



Transportation Permits Policy Memorandum

Subject: Tractor Axle Weights on Inspection Reports

Date: February 28, 2002

Policy: TPPM 2002-02

Objectives

The trucking industry has received citations for exceeding tractor axle weights when the tractor is different than the one used during the vehicle inspection. This policy will allow the transporter to switch tractors and remain in compliance with the inspection report.

Existing Documentation

The following source contains information related to this subject:

Transportation Permits Manual (TPM)

Section 305.2.6 (Portion) – Inspection Reports

All Inspection Reports shall include:

- Vehicle configuration including vehicle length, overall length including mast or load, number of tires on each axle, axle spacing, axle width, actual scale weight and permit weight which consists of the scale weight plus 700 pounds rounded off to the nearest 100 pounds but not to exceed chart weight. The report shall also include a list of any miscellaneous equipment authorized to be carried or equipment not authorized to be carried.

Current Practice

Permit Writers - The North Region stamps the permit with "Tractor may vary from inspection report", though this approach was never approved by HQ Transportation Permits.

Transportation Permits Manual Changes

1) Revise the fourth bullet of Section 305.2.6 to read as follows:

- Vehicle configuration including vehicle length, overall length (including mast or load), number of tires on each axle, axle spacing, axle width, and axle group weights. Axle group weights will be calculated as follows:
 - Fixed Load - The inspector will record the actual scale weight and the permit weight. The permit weight consists of the scale weight plus 700 pounds per axle group or 102 percent of the scale weight, whichever is greater, rounded off to the nearest 100 pounds, but not to exceed chart weight.
 - Truck Tractor - The inspector will record the maximum allowable chart weight as determined by the scale weight of the truck tractor when attached to the fixed load. If the truck tractor scale weight is legal, the truck tractor will not qualify for extralegal weight. If the truck tractor scale weight falls within "green" chart weight, the truck tractor will qualify for maximum "green" weight.

If the truck tractor scale weight falls within "purple" chart weight, the truck tractor will qualify for maximum "purple" weight. The inspector will limit the allowable axle weights if the tires and/or axles will not accommodate maximum chart weight. If the transporter later wants to increase the allowable axle weights, and proposes to use a tractor with higher tire and/or axle capacities, the transporter must request a reinspection, and a new inspection report must be approved.

The report shall also include a list of any miscellaneous equipment authorized to be carried and a list of equipment not authorized to be carried.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

2/28/02

NADER EBRAHIMI, Chief
Transportation Permits

Date