



# Bridge Load Posting Processes and Practices

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Development Services Division  
Utility Coordination, Permits, & Agreements Section

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## Bridge Load Posting

Weight limit signs on bridges are intended to prevent loads that cause stresses above the safe limit from crossing a bridge. The Michigan Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MMUTCD) regulates the signs that can be used as well as the information shown on those signs, such as symbols and text.

Figure 1a, is the most common bridge load posting sign. Figure 1b is the modified version of the sign. The third silhouette has been updated to represent a truck with multiple trailers more clearly. As a result of a phased implementation to update all signs, both versions of the sign exist on posted bridges today. Both are intended to portray one-unit, two-unit and three-unit weight limits.

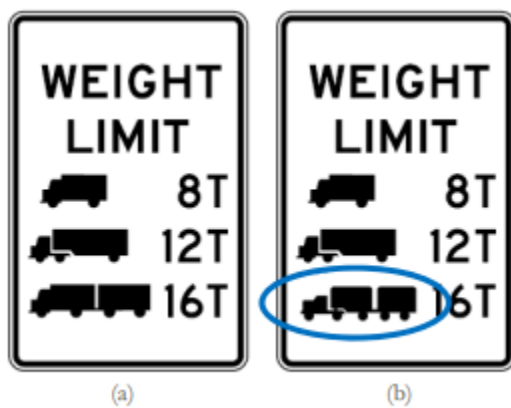


Figure 1

The signs in Figure 1 use typical configurations to show easily recognizable vehicles, as it is not possible for signs to represent every vehicle configuration. It is important to note that the number of axles shown on each silhouette is a representative example only. Actual axle configuration may differ.

### Other Sign Configurations



Figure 2



Figure 3

The signs shown are frequently used in situations where severe load restrictions apply. The gross vehicle weight (Figure 2) or axle weight (Figure 3) for any vehicle is limited regardless of the number of axles or axle configuration.



*Figure 4*

The sign shown in Figure 4 can be used to combine the load posting information from both Figure 2 and Figure 3. For all load posting signs, the gross vehicle weight and/or axle weight cannot exceed the limit shown on the posted sign, regardless of how much of the total weight of the vehicle is on the bridge.



## TRUCK

The first silhouette is a single unit vehicle. The single unit vehicle has a power unit and trailer that form one vehicle. The power unit and trailer are not designed to be detachable. The following are examples of vehicles governed by the single unit silhouette.





## TRUCK + TRAILER

The second silhouette is a two-unit vehicle. For this vehicle, the power unit or single unit truck is detachable from the trailer. The following are examples of vehicles governed by the two-unit silhouette.





## TRUCK + TRAILER + TRAILER

The third silhouette is a three-unit vehicle. This vehicle combination consists of three units that are detachable from one another, including any power unit with two trailers. The following are examples of vehicles governed by the three-unit silhouette.



## Other Resources and Links

- [Michigan Vehicle Code: Public Act 300 of 1949 as amended](#)
- [Michigan Center for Truck Safety](#)
- [Michigan Trucking Association](#)
- [MDOT Trucking Information](#)

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