SC Weight Laws Reference

Portable Scales

- All pads will be placed on one side for weighing the left side of a truck and then pads will be moved to weigh the other side of the truck. RMC trucks can only be weighed via portable scales by "rocking" the truck.
- Officer should have adequate scales to weigh all axles on one side
- Avg size of portable scale is 18"x18"
- Weigh In Motion Scales are not currently in use in SC but they avg. 14' in length

Driver Procedure Reference

Driver Name: _________________________________________________________________________________________

Date: ______________________ Time: ______________________ Truck #: ______________________

Location: _____________________________________________________________________________________________

Type of Scale (circle one): Portable Scale Weigh In Motion Scale

Drum (circle one): Allowed to Stop Denied Ability to Stop

Auxiliary Axle Pressures: ________________ ________________ ________________

Notes/Comments:

A single axle is an axle that is more than 96" from the closest axle.

An axle grouping is any series of axles that are more than 40" apart and no greater than 96" apart

Outer Bridge = Axles 1-6

Inner Bridge = Any series of axle groupings
SC Weight Laws

Article 33: Size, Weight & Load, effective May 25, 2012

SECTION 56-5-4140. Gross weight of vehicles, combinations of vehicles, and loads; exceptions.

(A)(1) The gross weight of a vehicle or combination of vehicles, operated or moved upon any interstate, highway, or section of highway shall not exceed:

(a) Single-unit vehicle with two axles 35,000 lbs.
(b) Single-unit vehicle with three axles 46,000 lbs.
(c) Single-unit vehicle with four axles 63,500 lbs.

Except, on the interstate, vehicles must meet axle spacing requirements and corresponding maximum overall gross weights, not to exceed 63,500 lbs., in accordance with the table in (b) plus tolerances.

(d) Single-unit vehicle with five or more axles 65,000 lbs. Except, on the interstate, vehicles must meet axle spacing requirements and corresponding maximum overall gross weights, not to exceed 65,000 lbs., in accordance with the table in (b) plus tolerances.

(e) Combination of vehicles with three axles 50,000 lbs.
(f) Combination of vehicles with four axles 65,000 lbs.
(g) Combination of vehicles with five or more axles 73,280 lbs.

The gross weight imposed upon any highway or section of highway other than the interstate by two or more consecutive axles in tandem articulated from a common attachment to the vehicle and spaced not less than forty inches nor more than ninety-six inches apart shall not exceed thirty-six thousand pounds, and no one axle of any such group of two or more consecutive axles shall exceed the load permitted for a single axle. The load imposed on the highway by two consecutive axles, individually attached to the vehicle and spaced not less than forty inches nor more than ninety-six inches apart, shall not exceed thirty-six thousand pounds and no one axle of any such group of two consecutive axles shall exceed the load permitted for a single axle.

The ten percent enforcement tolerance specified in Section 56-5-4160 applies to the vehicle weight limits specified in this section. However, the gross weight on a single axle operated on the interstate may not exceed 20,000 pounds, including all enforcement tolerances; the gross weight on a tandem axle operated on the interstate may not exceed 35,200 pounds, including all enforcement tolerances; the overall gross weight for vehicles operated on the interstate may not exceed 75,185 pounds, including all enforcement tolerances except as provided in (4).

(2) Enforcement tolerance is fifteen percent for a vehicle or trailer transporting unprocessed forest products or only on noninterstate routes.

(3) Enforcement tolerance is fifteen percent for a vehicle or trailer transporting sod only on noninterstate routes.

(4) Vehicles with an overall maximum gross weight in excess of 75,185 pounds may operate upon any highway or section of highway in the Interstate System up to an overall maximum of 80,000 pounds in accordance with the following:

The weight imposed upon the highway by any group of two or more consecutive axles may not, unless specially permitted by the Department of Public Safety exceed an overall gross weight produced by the application of the following formula:

\[ W = 500 \left( \frac{L}{N} - 1 + 12N + 36 \right) \]

In the formula \( W \) equals overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, \( L \) equals distance in feet between the extreme of any group of two or more consecutive axles, and \( N \) equals number of axles in the group under consideration.

As an exception, two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 68,000 pounds if the overall distance between the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more.

(B) Except on the interstate highway system:

(2) Concrete mixing trucks which operate within a fifteen-mile radius of their home base are not required to conform to the requirements of this section. However, these vehicles are limited to a maximum load of the rated capacity of the concrete mixer, the true gross load not to exceed sixty-six thousand pounds. All of these vehicles shall have at least three axles each with brake equipped wheels.

*Excludes low tonnage bridges*