does the “Relevant Evidence” exemption mean that I can legally haul 107,800 lbs with a 6 axle permit in the winter?

A: No. It simply means that you cannot be assessed a civil penalty based on information gathered from weight receipts at delivery sites, if the total weight of the loaded truck is within 10% of the permitted limit of 98,000 lbs.

Q: Does the “Relevant Evidence” exemption mean that I can legally haul 99,000 lbs with a 6 axle permit in the summer?

A: No. It simply means that you cannot be assessed a civil penalty based on information gathered from weight receipts at delivery sites, if the total weight of the loaded truck is within 10% of the permitted limit of 90,000 lbs.

Q: What amount of overweight will I be assessed a civil penalty for if I am over the 10% provided in the “Relevant Evidence” exemption?

A: You will be assessed civil penalties as follows:

“Summer” (non-winter weight increase/spring load restriction time period)

- If you are permitted for 90,000 lbs. and you have 6 axles, and you exceed the 90,000 lb. permit weight by more than 10% or 9,000 lbs., you will be assessed civil penalties for the amount of weight over the 90,000 lb. permitted weight limit.
- Example: If you weigh 103,000 lbs. you will be assessed penalties based on 13,000 lbs. of overweight. $103,000 - 90,000 = 13,000$.

“Winter” (winter weight increase time period)

- If you are permitted for 98,000 lbs. and you exceed the 98,000 lbs. by more than 10% or 9,800 lbs., you will be assessed civil penalties for the amount of weight over the “permitted winter weight” of 98,000 lbs..
- Example: If you weigh 110,000 lbs. you will be assessed civil penalties based on 12,000 lbs. of overweight. $110,000 - 98,000 = 12,000$.

Q: What is the 5% Tolerance Law?

A: The “5% Tolerance Law” provides that overweight citations or civil assessments may not be issued when a truck is weighed at roadside scales, if the gross weight of the truck and the gross axle weights are within 5% of the legal limits without a permit or within 5% of the permitted weights with a permit. This does not mean that a load 5% over the limits shown is a legal load.