

TRAILER INSIGHTS

NEWSLETTER

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Government announces increase in axle load norms

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways recently announced a 25 per cent increase in the permitted load capacity of trucks and trailers. Allowed load of an axle is the maximum pressure between tyre and the road. The government has also extended the same benefit to existing or in-use heavy vehicles. The higher limit would apply to the trucks, tractors, and trailers, if their gross value weight was approved under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules.



Truck axle load to be hiked by 20-25%

By Ashish Datta | ashishdatta@tatasgroup.com

New Delhi: After a gap of three decades, the government will increase the maximum axle load of heavy vehicles by 20-25% to bring it on a par with international norms. This will be a big boost to logistics and trucking industry and is likely to reduce the transportation cost of goods.

At present, a two-axle truck (two wheels on the front axle and four wheels in the rear) is allowed to carry 16.2 tonnes.

HIGHER LOAD IN THE OFFING

Year	Present allowed gross axle loaded	Proposed
2-axle	16.2	19
3-axle	26.2	30.5
4-axle	34.2	42
5-axle	43.2	53.5

Gross weight includes the weight of vehicle

"Once the government fixes new axle load, it must stop allowing any overloaded vehicle. Any penalty which can be passed on, can never be a deterrent. Punish of overloaded vehicles and license of their drivers should be strict."

Highlights



- It is worth noting that axle load limits are being revised for the first time since 1983
- The current laws have been in vogue for a good 35 years. The maximum allowable axle load and gross vehicle weight (GVW) of commercial vehicles were notified in 1983, based on the recommendations of a committee set up for the purpose. These were reconfirmed in 1996
- The requirement for an annual fitness certificate has been replaced with a two-year renewal
- This move will bring India's truck axle load limits in line with international norms.

Why the new norms?

Stringent implementation of overloading norms led to an increase in the cost per tonne of sand, stones and other construction material, said a government report published before the new rules were notified. That was hindering implementation of projects the government is keen to fast-track.



Union Road Minister Shri. Nitin Gadkari has assured strict enforcement of the new rules.

Revised safe axle load limits

The amendment will increase the carrying capacity of goods vehicles by about 20-25% as the adjacent table suggests.



Higher load in the offing

Present allowed gross wt (tonnes)	Proposed wt (approx)
16.2	19.0
25.0	28.5
31.0	36.0
37.0	43.5
35.2	40.0
40.2	46.0
49.0	55.0

Gross weight includes the weight of vehicle

Tata DLT welcomes government's announcement on load limits; company's current infrastructure well placed to adjust with new norms

Tata DLT is confident that the new load limits will be beneficial for the logistics and the transport industry and is thus, a step in the right direction. The new load limits will increase the carrying capacity of goods vehicles by about 20-25% and is likely to reduce the transportation cost of goods.

The government's move is also noteworthy for the fact that the amendment will also curb unlimited overloading of vehicles which will ultimately improve road life and reduce accidents.

It is worth mentioning that the government is also planning to add strict deterrents for flouting of overloading norms. These include imposing penalty

on errant fleet owners and revoking / suspension of permits of overloaded vehicles and licence of drivers.

We are happy to share that Tata DLT has a ready infrastructure to carry out the required upgrades. The major upgrades that would be needed are:

1. Realignment of tyre and rim capacity
2. Modification of trailer chassis as per the new payload
3. Upgrade of trailer braking system
4. Strengthening of trailer
5. Fitting of tyre, axle and suspension as per increase payload in the trailer



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