

1 AN ACT in relation to vehicles.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by  
5 changing Section 15-111 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/15-111) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 15-111)  
7 Sec. 15-111. Wheel and axle loads and gross weights.

8 (a) On non-designated highways, no vehicle or  
9 combination of vehicles equipped with pneumatic tires may be  
10 operated, unladen or with load, if when the total weight  
11 transmitted to the road surface exceeds 18,000 pounds on a  
12 single axle or 32,000 pounds on a tandem axle with no axle  
13 within the tandem exceeding 18,000 pounds except:

14 (1) when a different limit is established and  
15 posted in accordance with Section 15-316 of this Code;

16 (2) vehicles for which the Department of  
17 Transportation and local authorities issue overweight  
18 permits under authority of Section 15-301 of this Code;

19 (3) tow trucks subject to the conditions provided  
20 in subsection (d) may not exceed 24,000 pounds on a  
21 single rear axle or 44,000 pounds on a tandem rear axle;

22 (4) any single axle of a 2-axle truck weighing  
23 36,000 pounds or less and not a part of a combination of  
24 vehicles, shall not exceed 20,000 pounds;

25 (5) any single axle of a 2-axle truck equipped with  
26 a personnel lift or digger derrick, weighing 36,000  
27 pounds or less, owned and operated by a public utility,  
28 shall not exceed 20,000 pounds;

29 (6) any single axle of a 2-axle truck specially  
30 equipped with a front loading compactor used exclusively  
31 for garbage, refuse, or recycling may not exceed 20,000

1 pounds per axle, provided that the gross weight of the  
2 vehicle does not exceed 40,000 pounds;

3 (7) a truck, not in combination and specially  
4 equipped with a selfcompactor or an industrial roll-off  
5 hoist and roll-off container, used exclusively for  
6 garbage or refuse operations may, when laden, transmit  
7 upon the road surface the following maximum weights:  
8 22,000 pounds on a single axle; 40,000 pounds on a tandem  
9 axle;

10 (8) a truck, not in combination and used  
11 exclusively for the collection of rendering materials,  
12 may, when laden, transmit upon the road surface the  
13 following maximum weights: 22,000 pounds on a single  
14 axle; 40,000 pounds on a tandem axle;

15 (9) tandem axles on a 3-axle truck registered as a  
16 Special Hauling Vehicle, manufactured prior to or in the  
17 model year of 2004 and first registered in Illinois prior  
18 to January 1, 2005, with a distance greater than 72  
19 inches but not more than 96 inches between any series of  
20 2 axles, is allowed a combined weight on the series not  
21 to exceed 36,000 pounds and neither axle of the series  
22 may exceed 18,000 pounds. Any vehicle of this type  
23 manufactured after the model year of 2004 or first  
24 registered in Illinois after December 31, 2004 may not  
25 exceed a combined weight of 32,000 pounds through the  
26 series of 2 axles and neither axle of the series may  
27 exceed 18,000 pounds;

28 (10) tandem axles on a 4-axle truck mixer, whose  
29 fourth axle is a road surface engaging mixer trailing  
30 axle, registered as a Special Hauling Vehicle, used  
31 exclusively for the mixing and transportation of concrete  
32 and manufactured prior to or in the model year of 2004  
33 and first registered in Illinois prior to January 1,  
34 2005, with a distance greater than 72 inches but not more

1 than 96 inches between any series of 2 axles, is allowed  
 2 a combined weight on the series not to exceed 36,000  
 3 pounds and neither axle of the series may exceed 18,000  
 4 pounds. Any vehicle of this type manufactured after the  
 5 model year of 2004 or first registered in Illinois after  
 6 December 31, 2004 may not exceed a combined weight of  
 7 32,000 pounds through the series of 2 axles and neither  
 8 axle of the series may exceed 18,000 pounds;

9 (11) 4-axle vehicles or a 5 or more axle  
 10 combination of vehicles: The weight transmitted upon the  
 11 road surface through any series of 3 axles whose centers  
 12 are more than 96 inches apart, measured between extreme  
 13 axles in the series, may not exceed those allowed in the  
 14 table contained in subsection (f) of this Section. No  
 15 axle or tandem axle of the series may exceed the maximum  
 16 weight permitted under this Section for a single or  
 17 tandem axle.

18 No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with other  
 19 than pneumatic tires may be operated, unladen or with load,  
 20 upon the highways of this State when the gross weight on the  
 21 road surface through any wheel exceeds 800 pounds per inch  
 22 width of tire tread or when the gross weight on the road  
 23 surface through any axle exceeds 16,000 pounds.

24 (b) On non-designated highways, the gross weight of  
 25 vehicles and combination of vehicles including the weight of  
 26 the vehicle or combination and its maximum load shall be  
 27 subject to the foregoing limitations and further shall not  
 28 exceed the following gross weights dependent upon the number  
 29 of axles and distance between extreme axles of the vehicle or  
 30 combination measured longitudinally to the nearest foot.

31 VEHICLES HAVING 2 AXLES ..... 36,000 pounds

32 VEHICLES OR COMBINATIONS

33 HAVING 3 AXLES

1	With Tandem		With or	
2	Axles		Without	
3			Tandem Axles	
4	Minimum		Minimum	
5	distance to	Maximum	distance to	Maximum
6	nearest foot	Gross	nearest foot	Gross
7	between	Weight	between	Weight
8	extreme axles	(pounds)	extreme axles	(pounds)
9	10 feet	41,000	16 feet	46,000
10	11	42,000	17	47,000
11	12	43,000	18	47,500
12	13	44,000	19	48,000
13	14	44,500	20	49,000
14	15	45,000	21 feet or more	50,000

VEHICLES OR COMBINATIONS

HAVING 4 AXLES

17	Minimum		Minimum	
18	distance to	Maximum	distance to	Maximum
19	nearest foot	Gross	nearest foot	Gross
20	between	Weight	between	Weight
21	extreme axles	(pounds)	extreme axles	(pounds)
22	15 feet	50,000	26 feet	57,500
23	16	50,500	27	58,000
24	17	51,500	28	58,500
25	18	52,000	29	59,500
26	19	52,500	30	60,000
27	20	53,500	31	60,500
28	21	54,000	32	61,500
29	22	54,500	33	62,000
30	23	55,500	34	62,500
31	24	56,000	35	63,500
32	25	56,500	36 feet or more	64,000

33 A vehicle not in a combination having more than 4 axles  
34 may not exceed the weight in the table in this subsection (b)

1 for 4 axles measured between the extreme axles of the  
2 vehicle.

3 COMBINATIONS HAVING 5 OR MORE AXLES

4	Minimum distance to	Maximum
5	nearest foot between	Gross Weight
6	extreme axles	(pounds)
7	42 feet or less	72,000
8	43	73,000
9	44 feet or more	73,280

10 VEHICLES OPERATING ON CRAWLER TYPE TRACKS ..... 40,000 pounds

11 TRUCKS EQUIPPED WITH SELFCOMPACTORS

12 OR ROLL-OFF HOISTS AND ROLL-OFF CONTAINERS FOR GARBAGE

13 OR REFUSE HAULS ONLY AND TRUCKS USED FOR

14 THE COLLECTION OF RENDERING MATERIALS

15 On Highway Not Part of National System

16 of Interstate and Defense Highways

17 with 2 axles 36,000 pounds

18 with 3 axles 54,000 pounds

19 TWO AXLE TRUCKS EQUIPPED WITH

20 A FRONT LOADING COMPACTOR USED EXCLUSIVELY

21 FOR THE COLLECTION OF GARBAGE, REFUSE, OR RECYCLING

22 with 2 axles 40,000 pounds

23 (c) Cities having a population of more than 50,000 may  
24 permit by ordinance axle loads on 2 axle motor vehicles 33  
25 1/2% above those provided for herein, but the increase shall  
26 not become effective until the city has officially notified  
27 the Department of the passage of the ordinance and shall not  
28 apply to those vehicles when outside of the limits of the  
29 city, nor shall the gross weight of any 2 axle motor vehicle  
30 operating over any street of the city exceed 40,000 pounds.

31 (d) Weight limitations shall not apply to vehicles  
32 (including loads) operated by a public utility when

1 transporting equipment required for emergency repair of  
2 public utility facilities or properties or water wells.

3 A combination of vehicles, including a tow truck and a  
4 disabled vehicle or disabled combination of vehicles, that  
5 exceeds the weight restriction imposed by this Code, may be  
6 operated on a public highway in this State provided that  
7 neither the disabled vehicle nor any vehicle being towed nor  
8 the tow truck itself shall exceed the weight limitations  
9 permitted under this Chapter. During the towing operation,  
10 neither the tow truck nor the vehicle combination shall  
11 exceed 24,000 pounds on a single rear axle and 44,000 pounds  
12 on a tandem rear axle, provided the towing vehicle:

13 (1) is specifically designed as a tow truck having  
14 a gross vehicle weight rating of at least 18,000 pounds  
15 and is equipped with air brakes, provided that air brakes  
16 are required only if the towing vehicle is towing a  
17 vehicle, semitrailer, or tractor-trailer combination that  
18 is equipped with air brakes;

19 (2) is equipped with flashing, rotating, or  
20 oscillating amber lights, visible for at least 500 feet  
21 in all directions;

22 (3) is capable of utilizing the lighting and  
23 braking systems of the disabled vehicle or combination of  
24 vehicles; and

25 (4) does not engage in a tow exceeding 20 miles  
26 from the initial point of wreck or disablement. Any  
27 additional movement of the vehicles may occur only upon  
28 issuance of authorization for that movement under the  
29 provisions of Sections 15-301 through 15-319 of this  
30 Code.

31 Gross weight limits shall not apply to the combination of  
32 the tow truck and vehicles being towed. The tow truck  
33 license plate must cover the operating empty weight of the  
34 tow truck only. The weight of each vehicle being towed shall

1 be covered by a valid license plate issued to the owner or  
2 operator of the vehicle being towed and displayed on that  
3 vehicle. If no valid plate issued to the owner or operator of  
4 that vehicle is displayed on that vehicle, or the plate  
5 displayed on that vehicle does not cover the weight of the  
6 vehicle, the weight of the vehicle shall be covered by the  
7 third tow truck plate issued to the owner or operator of the  
8 tow truck and temporarily affixed to the vehicle being towed.

9 The Department may by rule or regulation prescribe  
10 additional requirements. However, nothing in this Code shall  
11 prohibit a tow truck under instructions of a police officer  
12 from legally clearing a disabled vehicle, that may be in  
13 violation of weight limitations of this Chapter, from the  
14 roadway to the berm or shoulder of the highway. If in the  
15 opinion of the police officer that location is unsafe, the  
16 officer is authorized to have the disabled vehicle towed to  
17 the nearest place of safety.

18 For the purpose of this subsection, gross vehicle weight  
19 rating, or GVWR, shall mean the value specified by the  
20 manufacturer as the loaded weight of the tow truck.

21 (e) No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with  
22 pneumatic tires shall be operated, unladen or with load, upon  
23 the highways of this State in violation of the provisions of  
24 any permit issued under the provisions of Sections 15-301  
25 through 15-319 of this Chapter.

26 (f) On designated Class I, II, or III highways and the  
27 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, no  
28 vehicle or combination of vehicles with pneumatic tires may  
29 be operated, unladen or with load, when the total weight on  
30 the road surface exceeds the following: 20,000 pounds on a  
31 single axle; 34,000 pounds on a tandem axle with no axle  
32 within the tandem exceeding 20,000 pounds; 80,000 pounds  
33 gross weight for vehicle combinations of 5 or more axles; or  
34 a total weight on a group of 2 or more consecutive axles in

1 excess of that weight produced by the application of the  
 2 following formula:  $W = 500 \text{ times the sum of } (LN \text{ divided by}$   
 3  $N-1) + 12N + 36$ , where "W" equals overall total weight on any  
 4 group of 2 or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500  
 5 pounds, "L" equals the distance measured to the nearest foot  
 6 between extremes of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles,  
 7 and "N" equals the number of axles in the group under  
 8 consideration.

9 The above formula when expressed in tabular form results  
 10 in allowable loads as follows:

11	Distance measured					
12	to the nearest					
13	foot between the					
14	extremes of any		Maximum weight in pounds			
15	group of 2 or		of any group of			
16	more consecutive		2 or more consecutive axles			
17	axles					
18	feet	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles
19	4	34,000				
20	5	34,000				
21	6	34,000				
22	7	34,000				
23	8	38,000*	42,000			
24	9	39,000	42,500			
25	10	40,000	43,500			
26	11		44,000			
27	12		45,000	50,000		
28	13		45,500	50,500		
29	14		46,500	51,500		
30	15		47,000	52,000		
31	16		48,000	52,500	58,000	
32	17		48,500	53,500	58,500	
33	18		49,500	54,000	59,000	
34	19		50,000	54,500	60,000	



1	20	51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000
2	21	51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500
3	22	52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000
4	23	53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000
5	24	54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500
6	25	54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000
7	26	55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500
8	27	56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000
9	28	57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000
10	29	57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500
11	30	58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000
12	31	59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500
13	32	60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000
14	33		64,000	68,500	74,000
15	34		64,500	69,000	74,500
16	35		65,500	70,000	75,000
17	36		66,000	70,500	75,500
18	37		66,500	71,000	76,000
19	38		67,500	72,000	77,000
20	39		68,000	72,500	77,500
21	40		68,500	73,000	78,000
22	41		69,500	73,500	78,500
23	42		70,000	74,000	79,000
24	43		70,500	75,000	80,000
25	44		71,500	75,500	
26	45		72,000	76,000	
27	46		72,500	76,500	
28	47		73,500	77,500	
29	48		74,000	78,000	
30	49		74,500	78,500	
31	50		75,500	79,000	
32	51		76,000	80,000	
33	52		76,500		
34	53		77,500		

1	54	78,000
2	55	78,500
3	56	79,500
4	57	80,000

5 \*If the distance between 2 axles is 96 inches or less, the 2  
6 axles are tandem axles and the maximum total weight may not  
7 exceed 34,000 pounds, notwithstanding the higher limit  
8 resulting from the application of the formula.

9 Vehicles not in a combination having more than 4 axles  
10 may not exceed the weight in the table in this subsection (f)  
11 for 4 axles measured between the extreme axles of the  
12 vehicle.

13 Vehicles in a combination having more than 6 axles may  
14 not exceed the weight in the table in this subsection (f) for  
15 6 axles measured between the extreme axles of the  
16 combination.

17 Local authorities and road district highway  
18 commissioners, with respect to streets and highways under  
19 their jurisdiction, without additional fees, may also by  
20 ordinance or resolution allow the weight limitations of this  
21 subsection, provided the maximum gross weight on any one axle  
22 shall not exceed 20,000 pounds and the maximum total weight  
23 on any tandem axle shall not exceed 34,000 pounds, on  
24 designated highways when appropriate regulatory signs giving  
25 notice are erected upon the street or highway or portion of  
26 any street or highway affected by the ordinance or  
27 resolution.

28 The following are exceptions to the above formula:

29 (1) Two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry  
30 a total weight of 34,000 pounds each if the overall  
31 distance between the first and last axles of the  
32 consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more.

33 (2) Vehicles for which a different limit is  
34 established and posted in accordance with Section 15-316

1 of this Code.

2 (3) Vehicles for which the Department of  
3 Transportation and local authorities issue overweight  
4 permits under authority of Section 15-301 of this Code.  
5 These vehicles are not subject to the bridge formula.

6 (4) Tow trucks subject to the conditions provided  
7 in subsection (d) may not exceed 24,000 pounds on a  
8 single rear axle or 44,000 pounds on a tandem rear axle.

9 (5) A tandem axle on a 3-axle truck registered as a  
10 Special Hauling Vehicle, manufactured prior to or in the  
11 model year of 2004, and registered in Illinois prior to  
12 January 1, 2005, with a distance between 2 axles in a  
13 series greater than 72 inches but not more than 96 inches  
14 may not exceed a total weight of 36,000 pounds and  
15 neither axle of the series may exceed 18,000 pounds.

16 (6) A truck not in combination, equipped with a  
17 self compactor or an industrial roll-off hoist and  
18 roll-off container, used exclusively for garbage or  
19 refuse operations, may, when laden, transmit upon the  
20 road surface, except when on part of the National System  
21 of Interstate and Defense Highways, the following maximum  
22 weights: 22,000 pounds on a single axle; 40,000 pounds on  
23 a tandem axle; 36,000 pounds gross weight on a 2-axle  
24 vehicle; 54,000 pounds gross weight on a 3-axle vehicle.  
25 This vehicle is not subject to the bridge formula.

26 (7) Combinations of vehicles, registered as Special  
27 Hauling Vehicles that include a semitrailer manufactured  
28 prior to or in the model year of 2004, and registered in  
29 Illinois prior to January 1, 2005, having 5 axles with a  
30 distance of 42 feet or less between extreme axles, may  
31 not exceed the following maximum weights: 18,000 pounds  
32 on a single axle; 32,000 pounds on a tandem axle; and  
33 72,000 pounds gross weight. This combination of vehicles  
34 is not subject to the bridge formula. For all those

1 combinations of vehicles that include a semitrailer  
2 manufactured after the effective date of this amendatory  
3 Act of the 92nd General Assembly, the overall distance  
4 between the first and last axles of the 2 sets of tandems  
5 must be 18 feet 6 inches or more. Any combination of  
6 vehicles that has had its cargo container replaced in its  
7 entirety after December 31, 2004 may not exceed the  
8 weights allowed by the bridge formula.

9 No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with other  
10 than pneumatic tires may be operated, unladen or with load,  
11 upon the highways of this State when the gross weight on the  
12 road surface through any wheel exceeds 800 pounds per inch  
13 width of tire tread or when the gross weight on the road  
14 surface through any axle exceeds 16,000 pounds.

15 (f-1) A vehicle and load not exceeding 73,280 pounds is  
16 allowed access as follows:

17 (1) From any State designated highway onto any  
18 county, township, or municipal highway for a distance of  
19 5 highway miles for the purpose of loading and unloading,  
20 provided:

21 (A) The vehicle and load does not exceed 8  
22 feet 6 inches in width and 65 feet overall length.

23 (B) There is no sign prohibiting that access.

24 (C) The route is not being used as a  
25 thoroughfare between State designated highways.

26 (2) From any State designated highway onto any  
27 county or township highway for a distance of 5 highway  
28 miles, or any municipal highway for a distance of one  
29 highway mile for the purpose of food, fuel, repairs, and  
30 rest, provided:

31 (A) The vehicle and load does not exceed 8  
32 feet 6 inches in width and 65 feet overall length.

33 (B) There is no sign prohibiting that access.

34 (C) The route is not being used as a

1 thoroughfare between State designated highways.

2 (f-2) A vehicle and load greater than 73,280 pounds in  
3 weight but not exceeding 80,000 pounds is allowed access as  
4 follows:

5 (1) From a Class I highway onto any street or  
6 highway for a distance of one highway mile for the  
7 purpose of loading, unloading, food, fuel, repairs, and  
8 rest, provided there is no sign prohibiting that access.

9 (2) From a Class I, II, or III highway onto any  
10 State highway or any local designated highway for a  
11 distance of 5 highway miles for the purpose of loading,  
12 unloading, food, fuel, repairs, and rest.

13 Section 5-35 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act  
14 relating to procedures for rulemaking shall not apply to the  
15 designation of highways under this subsection.

16 (g) No person shall operate a vehicle or combination of  
17 vehicles over a bridge or other elevated structure  
18 constituting part of a highway with a gross weight that is  
19 greater than the maximum weight permitted by the Department,  
20 when the structure is sign posted as provided in this  
21 Section.

22 (h) The Department upon request from any local authority  
23 shall, or upon its own initiative may, conduct an  
24 investigation of any bridge or other elevated structure  
25 constituting a part of a highway, and if it finds that the  
26 structure cannot with safety to itself withstand the weight  
27 of vehicles otherwise permissible under this Code the  
28 Department shall determine and declare the maximum weight of  
29 vehicles that the structures can withstand, and shall cause  
30 or permit suitable signs stating maximum weight to be erected  
31 and maintained before each end of the structure. No person  
32 shall operate a vehicle or combination of vehicles over any  
33 structure with a gross weight that is greater than the posted  
34 maximum weight.

1           (i) Upon the trial of any person charged with a  
2 violation of subsections (g) or (h) of this Section, proof of  
3 the determination of the maximum allowable weight by the  
4 Department and the existence of the signs, constitutes  
5 conclusive evidence of the maximum weight that can be  
6 maintained with safety to the bridge or structure.

7           (Source: P.A. 92-417, eff. 1-1-02.)