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SUPPLEMENT TO THE REPORT BY THE

Comptroller General

OF THE UNITED STATES

Excessive Truck Weight: An Expensive Burden We Can No Longer Support

Questionnaire Summary

GAO sent a questionnaire to all States asking for information on truck weight laws, enforcement programs and methods, and background data on their State Highway System This report, summarizing the States responses, is provided to help States evaluate their weight enforcement programs

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Note: This report perpose one no 10 CED-79-94, 109884



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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE WASHINGTON, D C 20548

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

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PREFACE

On July 16, 1979, GAO issued a report to the Congress entitled "Excessive Truck Weight: An Expensive Burden We Can No Longer Support" (CED-79-94). That report discusses the impact heavy trucks have on highway deterioration and problems with Federal and State weight enforcement efforts. The digest of that report is included as an appendix to this report supplement.

We sent a questionnaire to all States to obtain information on general highway data, weight laws, and enforcement efforts. All States responded to the questionnaire and much of the data the States provided is summarized in the report to the Congress. The results of the questionnaire represent the most comprehensive State data on weight-related issues.

This report supplement summarizes the guestionnaire information and presents individual State responses to the guestions. We believe that this information will be useful to the Federal Highway Administration and, more importantly, to the States in comparing their programs to those in other States.

The questionnaire was sent to responsible State officials. The responses represent their opinions, perceptions, and engineering judgments. While GAO did not systematically verify the responses, followup inquiries were made to clarify some information.

Questions requiring narrative responses could not be readily summarized and are not included in this supplement. The major information not included relates to States policies of issuing permits and exemptions to haul more than the States legal weight limits. GAO's audit work in nine States showed that permit and exemption terminology, definitions, and practices vary widely. Questionnaire responses were often contradictory and followup inquiries indicated substantial confusion about categories and definitions; therefore, GAO did not include permit and exemption data in this report supplement.

Responses to questions on general highway information, weight laws, and weight-law enforcement are contained in chapters 1 through 3. Each chapter contains a brief narrative summary, aggregate responses where practical, and individual State responses.

Henry Eschwege
Henry Eschwege

Director

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CHAPTER 1,

BACKGROUND DATA

Through the responses to our questionnaire, we compiled data on State highway mileage, maintenance needs, the impact of heavy trucks on highway conditions, and the extent of State research on weight-related issues. States indicated that lack of funding and the consequent need to defer maintenance are presenting major problems to State highway departments. Truck traffic, generally recognized as a major cause of deterioration, has increased over the last 10 years.

The questions and individual State responses have been published on facing pages to allow the reader easy reference between the two items. For selected questions where the aggregate responses from all the States would be meaningful, we have shown them to the right of the question. Unless otherwise indicated, these aggregate numbers represent the total number of States that responded with the given answer. In some cases, the aggregate numbers indicate miles, costs, or other terms, as indicated.

HIGHWAY MILEAGE

Our questionnaire dealt only with highways under State control. State system mileage includes a large part of the Federal-aid system but only about one-fifth of national highway mileage. The following table shows the breakdown between highways under State control and highways under local control (cities and counties).

	Percent under State control	Percent under local control
National mileage (3,900,000)	21	79
Federal-aid mileage (810,000)	65	35

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

Responses on highway and maintenance needs indicated that the principal problem of State highway departments is too little money to adequately maintain their highway systems. The need to defer maintenance was a problem in every State that answered the guestion. Thirty-two States considered it a serious problem.

Over and above routine maintenance, States indicated that they will need \$66.8 billion over the next 20 years for

resurfacing, restoring, and rehabilitating noninterstate roads. States need an additional \$18.4 billion for similar work on interstate highways. State funding problems are likely to continue and intensify as the rate of deterioration increases.

HEAVY TRUCKS

Other than financial problems and age, States said heavy trucks and illegal overweight trucks were major causes of highway deterioration. No State believed that all their highways were capable of handling current truck volumes and weights without decreasing serviceable life, and only 17 States felt their interstate system could adequately handle this traffic.

States also felt that truck traffic had increased over the last 10 years in total number, percent of traffic, and average truck weight. The percentage of heavy truck traffic for State highway systems is shown below.

Percent	οf	heavy	trucks	ın
averag	je d	daily	traffic	

System	Highest response	Lowest response	Average response
Interstate	35	3	15
Prımary	25	3	9
Secondary	30	3	7

STATE RESEARCH

States have done much research relating to weight enforcement and the impact of heavy and overweight trucks on highway condition. Much of this was related specifically to State needs, such as permanent scale site selection and cost allocation studies. There were many State studies indicating a duplication of State efforts in studies relating to engineering or economics.

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Highway mileage

1. What is the current highway mileage for the following types of highways in your State? (Enter number of miles.)

Typ	e highway	Total mileage
λ.	All streets and highways in the State	3,847,180
	1; All Federal-aid highways in State	825,651
	2) All Federal-aid interstate highways	40,413
в.	111 Highways on State system 1/	799,314
	1) Pederal-aid highways on State systems	521,295
	2) Pederal-aid interstate highways on state system	m 39,506

^{1/} A number of States did not respond to this question. In those cases we used the data found in table SM-1, page 103, "Highway Statistics 1976," prepared by the Federal Highway Afministration.

Q-1, Highway Mileage

<u>State</u>	All streets & highways	All Fed-aid <u>hiqhways</u>	All Fed-aid interstate highways	State system <u>hidhway</u>	Fed-ald on State System	Fed -aid Inter- state on State system
Alabama Alaska	86,726 9,037	20,627 3,979	765	21,860 6,248	9,670 3,979	765
Arizona	54,966	9,597	1,205	6,025	5,795	1,205
Arkansas	77,450	12,643	524	15,925	9,483	524
California	173,219	39,935	2,319	17,505	14,926	2,319
Colorado	74,019	10,828	934	9,130	8,845	934
Connecticut	19,108	5,209	289	3,892	3,201	289
Delaware	4,591	1,378	41	4,558	1,378	41
Florida	97,020	18,476	1,117	14,406	11,211	1,117
Georgia	103,137	27,944	1,117	18,366	17,071	1,117
Hawall	963	963	35	1,000	878	35
Idaho	57,788	7,818	612	5,128	4,991	612
Illinois	132,981	29,988	1,655	17,304	15,155	1,655
Indiana Iowa	91,533 112,451	19,380 25,141	1,120 728	11,144 10,432	10,824 10,141	963 728
10#4	112,431	25,141	720	10,432	10,141	
Kansas	134,532	32,776	797	10,878	10,640	610
Kentucky	69,905	13,189	679	25,015	12,426	679
Louisiana	54,740	12,480	655	16,271	11,645	655
Maine Maryland	21,744 25,676	5,680 6,389	314 378	11,856 5,439	5,420 4,379	259 367
Massachusetts	32,876	10,452	512	3,653	2,732	369
Michigan	119,165	30,956	1,114	9,630	9,455	1,114
Minnesota	128,459	28,395	827 684	13,169	12,097	827 684
Mississippi Missouri	68,341 117,357	19,527 28,034	1,101	10,895 32,092	10,206 26,627	1,101
Montana	77,622	11,633	1,192	6,750	6,664	1,192
Nebraska Nevada	96,895	19,043	484 545	10,386	9,858	484 545
New Hampshire	50,170 15,415	5 270 3,770	222	7,004 4,418	5,270 2,866	222
New Jersey	33,074	8,736	325	3,082	2,194	278
•		•			·	
New Mexico New York	70,836 110,000	12,572	999	12,786	12,325	999
North Carolina	91 492	25,000 17,121	1,400 698	17,580 75,843	14,300 17,093	1,400 698
North Dakota	106,482	16,840	571	7,075	7,070	571
Ohio	110,800	27,000	1,080	20,420	17,925	1,080
Ohlaham		•	·		•	-
Oklahoma Oregon	109,631 108,070	16,450 14,869	811 728	12,990 10,242	10,810 7,474	811 728
Pennsylvania	118,226	26,075	1,503	48,844	23,705	1,156
Rhode Island	5,793	1,455	72	1,165	719	72
South Carolina	61,500	15,743	692	38,417	15,563	692
South Dakota	82,474	17,644	625	9,073	8,815	625
Tennessee	81,832	17,715	1,004	10,128	8,713	1,004
Texas	259,785	60,496	3,215	70,066	56,221	3,215
Utah	49,800	7,000	938	5,559	5,450	938
Vermont	13,592	3,638	302	2,851	2,582	302
Virginia	64,523	19,491	886	53,134	18,000	886
Washington	83,622	17,243	764	17,549	7,262	764
West Virginia	37,078	9,831	453	33,476	9,537	453
Wisconsin	106,547	23 889	501	12,519	11,881	501
Wyoming	34,137	6,343	921	6,136	5,823	921
Total	3,847,180	826,651	40,453	799,314	521,295	<u>39,506</u>

Highway maintenance

2. What is your estimate of the resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation needs (RRR needs) for noninterstate roads on your State system over the next 20 years, in terms of miles and cost?

(Enter miles and cost.)

		Aggregate	response
A.	 Miles	775,924	Total miles
в.	 Cost	\$66,591,459	Total cost
С.	 GAO calculation of States cost per mile	\$85,822	Average cost per mile

Note: Four States did not respond to this question.

Q-2 RRR Needs

<u>State</u>	Miles needing <u>RRR</u>	Total cost	Cost per mule
Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California	10,000 2,500 4 780 6 000 17 770	(000s) \$ -415 000 750 000 500 000 576 000 950 000	(000s) \$ 41 5 300 0 104 6 96 0 53 4
Colorado	7 911	396 000	50 0
Connecticut	2 500	200 000	80 0
Delaware	4 551	245,000	53 8
Florida	43 000	1 771 757	41 2
Georgia	37 000	999 000	27 0
Hawall	1 000	120,000	120 0
Idaho	2 150	150 000	69 7
Illinois	15 000	7 000 000	466 7
Indiana	22 000	900 000	40 9
Iowa	4 560	1 140,000	250 0
Kansas	9 000	1 800 000	200 0
Kentucky	24 500	1 225 500	50 0
Louisiana	15,600	5 000,000	320 5
Maine	8,000	170 000	21 2
Maryland	325	35 000	107 7
Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri	10 000 10,900 10,000 20 000	6 000,000 920 000 500 000 1 000 000	600 0 84 4 50 0 50 0
Montana	6 737	1 852,563	274 9
Nebraska	15 000	1 200 000	80 0
Nevada	2 000	900 000	450 0
New Hampshire	750	150 000	200 0
New Jersey	600	175,000	291 7
New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio	1 500 41 000 53 500 6 500 18 000	300,000 8,200 000 1,250 000 195 000	200 0 200 0 23 4 30 0
Oklahoma	5 200	936 000	180 0
Oregon	6 800	1 500 000	220 5
Pennsylvania	1 200	600 000	500 0
Rhode Island	-	-	-
South Carolina	20 310	1 145 200	56 4
South Dakota	8 272	368 104	44 5
Tennessee	9 946	2,060 000	207 1
fexas	72 389	8 230 000	113 7
Utah	4 600	350 000	76 1
Vermont	1 397	121 000	86 6
Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming	156 000 7 000 32 000 12 000 4 176	1 500 000 1 280 000 788 000 727 335	9 6
Total	775 924	\$66 591 459	

3. At any given time, a highway maintenance organization may have a certain amount of maintenance work that must be temporarily deferred. In your opinion how much of a problem, if any, is deferred maintenance on your State system?

Code	<u>Description</u>	Aggregate response
•	No response	1
1	A very serious problem	9
2.	A serious problem	23
3.	A moderate problem	9
4.	A minor problem	8
5.	Little or no problem	0

4. To what extent, if any, do the following factors contribute to the need to defer maintenance on your State system?

				Aggregate		response			
				11	2	3	4	5	
A	Ini	flation	1	23	15	8	3	0	
В	Dec	creased tax revenues	5	7	9	8	8	13	
С	Inc	creased maintenance due to							
	a	Recent severe weather	2	8	6	10	16	8	
	b	Age of highways	2	8	23	12	4	1	
	С	Other	32	6	5	6	1	0	

Description
No response
Very large extent
Substantially large extent
Moderate extent
Some extent
Little or no extent

State	Q-3, Problem deferred maintenance	Infla- tion	Decrease tax <u>revenue</u>	Severe <u>weather</u>	Age of highway	Other
Alabama	1	1	3	3	2	2
Alaska	2	3	-	2	2	ī
Arizona	2	ĭ	_	3	ĩ	-
Arkansas	4	2	5	3	Ĩ	1
California	2	ĭ	5	4	ī	=
Colorado	1	1	1	5	2	_
Connecticut	2	2	4	4	2	2
Delaware	2	ī	i	1	3	_
Flor 1da	2 `	2	5	4	2	_
Georgia	4	1	2	3	3	-
Hawa11	3	3	4	5	2	2
Idaho	2	2	3	4	3	4
Illinois	2	1	5	3	4	-
Indiana	1	2	2	4	3	-
Iowa	3	2	5	4	3	3
Kansas	2	1	5	3	2	-
Kentucky	3	1	2	1	2	1
Louisiana	3	4	5	5	3	3
Maine	2	1	4	5	1	_
Maryland	3	3	3	2	2	-
Massachusetts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Michigan	3	3	-	2	4	3
Minnesota	2	2	3	4	2	3
Mıssıssıppı	2	2	2	4	2	-
Missouri	4	4	5	4	3	-
Montana	2	2	4	3	1	-
Nebraska	4	3	4	3	4	-
Nevada	2	2	2	4	2	2
wew hampshire	1	1	2	2	1	_
New Jersey	2	1	2	4	3	3
New Mexico	3	2	3	5	2	-
New York	2	3	1	-	-	1
North Carolina North Dakota	1 4	1 4	1	1	2	-
Unio	2	1	5 4	4 1	4 2	
		1				-
Oklahoma	2	1	3	1	2	-
Oregon	2	1	3	5	3	2
Pennslyvania	2	2	2	3	2	-
Rhode Island	4	3	5	1	5	-
South Carolina	1	2	1	5	2	1
South Dakota	3	1	4	4	2	_
Tennessee	2	2	i	4	3	-
Texas	2	1	5	3	1	1
Utah	1	1	3	5	3	3
Vermont	1	1	1	2	1	_
Virginia	3	1	5	1	2	_
Washington	4	1	-	4	3	-
west Virginia	1	1	5	1	2	-
wisconsin	2	2	2	2	2	-
whourtud	4	3	4	4	2	-

5. In your opinion are the following components of your State
Highway System currently maintained better, worse, or the
same compared to 5 years ago?

		Aggregate responses						
		= -	1	2	3	4	5	
A.	Pavement	1	2	14	12	19	2	
в.	Shoulders	1	2	10	20	16	1	
c.	Drainage	1	1	5	27	14	2	
D.	Guardrails	1	2	14	23	8	2	
E.	Others	42	0	0	1	3	4	

Code	Descr	iption
-	No re	sponse
1	Signi	ficantly better
2	Gener	ally better
3	About	the same
4	Gener	ally worse
5	Signi	ficantly worse

	Q-5	Maintenance com	ndition curr	ent versus 1973	
<u>State</u>	Pavement	Shoulders	<u>Drainage</u>	<u>Guardraıl</u>	Other
Alabama Alaska	4 4	3 3	3 3	3 3	<u></u>
Arizona	i	ì	ĭ	ĭ	_
Arkansas	3	2	2	3	-
California	4	4	3	3	-
Colorado	4	3	3	3	-
Connecticut	4	4	3	3	-
Delaware	5	4	4	2	-
<u>F</u> lorıda	4	3	3	3	-
Georgia	2	2	2	2	-
Hawa11	2	3	3	3	-
Idaho	1	2	2	2	-
Illinois	4	4	5	4	-
Indiana	2 3	2 3	2 3	2 2	3
Iowa	3	3	3	2	3
Kansas	4	3	4	4	-
Kentucky	3	2	3	3	-
Louisiana	2	4	2	3	_
Maine	2	4	4	4	-
Maryland	2	1	2	1	-
Massachusetts	-	_	<u>.</u>	-	-
Michigan	4	2	3	2	-
Minnesota	3	4	3	2	_
Mississippi Missouri	2 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	_
Montono	2	3	2	2	
Montana Nebraska	3 2	3 2	3 4	3 2	_
Nevada	3	3	4	3	4
New Hampshire	4	4	3	2	-
New Jersey	3	3	4	4	5
New Mexico	2	2	3	3	_
New York	4	5	4	5	5
North Carolina	4	3	3	3	-
North Dakota	3	3	3	3	_
Oh10	4	4	4	4	-
Oklahoma	2	3	4	4	_
Oregon	4	4	4	4	5
Pennsylvania	3	3	3	2	_
Rhode Island	2	2	3	2	_
South Carolina	4	4	5	3	5
South Dakota	2	4	3	2	_
Tennessee	4	4	4	4	-
Texas	4	4	4	5	-
0tah	4	3	3	3	-
Vermont	5	4	4	3	4
Virginia	2	3	4	2	-
Washington	3	3	3	3	_
West Virginia Wisconsin	4	4	3 3	3	-
Wyoming	3 ,	3 3	3	3 2	4
41 om 111 d	4	J	J	2	-

Highway deterioration

6. In your opinion, to what extent, if any, are the following factors contributing to highway deterioration on your State system?

			Aggregate response					
			_	11_	2	3	4	5
A	Lac	k of funds	3	18	19	9	0	1
В	Defe	erred maintenance	3	8	20	11	7	1
c.	Age	of roads	1	15	18	13	3	0
D.	Inad	dequate design	3	1	9	15	16	6
Ε.	Tra	ffic:						
	a	Automobiles	2	0	1	3	16	28
	b.	Legal heavy trucks	1	5	21	17	6	0
	c.	Trucks under special permits	3	2	1	17	15	12
	d.	Illegal over- weight trucks	2	7	12	16	11	2

<u>Cod</u> e	<u>Description</u>
_	No response
1	Very great extent
2	Substantial extent
3	Moderate extent
4	Some extent
5	Little or no extent

Q-6, Causes of Highway Deterioration

State	Lack of funds	Deferred maintenance	Age of road	<u>Design</u>	Autos	Heavy truck	1ruck under rermit	Illeaal overweiaht <u>trucks</u>
Alabama	1	1	2	2	4	2	3	3
Alaska	2	4	ĺ	2	4	2	í	4
Arizona	ī	i	î	2	, 	ĩ	5	4
Arkansas	ī	4	ī	4	5	2	รั	2
California	ī	i	ī	3	Š	ī	ī	2 1
Colorado	1	2	2	4	4	2	5	4
Connecticut	2	2	2	3	4	3	3	2
Delaware	1	3	4	-	3	3	3	1
Florida	1	1	1	3	2	2	3	2
Georgia	3	3	3	3	5	2	4	2
_								
Hawall	2	2	2	4	5	4	3	4
Idaho	2	2	3	4	4	2	3	3
Illinois	1	2	2	4	5	1	4 5	3 3
Indiana	2	2	3	5	5	3 2	5	4
Iowa	2	2	1	5	5	۷	j ,	4
Kansas	2	2	2	2	5	2	3	3
Kentucky	3	3	2	2	5	3	4	ĭ
Louisiana	2	3	4	4	5	3	4	2
Maine	ĩ	2	i	â	5	3	5	3
Maryland	3	3	2	á .	4	2	4	3
	_	-	_	-				
Massachusetts	-	-	-	-	~	-	-	-
Michigan	-	-	3	-	5	3	3	3
Minnesota	2	2	2	4	4	3	4	3
Mississippi	2	2	2	4	5	2	5	3
Missouri	3	3	2	1	4	2	5	5
			-	•		2	2	2
Montana	1	4	1	3	4		3	2
Nebraska	3	4	3	4 4	5 4	1 3	3	2
Nevada	2 1	3 2	2 1	5	4	4	5	3
New Hampshire	1	í	2	3	3	2	3	ĩ
New Jersey	1	1	4	3	,	2	3	•
New Mexico	2	3	3	4	4	4	_	-
New York	ī	2	3	5	5	4	5	4
North Carolina	-	ī	2	ž	5	ż	5	4
North Dakota	3	5	3	3	5	2	4	5
Ohio	2	2	2	2	4	2	3	1
			_	_	_	_	_	_
Oklahoma	1	4	3	3	5	3	3	3
Oregon	2	2	3	2	4	2	3	3
Pennsylvania	2	2	4	3	5	4	3	2
Rhode Island	3	-	1	4	5	3	-	3
South Carolina	5	2	2	5	5	2	4	2
South Dakota	2	3	1	4	5	3	4	3
Tennessee	1	2	3	3	5	2	4	4
Tennessee Texas	2	2	1	5	5	1	4	3
Utah	î	î	i	3	5	3	3	ĭ
Vermont	2	2	i	2	4	4	4	2
- GE HALIC	-	~	-		•	•	•	_
Virginia	2	3	2	2	5	2	3	2
Washington	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	4
West Virginia	i	i	3	3	4	3	5	1
Wisconsin	ī	3	2	4	5	3	4	4
Wyoming	3	4	1	4	5	3	4	4

Heavy trucks

7.	In your opinion, approximately what percentage of the average
	daily traffic on the following highways of your State system is
	heavy truck traffic (over 26,000 pounds)?
	A. Interstate percent
	B. Noninterstate primary percent
	C. Secondary system percent
	D. Other roads (Please specify) percent
8.	Consider the fact that some roads currently in service may not '
	have been designed or engineered to handle specific truck traffic
	loads for a specific design life. Other roads may have been
	designed to handle lower loadings than they are currently
	experiencing. In your opinion what percentage of the following
	types of highways on your State system is adequately engineered
	to accommodate the current volume of heavy truck traffic (over
	26,000 pounds) without a reduction in serviceable life?
	(Enter percents.)
	Type highway on Percent adequately designed for State system heavy truck traffic
	A. Interstate
	B Primary
	C Secondary
	D. Other (Please specify)

Q-7 Percent of Heavy Trucks In Traffic

State	Interstate system	Non- Interstate prumary	Secondary system	Other roads	Interstate	Primary	Secondary	Other
Alabama	25	16	14	-	100	40	10	_
Alaska	-	10	6	_		15	25	_
Ar 12 ona	20	15	10	10	100	85	70	_
Arkansas	16	7	-6	6	20	20	2	-
California	15	12	5	_	60	50	30	_
			-		•••	50	J (,	
Colorado	8	3	3	-	100	50	10	-
Connecticut	13	9	5	2	80	70	25	-
Delaware	-	-	-	-	100	60	20	10
Flor 1da	13	19	13	_	-	_	-	-
Georgia	18	12	6	6	50	20	10	-
M	_							
Hawall Idaho	7	5	.3	-	90	30	30	-
Illinois	14	9 4	13	5	95	75 50	50	-
Indiana	22 35		1	ī	40	50	75	-
Indiana	35 17	25	15	7	60	50	20	-
TOWA	17	10	5	4	80	70	60	-
Kansas	13	7	6	-	100	44	20	_
Kentucky	22	18	12	9	15	20	20	40
Louisiana	18	12	8	* 5	100	70	20	40
Maine	Ř	3	3	3	95	50	35	15
Maryland	5	6	7	-	100	90	70	7.7
1	J	•	•		100	50	70	
Massachusetts	9	7	4	-	-	-	-	-
Michigan	14	9	8	7	99	90	80	' -
Minnesota	12	11	7	-	50	35	80	50
Mississippi	15	12	8	-	95	35	10	_
Missour i	20	9	7	-	100	50	10	
**		• •			4-			
Montana	18	14	10	-	20	60	40	-
Neoraska Nevada	14	7	5	2	100	60	30	-
New Hampshire	13 6	3 5	3	2	85	55	25	-
New Jersey	ıı̈́	4	3 3	1 4	100	50	30	-
New Detsey	11	4	J	4	100	98	35	-
New Mexico	19	11	7	6	-	_	_	_
New York	12	- 5	i	ĭ	-	_	-	_
North Carolina	11	7	2	ī	93	75	50	-
North Dakota	23	19	17	-	93	35	20	_
On 10	25	15	8	-	Ō	ō	ā	-
0.1		1.0		_				
Oklanoma	20	16	12	4	-	. -	-	-
Oregon	23	17	15	7	20	15	10	-
Pennsylvania	15	8	2	1	30	70	80	-
Rhode Island	3	5	2	-	100	60	50	-
South Carolina	22	8	3	2	100	90	40	10
South Dakota	14	8	4	_	90	50	35	_
Tennessee	13	B	5	4	6	20	80	90
Texas	12	ğ	6	4	-	20	-	-
Utan	16	12	š	5	90	80	20	_
Vermont	6	6	Š	5	100	40	30	_
			-	-			.	
Virginia	10	3	1	-	100	25	10	-
washington	10	.7	-	5	50	25	-	-
west Virginia	13	13	7	-	100	50	20	-
Wisconsin	20	14	12	6	100	80	70	-
Wyoming	20	12	5	-	96	49	38	-

9. In your opinion, how much, if at all, have the following characteristics of heavy truck traffic, (over 26,000 pounds) on your State system changed over the past 10 years?

		Aggregate response					
			1	2	3	4	5
Α.	Total number of trucks	4	24	21	0	1	0
В.	Percent of trucks in overall traffic	2	8	26	12	2	0
С.	Volume of through truck traffic	3	17	26	4	0	0
D.	Volume of local truck traffic	3	9	32	5	1	0
Ε.	Average truck weight	3	7	31	8	1	O

Code	Description
-	No response
1	Increased greatly
2	Increased moderately
3	Remained the same
4	Decreased moderately
5	Decreased greatly

Q	-9,	Change	ın.	Truck	Traffic	Since	1968

State	Total <u>trucks</u>	Percent in traffic	Through trucks	Local trucks	Average truck weight
Alabama	1	2	2	2	2
Alaska	1	2	1	1	3
Ar 1 zona	1	3	3	1	3
Arkansas	1	1	1	2	2
California	2	2	3	2	2
Colorado	2	2	2	2	2
Connecticut	-	1	1	2	2
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-
Florıda	1	2	2	2	2
Georgia	1	2	1	2	1
Hawa11	2	3	2	2	2
Idaho	1	2	2	2	2
Illinois	1	3	2	2	2
Indiana	2	2	2	2	2
Iowa	1	2	2	2	4
Kansas	2	2	2	2	2
Kentucky	1	1	1	1	2
Louisiana	1	1	2	2	3
Maine	2	3	3	3	3
Maryland	2	2	1	3	-
Massachusetts	-	-	-		-
Michigan	2	3	2	3	2
Mınnesota	1	2	1	2	1
Mississippi	1	2	1	2	2
Missouri	1	2	1	2	2
Montana	-	1	1	2	1
Nebraska	2	2	2	3	2
Nevada	1	2	1	1	3
New Hampshire	2	3	2	2	2
New Jersey	2	2	2	2	2
New Mexico	2	3	2	2	2
New York	4	4	2	4	2
North Carolina	1	2	1	1	2
North Dakota	2	3	2	2	1
Oh10	1	4	2	2	2
Oklahoma	2	2	2	2	2
Oregon	1	2	2	2	2
Pennsylvania	1	1	1	1	2
Rhode Island	2	2	2	2	3
South Carolina	2	3	3	3	3
South Dakota	2	3	2	2	2
Tennessee	2	2	-	-	3
Texas	2	2	2	2	1
Utah	1	2 2	2	ī	2
Vermont	1	3	2	ī	ĩ
Virginia	1	1	1	1	1
Washington	2	3	1	2	2
West Virginia	1	2	1	2	2
Wisconsin	2	1 3 2 2	2	2	2
Wyoming	1	1	1	2	2

Attempts to raise weight limits

10 Since January 1, 1974,
how many times have bills
been introduced in your
legislature to raise the
interstate weight limit?
(Enter number)

Number of times bills introduced

If your interstate weight
limits have been raised
since January 1, 1974,
what was your Highway
Department's position on
the weight increase?

<u>Code</u>		Aggregate response
-	No response	1
1	Supported the weight increase	25
2	Did not support the weight increa	se 3
3	No opinion	9
4	Weight limits have not been raised	e 12

12 If your interstate weight
limits have not been raised
since January 1, 1974, what
is the current opinion of
your State Highway Department on raising the interstate
weight to the new Federal
limit?

Code	Description	Aggregat response
_	No response	5
1	Support increased weight limit	4
2	Do not support increased weight lim	n1t 6
3	No opinion	2
4	Weight limits have been raised	33

<u>State</u>	Q-10, Bills to Raise Weight Limits	Q-11, state Highway Dept. Position	Q-12, State Highway Dept Current Position
Alabama Alaska	0	2	4
Arizona	i	3	4
Arkansas	2	4	2
California	2	3	4
Colorado	0	1	4
Connecticut	4	4	2
Delaware	5	1	4
Florida Georgia	1 5	1 1	4 4
ocorgia			7
Hawall	2	2	4
Idaho Illinois	2 2	1 4	4
Indiana	5	4	2 2
Iowa	4	4	ĺ
**			
Kansas Kentucky	1	3 1	4 4
Louisiana	i	1	4
Maine	î	î	4
Maryland	6	4	-
Massachusetts	4	1	_
Michigan	1	ī	-
Minnesota	3	1	4
Mississippi Missouri	3 4	4 4	3 2
MISSOULI			
Montana	0 2	1 4	4 1
Nebraska Nevada	1	3	4
New Hampshire	2	1	4
New Jersey	6	2	4
New Mexico	0	3	1
New York	Ö	1	-
North Carolina	1	3	4
North Dakota	1 2	3 1	4 4
Oh10	2	1	4
Oklahoma	1	1	4
Oregon	1	j	4
Pennsylvanıa Rhode İsland	1	4 4	2 3
South Carolina	2	1	4
		_	
South Dakota	0	1	4
Tennessee	3 1	4 3	1 4
Texas Utah	_	1	4
Vermont	1	ī	4
V	1	1	4
Virginia Washington	1	3	4
West Virginia	i	1	4
Wisconsin	2	1	4
Wyoming	3	1	4

13.	In t	he last 3 years, has			
	your	State completed any	Aggregat	e resp	onse
	stud	ies in the following	No		
	area	s?	response	Yes	No
	Α.	Weight enforcement			
		problems nationwide	5	2	43
	В.	Weight enforcement	_		-
		problems in your State	5	22	23
	C.	Site selection of per-			
		manent scales	3	28	19
	D.	Actual or potential			
		impact of Federal			
		weight limit increase	6	10	34
	Е.	User tax structure or			
		tax allocation	7	14	29
	F.	Economic benefit of			
		overweight heavy			6
		trucking versus their			

effect on highways

Q-13, State Research In Last 3 Years

State	National problem	State problem	Site selection	Impact of federal limits	Tax structure	Heavy truck economic <u>benefit</u>
Alabama	No.	<u></u>	** -			••-
		Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Alaska	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Arizona	No	Yes	No	1/10	Yes	No
Arkansas	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
California	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colorado	No	No	No	No	Ио	No
Connecticut	No	Yes	Yes	ио	ио	No
Delaware	No	Yes	Yes	Мо	Yes	<i>i</i> 30
Florida	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Georgia	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Hawa11	No	Yes	No	No	-	No
Idaho	No	No	No	иo	NO	NO
Illinois	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Ye⊲
Indiana	No	No	No	и́О	Yes	No
Iowa	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kansas	No	No	No	No	No	No
Kentucky	No	Yes	Yes	No	ио	Yes
Louisiana	No	Yes	Yes	No	MО	No
Maine	No	No	No	МO	No	Ио
Maryland	-	Yes	Yes	-	-	-
Massachusetts	_	Yes	Yes	-	-	-
Michigan	. -	_ -	Yes	-	-	-
Minnesota	No	Yes	Yes	-		No
Mississippi	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Missouri	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Montana	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Νo
Nebraska	No	No	No	No	No	Nο
Nevada	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
New Hampshire	No	No	No	Рo	No	No
New Jersey	No	No	No	No	No	No
New Mexico	No	No	No	No	No	No
New York	-	-	-	_	-	-
North Carolina	No	No	Ye⊂	No	Nο	No
North Dakota	No	No	٧o	No	No	No
Ohio	No	No	Мо	Yes	ИО	ИО
Oklahoma	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Oregon	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yea
Pennsylvania	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Rhode Island South Carolina	No -	Yes -	Yes -	No -	No.	д о
South Dakota	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Tennessee	No	Yes	Yes	NO	No	Yes
Texas	No		-	No	No	Yes
Utah	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vermont	No	Yes	No	No	ho	No
Virginia	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Washington	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
West Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	МО
Wisconsin	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yee
Wyoming	No	No	No	No	No	No

13. (Continued)

In t	he last 3 years, has			
your	State completed any	Aggregate	respo	nse
stud	ies in the following	No	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
area	s?	response	<u>Yes</u>	No
G.	Economic benefit of			
	overweight truck operation	5	9	36
н.	Impact of overweight trucks			
	on: Pavement and bridge			
	conditions	2	17	31
ı.	Maintenance costs	1	15	34
J.	Highway serviceable life	1	16	33
ĸ.	Truck safety	4	8	38
T	Accidents or fatalities	3	8	39

Q-13, State Research In Last 3 Years (Cont)

	Overweight					Accident
	truck econ	Payment	Maintenance	Highway	Truck	or
State	benefit	& bridge	cost	life	safety	fatalities
Alabama	иo	No	No	No	No	No
Alaska	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Arizona	No	No	No	No	No	No
Arkansas	No	No	No	No	No	No
						Yes
California	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	ies
Colorado	1/0	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No No
Connecticut	ŊO	No	No	No	No	No
Delaware	O/1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Florida	No	NO	No	No	Ю	No
Georg1a	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Hawall	No	No	No	No	No	No
Idaho	No	No	No	No	No	No
Illinois	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Indiana	No	No	No	NO	No	No
Iowa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
30#4	103	165	103	100	100	100
Kansas	No	O 12	МО	No	No	No
Kentucky	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Louisiana	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-
Maine	No	No	No	No	No	_
Maryland	-		-			No
						0
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan	-	_	No	Yes	_	No
Minnesota	_	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	No
Mississippi	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
	No		No	No	No	No
Missouri	140	No	NO	,	NO	140
Montana	No	No.	No	No	No	No
n)ebraska	Ю	No	No	No	No	No
Nevada	No	No	No	No	No	No
New Hampshire	No	1/0	No	No	No	No
New Jersey	No	No	No No	No.	NO NO	No No
Men nersel	NO	NO	140	140	NO	110
New Mexico	No	No	No	No	No	No
New York	-	No	No	No	_	-
North Carolina	No	No	No	No	No	No
worth Dakota	140	NO	00	NO.	NO	No
Ohio	No	No	No	No	NO	No
Giito	NO	NO	140	110	NO	110
Oklahoma	No	No	No	No	No	No
Oregon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Pennsylvania	No	No	No	No	No	No
Rnode Island	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
South Carolina	=	No	No	No	No	No
•						
South Dakota	ŊO	No	No	No	No	No
Tennessee	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Texas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	041
Utah	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vermont	No	No	NO	No	No	No.
Virginia	lvo	No	No	No	No	No
Washington	No	1/10	No	No	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	<i>N</i> O	No	<i>1</i> 10	No	<i>1</i> /O	No.
wisconsin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NO	No
wyoming	No	No	No	No	1/10	No

CHAPTER 2

WEIGHT LAWS AND ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS

State weight laws vary widely across the Nation for both interstate highways and noninterstate roads. Similarly, the legal framework provided to State weight enforcement authorities varies.

INTERSTATE WEIGHT LIMITS

Currently, 20 States have weight limits which exceed Federal limits in at least one weight category—single axle, tandem axle, or gross vehicle. As a result, Federal limits do not fully apply on almost 13,000 miles, or 32 percent, of the interstate system.

Single-axle limits

The 1956 Federal interstate single-axle limit of 18,000 pounds was raised in early 1975 to 20,000 pounds. State's single-axle limits for interstate highways at the time of our review appear below.

States single-axle weight limits for interstate highways

Limit (pounds)	Number of States a/
Less than 20,000	10
Exactly 20,000	26
More than 20,000	13

a/Alaska does not have interstate highways.

Weight limits above the current Federal limit range from 20,340 to 24,000 pounds, with eight States listing 22,400 pounds.

Tandem-axle limits

The 1956 Federal interstate weight limit for tandem axles was raised from 32,000 to 34,000 pounds in early 1975. At the time of our review, State limits were:

States tandem-axle weight limits for interstate highways

Limit (pounds)	Number of States a/
Less than 34,000	9
Exactly 34,000	25
More than 34,000	15

a/Alaska does not have interstate highways.

Weight limits above the current Federal limit range from 34,320 pounds to 44,800 pounds, with nine States showing 36,000-pound tandem limits.

Gross vehicle limits

The 1956 interstate gross weight limit, 73,280 pounds, was raised to 80,000 pounds in early 1975. At the time of our review, State limits were:

States gross weight limits for interstate highways

Limit (pounds)	Number of States a/
Less than 80,000	14
Exactly 80,000	32
More than 80,000	3

a/Alaska does not have interstate highways.

Weight limits above the current Federal limit range from 80,800 pounds to 154,000 pounds.

NONINTERSTATE WEIGHT LIMITS

At least 27 States, with over 47 percent (360,000 miles) of all noninterstate Federal-aid mileage, have higher weight limits on their noninterstate Federal-aid highways than the Federal Government prescribes. These limits are as high as 24,000 pounds for single axles; 44,800 pounds for tandem axles; and 105,000 pounds for gross weight. One State has a 154,000-pound gross weight limit for trucks with 11 axles.

LEGAL PROVISIONS

On the basis of our visits to States, we identified a number of legal provisions that State enforcement officials believed were valuable in enforcing weight limits. We asked the State officials if their State law contained these provisions. Positive responses do not necessarily reflect the degree or frequency of use but whether or not the provision is available.

Responses to these questions showed that there is little uniformity in the enforcement provisions available in the States. Based on our review of State enforcement activities, many States could improve their enforcement by adopting legal provisions proven effective in other States.

Weight limits

14. What interstate weight limits were in effect in your State on July 1, 1956, and what are the current (as of September 30, 1978) interstate weight limits? (Enter weights.)

	July 1, 1956	Current
Single axle weight		
Tandem axle weight		
Gross vehicle weight		

Q-14, Interstate Weight Limits

	Single	e axle	Tande	em_axle	Gros	s Weiaht
State	7/1/56	Current	7/1/56	Current	7/1/56	Current
Alabama Alaska	18,000	20,000	36,000	34,000	64,650	80,000
Arizona	18,000	20,000	32,000	34,000	76,800	80,000
Arkansas	_	18,000	-	32,000		73,280
California	18,000	20,000	32,000	34,000	76,800	80,000
Colorado	18,000	20,000	36,000	36,000	76,200	80,000
Connecticut	22,400	22,400	36,000	36,000	73,000	73,000
Delaware	· -	20,000	· -	40,000	· -	80,000
Florida	22,000	22,000	44,000	44,000	73,271	80,000
Georgia	20,340	20,340	-	34,000	73,280	80,000
Hawall	24,000	24,000	32,000	34,000	80,800	80,800
Idaho	18,000	20,000	32,000	34,000	76,800	80,000
Illinois	18,000	18,000	32,000	32,000	73,280	73,280
Indiana	18,600	18,000	32,000	32,000	72,000	73,280
Iowa	18,000	18,000	32,000	32,000	73,280	73,280
Kansas	18,000	20,000	32,000	34,000	63,890	80,000
Kentucky	18,000	20,000	_	34,000	42,000	80,000
Louisiana	19,800	20,000	35,200	34,000	83,400	80,000
Maine	22,000	22,000	32,000	34,000	50,000	80,000
Maryland	22,400	22,400	18,000	36,00N	65,000	73,280
Massachusetts	22,400	22,400	36,000	36,000	73,280	80,000
Michigan	ls,000	20,000	32,000	34,000	-	<u>a</u> /80,000
Minnesota	18,000	20,000	32,000	34,000	73,280	80,000
hississippi	18,000	18,000	24,000	32,000	57,650	73,280
Missouri	18,000	18,000	32,000	32,000	60,010	73,280
Hontana	18,000	18,000	32,000	32,000	76,800	76,800
Nebraska	18,000	18,000	32,000	32,000	64,650	71,146
Nevaca	18,000	20,000	32,000	34,000	76,800	80,000
New Hampshire	-	18,000	 .	36,000	-	80,000
New Jersey	22,400	22,400	32,000	34,000	60,000	80,000
New Mexico	21,600	21,600	34,320	34,320	86,400	86,400
New York	22,400	22,400	36,000	36,000	71,000	80,000
North Carolina	19,000	20,000	38,000	38,000	58,800	79,800
North Dakota	18,000	20,000	32,000	34,000	73,286	80,000
Ohio	19,000	20,000	32,000	34,000	78,000	80,000
Oklahoma	_	20,000	-	34,000	-	80,000
Cregon	18,000	20,000	32,000	34,000	76,000'	80 , 000
<i>P</i> ennsylvania	18,000	22,400	26,000	36,000	68,200	73,280
Khode Island	-	22,400	-	44,800	-	80,000
South Carolina	20,000	20,600	-	35,200	73,280	80,000
South Dakota	18,000	20,000	32,000	34,000	73,280	80,000
Tennessee	18,000	18,000	32,000	32,000	55,980	73,280
Texas	18,000	20,000	32,000	34,000	58,420	80,000
ùtah	18,000	20,000	33,000	34,000	79,900	80,000
vermont	-	22,400	-	36,000	-	80,000
Virginia	18,000	20,000	32,000	34,000	56,800	76,000
washington	18,000	20,000	32,000	34,000	72,000	80,000
West Virginia	18,000	20,000	32,000	34,000	70,000	80,000
wisconsin	19,500	20,000	32,000	34,000	73,000	80,000
wyoming	18,000	20,000	36,000	36,000	73,900	80,000

a/ with multiple, but lighter axles, higher gross weight is allowed Maximum practical gross weight is 154,000 pounds with 11 axles

15.	Does your	State currently have	ve different weight limits for				
	noninterst	ate highways?	Aggregate regress				
	Aggregate response						
	No	response	0				
	Yes	,	22				
	No		28				
16.	To what hi	ghways do these dif	ferent weight limits apply?				
	Code	Description	Aggregate response				
	1	All noninterstat	e 14				
	2	Noninterstate pr	imaries only 5				
	3	Other highways	3				
	-	No response	28				
17.	What noninterstate weight limits are currently in effect						
	in your State (as of September 30, 1978). (Enter						
	weights.)		Current				
			Current				
	Single axl	e weight					
	Tandem axl	e weight					
	Gross vehi	cle weight					
18.	Does your State have any general restrictions (1.e.,						
	seasonal, type of road etc.) on its basic maximum						
	weight lim	ıts?					
			Aggregate response				
		No response	0				
		Yes	16				
		No	28				
		May issue limited instructions	6				

	Q-15, Different	Q-16, Highway	Q-17,	Q-18,		
	limits for	weight			Gross	Any
	non-	limits	Single	Tandem	vehicle	general
State	<u>interstate</u>	apply to	axle	axle	weight	restriction
Alabama	Yes	1	20,000	40,000	84,000	No
Alaska	No	-	-	-	-	Yes
Arizona	No	-	20,000	34,000	80,000	May
Arkansas	Yes	3	-	-	-	No
California	Yes	3	-	-	-	No
Colorado	Yes	1	18,000	36,000	85,000	No
Connect1cut	No	-	22,400	36,000	73,000	No
Delaware	No	-	20,000	40,000	80,000	No
Florida	No	-	22,000	44,000	80,000	No
Georgia	Yes	3	20,340	a/34,000	80,000	No
Hawa11	Yes	1	24,000	32,000	88,000	No
Idaho	Yes	1	20,000	34,000	105,500	Yes
Illinois	No	-	18,000	32,000	73,280	No
Indiana	No	_	18,000	32,000	73,280	Yes
Iowa	No	-	18,000	32,000	73,280	Yes
Kansas	Yes	1	20,000	34,000	85,500	No
Kentucky	Yes	2	· -	-	a/ -	No
Louisiana	Yes	1	22,000	37,000	80,000	May
Maine	Yes	1	22,000	38,000	80,000	Yes
Maryland	No	-	22,400	36,000	73,280	No
Massachusetts	No	_	22,400	36,000	80,000	No
Michigan	No	_	20,000	34,000	ъ/80,000	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	2	18,000	32,000	$\frac{a}{a}/73,280$	Yes
Missıssıppı	Yes	2	-	-	<u>a</u> / –	No
Missouri	No	-	18,000	32,000	73,280	No
Montana	No	-	18,000	32,000	76,800	May
Nebraska	Yes	1	20,000	34,000	95,000	Yes
Nevada	No	-	20,000	34,000	80,000	May
New Hampshire	Yes	2	a/22,400	36,000	80,000	Yes
New Jersey	Yes	2	22,400	34,000	80,000	No
New Mexico	No	-	21,600	34,320	86,400	No
New York	No	-	22,400	36,000	80,000	No
North Carolina	No	-	20,000	38,000	79,800	No
North Dakota	Yes	1	20,000	34,000	82,000	Yes
Ohio	No	-	20,000	34,000	80,000	No
Oklahoma	Yes	1	20,000	34,000	90,000	Yes
Oregon	No	-	20,000	34,000	80,000	No
Pennsylvania	No	-	22,400	36,000	73,280	May
Rhode Island	No	-	22,400	44,800	80,000	No
South Carolina	Yes	1	20,000	36,000	73,280	No
South Dakota	Yes	1	20,000	34,000	95,000	Yes
Tennessee	No	_	18,000	32,000	73,280	No
Texas	No	-	20,000	34,000	80,000	No
Utah	No		20,000	34,000	80,000	May
Vermont	No	-	22,400	36,000	80,000	Yes
Virginia	No	-	20,000	34,000	76,000	No
Washington	No	_	20,000	34,000	80,000	Yes
West Virginia	Yes	1	20,000	32,000	65,000	Yes
Wisconsin	No	-	20,000	34,000	80,000	Yes
Wyoming	Yes	1	20,000	36,000	101,000	No

 $[\]underline{a}/$ State has variable formula for weight, or highway classification for noninterstate limits Upper limits appear in the table

 $[\]underline{b}$ / Same as \underline{a} / on page 29

19. Does your State weight law contain the following
 provisions? (Check one box for each row)

		Aggregate response			
		No Response	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	
1.	If cargo cannot be made legal by shifting load or other means, require mandatory offloading of the overweight portion of the cargo before allowing the truck to proceed.	2	30	18	
2.	Make bill of lading or certified weight slip, legal basis for overweight citation.	2	4	44	
3.	Make it illegal for a person or firm to ship an overweight load.	1	20	29	
4.	Hold both the shipper and the driver responsible for over-weight violations	3	16	31	
5.	Require simultaneous weighing of all axles	1	6	43	
6.	Allow the same people who run the scales to issue overweight citations	2	35	13	
7.	Retain and use overweight truck citation records to identify chronic violators	1	18,	31	
8.	Make driving an overweight truck a moving violation	4	39	7	

Q-19, Legal Provisions

<u>State</u>	Mandatory off loading	Use of bill of lading	Illegal to ship over- weight	Shipper & driver re-	All axles simul- taneous weighing	Scale operators issue citations	Identify chronic violators	Driving O W Truck moving <u>violation</u>
Alabama	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Alaska	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Ar 1 zona	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Arkansas	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
California	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Colorado	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Connecticut	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Florida	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Georgia	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Hawall	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Idaho	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Illinois	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Indiana	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Iowa	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Kansas	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Kentucky	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Louisiana	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Maine	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Maryland	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Massachusetts	-	No	no	No	No	No	No	-
Michigan	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No 17
Minnesota	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Mississippi	No.	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No No
Missourı	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	NO
Montana	Yes	No	No	-	No	Yes	Yes	No
Nebraska	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Nevada	Yes	-	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	-
New Hampshire	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
New Jersey	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New York	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
North Carolina	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
North Dakota	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Ohio	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Oklahoma	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Oregon	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Pennsylvania	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Rhođe Island	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
South Carolina	Yes	No	Yes	-	No	No	No	No
South Dakota	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Tennessee	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Texas	No	No	No	No	No	-	Yes	-
Utah	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Vermont	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Viranno	No	No	No	V	We	No	**-	No
Virginia	No No	No No	No Von	Yes	No	No V	No	No.
Washington	No Van	No No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No V	Yes
West Virginia	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Wisconsin	Yes	No No	No Voc	No No	No No	Yes	Yes	No Yes
Wyoming	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

20. How many miles, if any, does your State law permit an enforcement officer to require a truck to drive to a scale for weighing?

Miles

Haul-in distance provision	Number	of	<u>State</u> s
Not allowed		4	
1-5 miles		24	
6-10 miles		3	
Nearest scale		9	
No limit or not specified		9	
No response		1	

21. At least one State has a provision assessing overweight trucks for damage based on a per pound charge for the amount of overweight. This charge is automatically assessed against anyone found guilty of an overweight violation, and is in addition to any discretionary fine or court cost assessment. Does your State law contain this or a similar nondiscretionary damage assessment?

Description	Aggregate response
No response	0
Yes	12
No	23
Similar	15

22. In addition to the provision mentioned in question 19-21, do you have any other provisions of your State law that you feel are particularly effective?

No response	7
Yes	8
No	35

		Q-21,	
		Non-	
		discre-	Q-22,
	Q-20,	tionary	Other
	Miles to	Damage	Effective
<u>State</u>	Scales	Assessment	Provisions
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Alabama	5	No	No
Alaska	Nearest	Similar	-
Ar izona	2	No	No
Arkansas	2	yes	No
California	5	Sımılər	Yes
	•		
Colorado	2	Yes	No
Connecticut	Nearest	Similar	-
Delaware	-	Yes	No
Florida	2	Similar	No
Georgia	Not spec	Yes	No
	2		•••
Hawall	2	No	No
Idaho	Not all	No	No
Illinois	Nearest	Similar	No
Indiana	2	No	-
Iowa	No limit	No	No
W	_		
Kansas	5	No	No
Kentucky	5	Similar	No
Louisiana	Nearest	No	-
Maine	3	Similar	No
Maryland	Not spec	Similar	Yes
M	-		
Massachusetts	5	Yes	No
Michigan	Nearest	Yes	No
Minnesota	5	No	Yes
Mississippi	No limit	Similar	No
Missouri	Not all	Yes	No
Vantaus	2		
Montana	2	Similar	No
Nebraska	Nearest	No	No
Nevada	No lunit	Yes	No
New Hampshire	10 2	No	No
New Jersey	2	No	No
New Mexico	5	No	Ma
New York	3	No No	No -
North Carolina	2	Similar	
North Dakota	No lint	Yes	No No
Ohio	3	No	No
0.110	3	1.0	140
Oklahoma	Nearest	No	No
Oregon	5	No	Yes
Pennsylvania	2	Similar	NO
Rhode Island	No limit	Similar	-
South Carolina	Nearest	No	-
	.541.550		ı
South Dakota	2	Yes	No
Tennessee	Not all	No	Yes
Texas	No limit	No	No
Utah	2	No	No
Vermont	10	No	Yes
			-
Virginia	10	Yes	No
Washington	Not all	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	2	No	No
Wisconsin	Nearest	Similar	No
Wyoming	Not spec	Similar	Yea
	•		

CHAPTER 3

ENFORCEMENT DATA

Our review showed that State weight enforcement programs differ widely in organization, equipment, and enforcement philosophy. These differences were apparent in the responses to the enforcement section of our questionnaire.

ORGANIZATION

In most States a single agency is responsible for enforcing weight limits--20 States have more than one agency weighing trucks. While in most States police agencies are involved in weight enforcement, at least 14 States have no police agency enforcing weight laws. There are 32 nonpolice State agencies enforcing weight limits.

We compared the mileage on which State enforcement officials said they enforce weight laws with the total mileage in the State as shown in chapter 1. While Il States indicated they enforced weight laws on over 95 percent of their highways, 13 indicated they weigh trucks on less than 15 percent. A breakout of the responses for the 46 States which answered both questions is shown below.

Percent of total miles with weight enforcement by States agencies

	0-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81-100	No response
Number of States	17	8	3	4	14	4

At least 38 States do not enforce weight laws on all their highways, but no State provided the Federal Highway Administration with information on county and city enforcement. Based on the mileage on which States said they enforced weight laws, we compared State budget levels, manpower commitments, and number of scales. While this does not measure the effectiveness of State enforcement, we feel that it highlights the differences in State resources committed to weight enforcement.

MONEY

Expenditures per enforcement mile ranged from \$4 to \$406 as shown below.

Expenditures per enforcement mile (dollars)

<u>1-50</u>	51-100	101-150	<u>151-200</u>	<u>Over 200</u>	No response
21	11	2	5	7	4

PERSONNEL

The ratio of full-time or equivalent personnel to mileage on which the State enforced weight laws ranged from 1 officer for every 59 miles to 1 for every 5,000 miles. The range of responses appears below.

Enforcement miles for each enforcement officer

1-500	501-1,000	1,001-1,500	1,501-2,000	Over 2,000	No <u>response</u>
27	7	4	2	4	6

Equipment

The highest ratio of scales to miles was 1 set per 93 enforcement miles; the lowest was 1 set per 4,000 enforcement miles. The range of responses is shown below.

Enforcement miles per scale sets (Note a)

1-500	501-1,000	1,001-1,500	1,501-2,000	Over 2,000	
17	13	5	2	4	9

<u>a/A</u> scale set is one permanent scale or four portable scales.

The number and type of scales available differed greatly. Although 49 States had portable scales, the number available ranged from 2 to 556. Similarly, while 5 States had no permanent scale sites, the number in use in the remaining States ranged from 1 to 64. A total of 28 States indicated they use public or commercial scales as part of their weight enforcement programs.

The States rated how easily their permanent scales could be bypassed as shown below.

Ease of bypassing permanent scales

Category	Number	Percent
Very easily	133	18
Easily	364	48
Borderline	71	9
Difficult	104	14
Very difficult	80	<u>11</u>
Total rated	752	100

The States also provided data on the number of hours their permanent scale sites are operated each week. The range was from less than 24 hours to being continuously open 24 hours a day--168 hours a week.

Permanent scale operating hours

Hours per week	Number	Percentage
168	159	21
120-167	98	13
72-119	161	21
24-71	206	27
Less than 24	142	18
Total shown	<u>766</u>	100

Although a number of reasons were given, most States responded that lack of money or lack of personnel were the principal reasons scales were not operated more often.

TRUCKS WEIGHED

The number of trucks weighed also varied greatly. States that rely heavily on permanent scales generally weighed many trucks but cited a low percentage of those weighed. States using portable scales tended to weigh fewer trucks but issued a much higher percentage of citations.

23.	In y	our State how many State agencies are involved in							
	weig	ning trucks for weight enforcement purposes?							
	(Enter number)								
		Number of agencies							
24.	Whic	h of the following State agencies weigh trucks for							
	weig	ht enforcement purposes?							
	Α.	State Highway Patrol							
	В.	State Police							
	С.	Highway Department							
	D.	Motor Vehicle Registration Division							
	E.	Other (Please specify)							

		Q-24, Agencies Weighing Trucks				
<u>S</u> tate	Q-23, Agencies Weighing Trucks	State hiqhway patrol	State police	Highway Dept	Motor Vehicle Redis- tration Division	Other
		pactor	porice	<u> </u>	517131011	<u>cener</u>
Alabama	2	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Alaska	1	No	Yes	No	No	No
Arizona	3	No	No	Мо	No	Yes
Arkansas	1	Yes	No	No	No	No
California	1	Yes	No	No	No	No
Colorado	2	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Connecticut	2	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Delaware	1	No	Yes	No	No	No
Florida	2	Yes	No	No	Νo	Мо
Georgia	1	No	No	No	No	Yes
Hawall	2	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Idaho	ī	No	No	No	No	Yes
Illinois	ī	No	Yes	No	No	No
Indiana	1	No	Yes	No	No	No
Iowa	1	no	No	No	No	Yes
V	2	¥	No	No	No	Yes
Kansas Kentucky	1	Yes No	NO No	No No	No No	Yes
Louisiana	i	No No	No.	No	No	Yes
Maine	i	NO	Yes	No	No	No
Maryland	ī	No	Yes	No	No	No
	_					
Massachusetts	2 1	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Michigan Minnesota	1	No Yes	No No	No No	No No	Yes No
Mississippi	1	No	No No	No No	Yes	No No
Missouri	1	Yes	No No	No	No	No No
Montana	1	No	No	Yes	No	No
Nebraska	2 2	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Nevada	2	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
New Hampshire New Jersey	2 2	No Yes	Yes No	No No	No No	Yes Yes
New dersey	2	162	WO	NO	NO	164
New Mexico	1	No	No	иo	No	Yes
New York	1	No	Yes	No	No	ои
North Carolina	1	No	No	No	No	Yes
North Dakota	2	Yes	No	Yes	No	<i>N</i> 0
Ohio	2	Yes	Мо	Yes	No	No
Oklahoma	1	Yes	No	No	No	Мo
Oregon	2	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Pennsylvanıa	2	Yes	No	Ye∝	No	No
Rhode Island	1	No	Yes	Мо	ИО	No
South Carolina	1	Yes	No	No	No	Мо
South Dakota	1	Yes	No	No	No	No
lennessee	ī	No	No	No	No	Yes
lexas	1	No	No	No	No	Yes
Utah	1	Yes	No	No	No	No
Vermont	2	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Virginia	2	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Washington	í	Yes	No	No	No	NO No
West Virginia	î	No.	No	Yes	No	No
Wisconsin	2	Yes	No	мo	Мо	Yes
Wyoming	3	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes

25.	Approximat	ely what is the current	fiscal year oper	ating
	budget (no	oncapital) for weight en	forcement activit	ies in
	your State	e? (Enter amount)		
	\$	Budget amount	National total	\$68,472,000
			No response	5
26.	How many p	ositions (full time or	equivalent) are c	urrently
	filled by	people who have as their	r primary respons	ibility
	the weighi	ng of trucks as part of	your State weigh	t enforce-
	ment progr	am? (Enter number.)		
		Number of positions	National total	3,722
			No response	1
27.	Approximat	ely on how many miles of	f highway (all ty)	pes)
	are your S	tate-level enforcement e	efforts carried o	ıt?
	(Enter mile	es.)		
		Miles	National total	1,513,803
			No response	4
	GAO calcula	ations.		
	Pe	ercentage of total milea	ge in State that	enforcement
	ac	tivity covers.		
	Do	ollars spent per enforce	ement official.	
	_ Er	nforcement miles per enf	orcement official	•

State	Q-25, Budget for <u>Enforcement</u>	Q-26, Number of Positions	Highway miles with enforcement	Percent of total State miles	Dollar/ enforce- ment mile	Enfor mile per enfor official
	(a 000)					
Alabama	\$ 915	55	10,500	12	11	191
Alaska	895	6	2,200	24	406	366
Arızona	<u>a</u> / 216	14	7,882	14	27	563
Arkansas	3,066	181	16,000	20	191	88
California	9,000	166	89,027	51	101	536
Colorado Connecticut Delaware	2,815 300	127 16 6	9,200 5,000	12 26	306 60 -	72 312
Florida	2,371	84	13,886	14	170	165
Georgia	1,000	101	18,250	17	54	180
Hawari Idaho Illinois	<u>b</u> / 150 1,500	0 81	878 57,788	91 100	170 26	713
Indiana	1,367	132	17,102	12	79	129
	647	110	12,000	13	53	109
	<u>c</u> / 1,800	95	112,451	100	16	1,183
Kansas	1,265	63	10,000	7	126	158
Kentucky	1,740	88	25,000	35	69	284
Louisiana	3,700	167	16,290	29	227	97
Maine	140	7	21,000	96	6	3,000
Maryland	1,300	73	20,000	77	65	273
Massachusetts Michigan	273 -	16 88	32,000	97 -	8 -	2,000
Minnesota	1,010	49	12,300	9	82	251
Mississippi	3,251	184	10,890	15	298	59
Missouri	2,290	195	32,000	27	71	164
Montana	880	57	8,937	11	98	156
Nebraska	1,500	68	9,858	10	152	1 44
Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey	550 72 450	0 6 29	15,415 33,074	100 100	4 13	2569 1,140
New Mexico	1,500	158	70,000	98	21	443
New York	632	156	108,000	98	6	692
North Carolina	2,500	173	55,300	60	45	319
North Dakota	3,000	93	106,482	120	28	1,298
Chio	—	73	19,000	17	-	260
Oklahoma	875	21	109,631	100	8	5,220
Oregon	1,456	85	7,592	7	191	89
Pennsylvanıa	500	26	23,946	20	20	921
Rhode Island	-	-	-	-	_	-
South Carolına	596	23	27,000	43	221	1,173
South Dakota	450	20	8,800	10	51	440
Tennessee	2,499	125	81,932	100	30	655
Texas	2,813	156	65,000	25	43	410
Utah	1,418	60	4,109	8	345	68
Vermont	<u>a</u> / 110	6	13,592	100	8	2,265
Virginia	1,870	121	52,000	80	36	429
Washington	1,250	71	47,491	56	26	
west Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming	1,200 1,340	55 36 0	25,000 64,000 6,000	67 60 17	98 20 ~	668 454 1,777
Total	\$68,472	3,722	1,513,803			

a/ Provided data on only one agency
b/ Estimated amount
c/ Budget includes other regulatory functions

28. To your knowledge, do any local governments in your State currently have independent weight enforcement programs?

	Aggregate
	response
Yes	21
No	26
Uncertain	3

29. If any local governments have independent weight enforcement programs, please identify the localities below.

<u>Description</u>	Aggregate response
No response	29
State Identified locality	21
City enforcement only	6
County enforcement only	8
City and county enforcement	. 7

30. Did your 1977 weight enforcement certification to the Federal Highway Administration include only data and statistics regarding your State level enforcement efforts or did it also include data and statistics regarding any independent local weight enforcement efforts (non-State)?

Code	Description	Aggregate response
-	No response	0
1	State data only	50
2	Other data included	0

	Q-28, Any Non-State Enforcement	Local G	2-29, Overnment ment Program	Q-30, Type info provided in
<u>State</u>	Programs	City	County	1977 Cert
Alabama	Yes	-	1	1
Alaska	No	-	_	1
Arizona	Yes	1	_	1
Arkansas	No	-	-	ī
California	No	-	-	1
Colorado	No	_	-	1
Connecticut	Unc	-	-	1
Delaware	No	-	-	1
Flor 1da	No	-	-	1
Georgia	No	-	-	1
Hawa11	No	-	-	1
Idaho	Yes		1	1
Illinois	Yes	1	-	1
Indiana	Yes	_	1	1
Iowa	No	-	-	1
Kansas	Yes	-	1	1
Kentucky	No	-	-	1
Louisiana	Yes	1	-	1
Maine	No	-	-	ī
Maryland	No	-	-	1
Massachusetts	No	_	-	1
Michigan	Yes	1	-	ī
Minnesota	Yes	1	1	1
Mississippi	Yes	_	1	1
Missouri	Unc	-	-	1
Montana	Yes	_	1	1
Nebraska	No	-	_	1
Nevada	No	_	-	1
New Hampshire	Yes	1	-	1
New Jersey	No	_	-	1
New Mexico	No	-	_	1
New York	Yes	-	1	1
North Carolina	No	-		1
North Dakota	Yes	1	1	1
Ohio	Yes	-	1	1
Oklahoma	No	_	-	1
Oregon	Yes	1	1	1
Pennsylvania	Unc.	1	ī	ī
Rhode Island	Yes	1	1	$\bar{1}$
South Carolina	No	-	<u>-</u>	ī
South Dakota	No	-	-	1
Tennessee	No	_	_	î
Texas	Yes	1	-	i
Utah	No	_	_	i
Vermont	No	-	-	i
Virginia	Yes	1	1	1
Washington	Yes	ĺ	i	1
West Virginia	No	-	-	1
Wisconsin	No	_	_	1
Wyoming	Yes	-	_	1
·· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	200			T

Note Answers to questions 31 through 47 deal only with State enforcement efforts, and do not consider local enforcement efforts

Weight enforcement efforts

31 How often, if ever, do State enforcement personnel weigh trucks for enforcement purposes on the following types of highways in your State?

ur S	tate	3		A	ggre	gate	resp	ons	<u>e</u>
				_	1_	2	_3	4	5
<u>A.</u>	Urb	an Interstate		2	20	14	7	4	3
В	Urb	an noninterst	ate						
	1	On State Hig	hway						
		System		_0_	20	20	5	3	2
	2	Not on State							
		HIghway Syst	em	0_	2		19	7	15
С	Roa	ds under othe	r local						
	jur	1sd1cat1on							
	1.	On State Hig	hway						
		System		6	18	10	11	3_	2
	2	Not on State	High-						
		way System		5	3	7	14	12	9
Code	9		Descrip	tio	<u>n</u>				
_			No resp	ons	е				
1			Very of	ten					
2			Often						
3			Occasio	nal	ly				
4			Rar/ely						
5			Never						

Chaha	Urban inter-	State	Non-State	State	Non-State
<u>State</u>	<u>state</u>	system	system	system	System
Alabama	2	2	3	1	2
Alaska	-	2	3	3	3
Arizona	2	2	3	3	3
Arkansas	2	1	4	1	4
California	1	4	4	3	4
Colorado	1	1	3	4	4
Connecticut Delaware	1	2	3	3	4
Florida	2 1	2 1	5 4	4	5
Georgia	2	2	3	1 2	4 3
Hawa11	2	2	5	•	5
Idaho	1	1	3	1	3
Illinois	1	1	3	ī	3
Indiana	3	3	5	3	5
Iowa	4	2	2	1	2
Kansas	1	1	3	1	3
Kentucky	3	1	4	3	4
Louisiana	1	1	5	1	5
Maine	2	2	2	1	1
Maryland	2	2	3	2	3
Massachusetts	2	2	2	2	2
Michigan	3	3	5	-	_
Minnesota	4	4	5	3	5
Mississippi	2	1	3	1	3
Missouri	3	2	5	-	5
Montana	1	1	3	3	3
Nebraska	1	1	3	i	_
Nevada	3	2	3	2	3
New Hampshire	1	1	3	1	4
New Jersey	1	1	2	2	2
New Mexico	2	2	4	2	4
New York	1	1	1	1	1
North Carolina	2	2	5	5	5
North Dakota Ohio	1	1	3	1	3
WII0	1	1	5	5	5
Oklahoma	1	1	2	1	2
Oregon	1	2	4	1	4
Pennsylvania	4	2	4	-	-
Rhode Island	2	2	2	2	2
South Carolina	1	1	5	1	4
South Dakota	5	5	5	3	4
Tennessee	1	1	1	1	1
Texas	5	5 2	5	-	-
Utah Vermont	3	2	3	2	3
	_	3	2	2	2
Virginia	5	4	5	4	4
Washington	2	2	3	2	3
West Virginia	1	1	5	-	-
Wisconsin	4	3	3	3	3
Wyoming	3	3	5	3	5

Permanent scales

32	How many State-owned permanent scale sites are currently
	in use in your State's weight enforcement program?
	(Enter number.)
	Number permanent scale sites National total 769

33. Consider how easily overweight trucks can bypass your existing permanent scales. How many of the permanent scales in your State fall into each of the categories below. (Enter number of scales, if any, for each category.)

	Number		Aggregate response
A		_ Very easıly bypassed	133
в.		_ Easıly bypassed	364
c.		Borderline	71
D.	·	_ Difficult to bypass	104
Ε.		_ Very difficult or impossible	80
	Total classi	fied	<u>752</u>

Note: Arizona did not classify two of its scales; Missouri did not classify 15.

Chata	Q-32 Number of permanent scale	Very easily	Easıly	Border-	Difficult to	Difficult or
State	<u>sıtes</u>	bypass	bypass	<u>line</u>	bypass	<u>impossible</u>
Alabama	0	-	-	-	-	-
Alaska	10	-	2	-	8	-
Arizona	13	-	2	4	2	3
Arkansas	19	-	10	5	4	-
California	49	-	10	3	16	20
Colorado	25	4	20	_	-	1
Connecticut	6	-	6	-	-	-
Delaware	1	_	1	-	-	-
Flor 1da	21	-	-	1	20	-
Georgia	6	-	6	-	-	_
Hawa 11	0	-	-	_	_	_
Idaho	23	-	23	_	-	-
Illinois	32	-	32	-	-	+
Indiana	15	15	-	-	-	-
Iowa	37	-	37	-	-	_
Vange g	16	_	_	12	4	_
Kansas Kentucky	15	2	10	2	-	1
Louisiana	11	_	11	-	_	-
Maine	1	_	1	_	-	_
Maryland	3	3	_	-	-	-
	•					
Massachusetts	0	-	-	-	~	-
Michigan	19	-	19	-	-	- -
Minnesota	8 40	8 13	_ 21	-	2	4
Mıssıssıppı Mıssourı	37	13	5	5	5	6
/ / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /	3,	-	3	J	J	ū
Montana	35	4	4	6	9	12
Nebraska	15	1	5	5	4	-
Nevada	2	2	-	-	-	-
New Hampshire	4	-	-	4	-	-
New Jersey	1	-	1	-	-	-
New Mexico	15	_	9	_	6	-
New York	0	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	12	_	12	_	-	-
North Dakota	13		13	-	-	-
Ohio	23	23	-	-	-	-
Oklahoma	9	9	_	_	_	-
Oregon	64	9	14	9	13	19
Pennsylvania	i	_		i		-
Rhode Island	0	-	-	-	-	-
South Carolina	9	9	-	-	-	-
South Dakota	7	3	3	1	_	_
Tennessee	12	2	2	6	2	_
Texas	3	-	3	-	-	-
Utah	10	1	2	1	3	3
Vermont	4	2	Ξ	ī	ĺ	_
Virginia	14	2	8	1	2	1
Washington	62	_	52	-	_	10
West Virginia	3	_	1	2	-	-
Wisconsin	24	6	17	1	-	-
Wyoming	20	14	2	1	3	-
Total	<u>769</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>364</u>	<u>_71</u>	104	<u>80</u>

34. How many of the total number of permanent scale sites currently in use in your State are open for the following lengths of time? (Enter number of scales, if any, for each category.)

Number of scales	Length of time open	Aggregate	response
	168 hours a week		159
	120-167 hours a week		98
	72-119 hours a week		161
	24-71 hours a week		206
	Less than 24 hours a w	eek	142
	Total scales	shown	<u>766</u>

35. If you do not operate all permanent scale sites 168 hours a week, briefly explain why.

Code	Description	Aggregate response
-	No response	7
1	Not cost effective	2
2	Lack of manpower	17
3	Lack of traffic	4
4	Lack of funds	2
5	Used as needed	7
6	Use portable scales ins	tead l
7	1 + 3	3
8	2 + 3	3
9	Easily bypassed	4

36. Overall, to what extent, if any, are permanent scales effective in apprehending overweight trucks on the entire interstate system in your State?

Code	Description A	ggregate response
-	No response	10
1	Very great extent	1
2	Substantial or great ext	ent 20
3	Moderate extent	10
4	Some extent	4
5	Little or no extent	5

		Q-34, Hours Pe	er Week Permane	nt Scales Are O	perated		
<u>State</u>	168	120- 167	72- <u>119</u>	24- 71	less than <u>24</u>	Q-35, Reason Scales Open Less Than 168 Hours	Q-36, Effect- iveness Per- manent Scales
Alabama	-	-	-	-	_	-	_
Alaska	1	6	2	0	1	2	_
Arizona	5	5	1	0	0	7	2
Arkansas	14	3	1	0	ī	3	2
California	0	6	28	10	5	3	2
Colorado	19	0	5	1	0	2	3
Connecticut	ő	Ŏ	ő	ō	6	6	4
Delaware	Ö	Ö	Õ	ō	ŏ	5	<u>-</u>
Florida	9	3	1	5	3	2	2
Georgia	0	0	2	4	0	4	2

Hawall Iđaho	11	ī	- 3	8	_ 0	_ 5	3
Illinois	0	32	0	0	0	4	2
Indiana	ŏ	0	15	Ö	0	2	3
Iowa	ŏ	ŏ	17	20	Ŏ	í	3
Kansas	1	0	4	11	0	2	2
Kentucky	0	0	0	12	3	2	2
Louisiana	4	7	0	0	Ō	2	2
Maine	0	0 0	0 2	0 1	1	9 8	5 5
Maryland	U	U	2	1	U	e e	5
Massachusetts	-	_	-	_	-	_	_
Michigan	0	6	10	3	0	2	3
Mınnesota	0	2	1	3	2	2	4
Mississippi	29	4	4	3	Ō	2	2
Missouri	0	4	25	7	0	1	2
Montana	2	5	9	11	9	8	3
Nebraska	ō	2	4	9	ő	2	2
Nevada	ŏ	ō	ó	ó	ž	9	_
New Hampshire	0	0	0	0	4	7	2
New Jersey	0	0	0	1	0	2	5
New Mexico	12	3	0	0	0	8	2
New York	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	0	6	0	6	Õ	7	
North Dakota	13	ğ	Ŏ	ŏ	ŏ	<u>-</u>	2
Ohio	0	0	6	17	0	9	3
A. 1. 1	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Oklahoma Oregon	0 2	0 D	9 0	0	0 34	5	3 2
Pennsylvania	0	0	1	28 0	0	2 9	_
Rhode Island	-	-	_	-	_	-	_
South Carolina	0	0	2	1	6	2	2
		_	_	_	_	_	
South Dakota	0	0	0	Q	7	5	4
Tennessee Texas	8 0	0 0	0	2 3	2 0	3 5	1 5
Utah	10	0	0	0	0	- -	2
Vermont	Õ	ŏ	ŏ	ŏ	4	2	4
			_	-		_	
Virginia	7	1	2	0	4	2	2
washington .	4	2	6	17	33	2	2
West Virginia	0	o,	0	2	1	3	5
Wisconsin Wyoming	0 8	0° 0	0	14 7	10	5 5	3 3
Wyoming	<u>°</u>		1		4	Э	J
Total	159	98	161	206	142		
	===	===	===	3222			

Portable scales

- 37. How many State-owned portable scales are currently in use in your State's enforcement program? (Enter number.)

 Number portable scales National total 4,570
- 38. How often, if at all, do you use your portable scales for each of the following reasons?

		<u>A</u>	ggre	gate	res	oonse	
		-	_1	2	3	4	_5
A.	Preventing bypassing of						
	permanent scales	5	20	10	7	3	5
В.	Patrolling industrial or						
	construction areas	3	20	10	10	4	3
c.	Patrolling geographic areas of						
	responsibility	3	36	5	4	1	1
D.	Responding to complaints	2	22	11	11	2	2
E.	Other (Please specify)	47	1	1	0	0	1

Code	<u>Description</u>
-	No response
1	Regularly
2	Frequently
3	Occasionally
4	Seldom
5	Very seldom or never

Q-38,	How	Do	You	Üse	Your	Portable	Scales

			<u> </u>			
<u>State</u>	Q-37, Number of portable scales	Prevent bypass perm scales	Patrol industrial construction	Patrol geographic area	Response to complaint	Others
Alabama	100	5	5	1	3	_
Alaska	48	Ž	_	-	_	_
Arizona	10	4	3	1	2	_
Arkansas	68	2	2	ī	3	
California	321	ī	ī	ī	ì	-
Colorado	12	3	5	3	5	~
Connecticut	20	1	1	1	4	-
Delaware	2	3	-	1	3	~
Florida	167	1	1	1	1	-
Georgia	272	3	2	1	3	-
Hawall Idaho	4 28	5 1	3	-	5	-
Illinois	26 16	1	1 3	1	2	-
Indiana	120			1	3	~
Iowa	80	2 3	2 3	1 3	1 3	-
Kansas	61	2	3	1	2	
Kentucky	260	i	i	i	1	-
Louisiana	30	ī	ī	i	i	-
Maine	64	ī	ī	ī	ī	-
Maryland	90	2	2	ī	3	-
Massachusetts	52	-	1	1	1	-
Michigan	124	1	4	2	3	-
Minnesota	71	5	4	1	3	-
Mississippi	60	2	3	1	2	-
Missouri	15	1	2	2	4	-
Montana	29	2	3	2	1	-
Nebraska	8	ī	ì	ĩ	2	_
Nevada	6	5	ī	3	2	_
New Hampshire	44	1	4	i	ī	-
New Jersey	32	1	1	1	3	-
New Mexico	10	2	2	2	2	_
New York	156	-	1	1	1	1
North Carolina	352	1	1	1	1	-
North Dakota	84	1	1	1	1	-
Ohio	98	1	2	1	1	-
Oklahoma	98	2	4	1	2	-
Oregon	70 121	3 4	5 2	5	3	2
Pennsylvania Rhode Island	121	5		1	1	-
South Carolina	82	2	1 3	1 4	1 1	- 5
South Dakota	10	3	3	1	1	-
Tennessee	176	ĭ	i	i	2	_
Texas	556	i	2	i	ĺ	_
Utah	3	-	ī	i	i	_
Vermont	56	3	ī	i	î	-
Virginia	146	1	1	1	1	_
Washington	126	1	1	ī	ī	_
West Virginia	90	4	2	2	2	_
Wisconsin	110	2	3	3	2	-
Wyoming		-	-	-	-	-
Total	4,570					

39 If you had \$1 million to use for the purchase of additional weight enforcement equipment, in your opinion, what would be the most effective way to spend money?

Code	Description	Aggregate response
	No response	4
1	Permanent scales	10
2	Portable scale	
	sites	21
3	Weigh-in-motion	
	scales	7
4	Portable scales	5
5	Other permanent scales	3

40 Other than State-owned permanent or portable scales, do you use any other scales as part of your State's weight enforcement program?

Code	Desci	:1ption	Aggregate response
	No re	esponse	0
1	No	-	22
2	Yes	Commercial	
		scales	11
3	Yes	Not	
		specified	2
4	Yes	public	
		scales	9
5	Yes	private	
		scales	6

Do all, some or none of weight enforcement scale operators have the authority to issue overweight citations to the trucks they weigh?

Code	Description	Aggregate response
	1	
_	No response	0
1	All	39
2	Some	7
3	None	4

42 If scale operators cannot issue overweight citations to the trucks they weigh, how are citations usually issued to the violators they detect?

Code	Description	Aggregate response
_	No response	38
1	Policemen accompany team	8
2	Police on call	1
3	1 + 2	3

43. To what extent, if at all, does the need for police assistance to issue citations hamper weight enforcement in your State?

<u>Code</u>	Description	response
-	No response	36
1	Very great extent	0
2	Substantial or	
	great extent	0
3	Moderate extent	4
4	Some extent	3
5	Little or no extent	7

44 In your State, do individuals other than those hired primarily to weigh trucks currently weigh trucks for enforcement purposes?

Code	Desci	iption	Aggregate response
-	No re	esponse	0
1	No		28
2	Yes	State Highway Patrol	22

<u>State</u>	Q-39, Best Use of \$1 Million	Q-40, State Use of Other Scales	Q-41, Do Scale Operators Issue Citations	Q-42, If Not by Scale Operator How	Q-43, Lack of Police Hamper Enforcement	Q-44, Do Others Weigh <u>Trucks</u>
Alabama	3	1	2	1	4	1
Alaska	-	2	1	-	-	î
Arızona Arkansas	3	4	1	-	-	2
Arkansas California	4 3	1 5	1 2	- 1	<u>-</u> 5	1
***************************************		•	2	-	3	2
Colorado	2	4	1	-	-	2
Connecticut Delaware	4 2	5 1	2	1	5	2
Florida	-	2	1 1	-	5	2 1
Georgia	4	ĩ	î	-	_	1
-	_					•
Hawall Idaho	2	2	3	1	4	2
Illinois	1 1	2 5	1 1	-	-	1
Indiana	2	4	i	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	2 2
Iowa	2	2	i	-	_	1
	_					•
Kansas Kentucky	2 1	1	1	-	-	2
Louisiana	2	1 1	1	-	5	1
Maine	i	1	1 1	-	-	1
Maryland	î	2	2	<u>-</u> 1	<u> </u>	2 2
				-	•	2
Massachusetts	-	1	1	-	-	1
Mıchigan Mınnesota	2 4	2 4	1	-	-	1
Mississippi	2	1	1	-	-	2
Missouri	3	i	i	1	4	1 2
	_		-	•	•	2
Montana Nebraksa	1	4	1 ,/	-	-	1
Nebraksa N∈vada	2 2	3 2	1 1	-	-	2
New Hampshire	3	i	1	-	-	2
New Jersey	ĭ	i	i	_	-	2 1
			_			-
New Mexico New York	2	1	1	-		1
North Carolina	2 2	1	1	•	-	1
North Dakota	2	1	1	-	-	1
Ohio	4	i	2	3	5	1 1
		-	_	•	,	1
Oklahoma	1	4	1	-	_	1
Oregon	5 2	4	1	-	-	2
Pennsylvanıa Rhode Island	2	4 2	3	1	3	1
South Carolina	2	4	1	-	_	2 1
					_	1
South Dakota	2	1	3	3	3	2
Tennessee Texas	1 3	3	1	-	-	1
Utah	3	2 1	1 1	-	-	1
Vermont	5	5	1	-	<u>-</u>	1
		-	_		-	1
Virginia	2	1	2	1	5	1
Washington	5	5	1	-	-	2
West Virginia	2	1	3	3	3	1
Wisconsin Wyoming	2 1	2 5	1 2	-	-	2
ul Autrid	1	5	2	2	3	2

45. From October 1,1976, to September 30, 1977, approximately how many trucks were weighed, as part of your weight enforcement efforts, on permanent scales and how many were weighed on portable scales?

		Aggregate response
 Weighed scales	on permanent	63,773,001
Weighed	on portable scales	1,494,740
 Type of	scale not shown	4,695,601
		69,963,342

Note: Seven States did not respond.

46. From October 1, 1976, to September 30, 1977, approximately how many citations were issued to overweight trucks as a result of permanent scale weighings and how many were issued as a result of portable scale weighings?

	Aggregate response
Citations issued at permanent scales	255,068
Citations issued at portable scales	80,048
 Type of scale not shown	120,923
	456,039

Note: Six States did not respond.

		Q-45, Trucks Weighed			C-46, Citations Issued		
State	Weighed on permanent scales	Weighed on cortable scale	Type of scale not shown	Citation permanent scale	Citation portable scales	Type of scale not shown	
Alabama	_	11,075			4,646		
Alaska	=		26,149	-	-	439	
Arizona	-	-	20,031	-	_	226	
Arkansas	4,130,861	35,210	-	2,269	4,822	-	
California	4,491,000	79,000	-	45,733	7,644	-	
Colorado	1,724,723	434	_	4,004	138		
Connecticut	1,000	300	-	1,000	300	-	
Delaware	-	-		-	-	-	
Florida	-	262 200	3,433,534	-	4 445	24,511	
Georgia	-	263,290	-	-	4,461	-	
Hawall	-	188	-	-	12	-	
Idaho	250,000	17,000	-	1,000	2,000	-	
Illinois Indiana	5,176,300	126 452	-	30,090		-	
Iowa	813,067	126,453	004 722	11,122	6,891		
IOWA	_	-	804,733	-	-	15,101	
Kansas	612,735	19,691	-	2,149	739	_	
Kentucky	188,500	8,000	-	1,266	5,257	-	
Louisiana	3,000,000	30,000	-	4,967	2,632	-	
Maine Maryland	3,992	4,126	-	36	1,492	-	
rai y taiki	309,779	7,461	-	1,858	4,238	-	
Massachusetts	-	-	-	-	-	_	
Michigan	1,764,756	1,238	-	-	-	3,341	
Minnesota	9 064 000	40. 200	424,146			5,570	
Mississippi Missouri	8,964,000 3,800,000	48,200 104,000	-	7,128 9,478	2,249 938	_	
Montana	509,143	22 442			062		
Nebraska	1,188,100	22,443 13,767	-	4,186	963	-	
Nevada	602	147	_	19,800 116	4,597 136		
New Hampshire			_	-	150	-	
New Jersey	-	-	21,851	-	_	4,436	
New Mexico	_	-	_	_	_	_	
New York	-	39,968	-	_	9,992	-	
North Carolina		<u>a</u> /500,000	_	<u>a</u> /10,000	a/4,300	-	
North Dakota	936,752	2,529	-	25	123	-	
Chio	4,200,000	=	-	10,000	-	_	
Oklahoma	.	-	-	-		-	
Oregon	1,066,173	9,504	_	43,033	1,102	-	
Pennsylvania Rhode Island	-	-	12,960	-	-	378	
South Carolina	-	<u>-</u>	314,197	-	-	7,804	
South Dakota	_	_	20,000				
Tennessee	2,772,000	693,000	20,000	18,000	5,000	1,500	
Texas	_,,	-	_	10,000	J,000	39,071	
Utah	1,727,483	15,931	-	3,293	1,122	22,011	
Vermont	4,110	2,248	-	240	150	-	
Virginia	6,881,022	9,688	-	11,726	1,881	_	
Washington	4,047,206	42,994	-		-,552	18,546	
West Virginia	75,538	8,555	_	221	2,233	-	
Wisconsin	1,107,459	2 000	-	11,882	-	-	
wyoming	26,700			446	<u> </u>		
Total	63,773,001	1,494,740	4 695,601	255,068	80,048	120,923	
				=			

57

<u>a</u>/ Estimates

47. Of the total number of citations issued from October 1, 1977, to September 30, 1977, to overweight trucks, approximately how many were disposed of in the following ways? Totals include estimates.

Number	Disposition	Aggregate response
**************************************	Convicted	224,916
and the same of th	Acquitted	462
	Dismissed	11,394
	Other	16,733
	Unknown	159,428
		412,933

Note: Nine States did not respond.

Q-47,	Dist	position	of.	Citations

	Q-47, Disposition of Citations						
<u>State</u>	Convicted	Acquitted	Dismissed	Other	Unknown		
Alabama	-	-	_	_	4,646		
Alaska	-	-	-	-	-		
Arizona		-	-	-	226		
Arkansas	6,941	-	150	-	-		
California	-	-	-	-	53,377		
Colorado	<u>a</u> /	50	600	100	150		
Connecticut	- -	-	-	100	1,300		
Delaware	-	_	-	-	-,		
Florida	-	-	-	-	-		
Georgia	-	-	-	-	-		
je).					10		
Hawall Idaho	2 000	-	-	-	12		
Illinois	3,000 28,100	_	1,990	_	-		
Indiana	20,100	-	1///	_	18,013		
Iowa	19,400	_	200	_	-		
Kansas	2,392	-	73	423			
Kentucky	1,584	_	-	-	4,939		
Louisiana	98	2	-	-	7,499		
Maine Maryland	1,485 6,059	<u>-</u>	-	- 37	43		
Marytana	0,039		_	31			
Massachusetts	1,222	_	114	-	_		
Michigan	, -	-	_	-	3,341		
Minnesota	<u>a</u> / 5,303	111	156	-	· -		
Mıssıssıppı	9,377	-	-	-	-		
Missouri	-	-	-	-	10,416		
Montana	5,149	47	21	_	_		
Nebraska	23,802	4.7	324	261	_		
Nevada	150	2	10	_	-		
New Hampshire	-	-	-	-	-		
New Jersey	3,234	25	-	-	1,177		
New Mexico	_	-	_	_	-		
New York	9,054	_	353	261	324		
North Carolina	-	-	-	14,300	-		
North Dakota	147	-	-	-	1		
Chio	-	-	-	~	10,000		
Ok lahoma		_	_	_	_		
Oregon	$\frac{a}{40,933}$	_	2,100	_	_		
Pennsylvania	-	-	-	_	378		
Rhode Island	-	-	-	~	_		
South Carolina	<u>a</u> / 7,684	-	78	78	-		
Courbb Delegate	7 450	ne.	25				
South Dakota Tennessee	1,450 17,250	25	25 4,600	1 150	-		
Texas	17,430	Ξ	4,000	1,150	39,071		
Utah	-	_	_	-	4,415		
Vermont	388	-	2	_	7,115		
Virginia	13,327	-	157	123	-		
Washington	1,800	200	200	-	- 100		
West Virginia Wisconsin	1,800	200 -	200 238	-	100		
wyoming	443	_	3	- -	_		
7		_	<u> </u>				
Total	224,916	462	11,394	16,733	159,428		
4 7					- 1		

<u>a</u>/ Estimated

COMPTROLLER GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE CONGRESS

EXCESSIVE TRUCK WEIGHT: AN EXPENSIVE BURDEN WE CAN NO LONGER SUPPORT

DIGEST

America moves on its roads and these roads are in trouble. They are deteriorating at an accelerated pace and sufficient funds are not available to cope with current needs or meet future requirements.

While there are many uncontrollable causes of highway deterioration, such as weather, excessive truck weight is one cause that can be controlled. By strictly enforcing their weight laws, States could virtually eliminate damage caused by overweight trucks. While controlling truck weights will not eliminate highway deterioration, applying Federal weight limits to all trucks on all Federal-aid highways could reduce it even further.

National statistics show that at least 22 percent of all loaded tractor-trailers exceed State weight limits. This percentage is even higher for other types of large trucks. (See p. 11.)

In 1956, Congress established weight limits for interstate highways as a precondition for Federal highway funding, but these limits do not apply to noninterstate Federal—aid highways—95 percent of the Federal—aid system. Even for interstate highways, higher weights are often allowed. The Federal investment in the Nation's highway system, over \$96 billion since 1956, must be protected. (See p. 37.)

Congress should amend the highway legislation to:

- --Make Federal weight limits also apply to noninterstate Federal-aid highways in all States.
- --Terminate current exceptions in Federal law that allow higher limits on some interstate highways.

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--Prohibit overweight permits and exemptions when loads can be reduced to meet normal State weight limits. (See p. 47.)

Appendix I of this report contains proposed draft legislation implementing these recommendations.

HIGHWAY DETERIORATION

In 1977, FHWA reported that excluding routine maintenance expenditures, States need over \$18 billion to offset deterioration on the Interstate System through 1996. States will need \$67 billion over the next 20 years to meet similar needs on noninterstate roads on State highway systems. As the rate of deterioration increases, these needs will undoubtedly increase. (See p. 5.)

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials reported that concentrating large amounts of weight on a single axle multiplies the impact of the weight expo-Although a five-axle tractornentially. trailer loaded to the current 80,000-pound Federal weight limit weighs about the same as 20 automobiles, the impact of the tractortrailer is dramatically higher. Based on Association data, and confirmed by its officials, such a tractor-trailer has the same impact on an interstate highway as at least 9,600 automobiles. Increasing truck weight causes an ever increasing rate of pavement damage. (See p. 23.)

In 1975, the Federal limits were raised about 10 percent which could increase traffic-related pavement damage by up to 35 percent. Only 63 percent of interstate mileage and 15 percent of interstate bridges can adequately accommodate current heavy truck weights and volume without reducing serviceable life.

Although the Department of Transportation supported the increased Federal weight limits, it has no program sufficient to offset related increased costs to preserve the quality of the highways. The Secretary should address this problem. (See p. 24.)

While the 1975 weight increases were made to save fuel for heavy trucks, all vehicles use more fuel on deteriorated roads; heavier trucks use more fuel; and additional highway repairs require more fuel. Even though pressure is growing to further increase the Federal weight limits, the Department has not determined whether there has been an overall fuel saving since the higher limits were allowed. (See p. 29.)

The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1978 requires the Secretary of Transportation to study various aspects of truck weight limits including the desirability of uniform maximum truck weights and the appropriateness of current maximum vehicle weights.

The Congress should be given sufficient information to help it establish the most economical and fuel-efficient weight limits for the Federal-aid highway system and to help it preserve the system. GAO recommends that the Secretary include the following in the weight limit study:

- --Determine the net fuel consumption resulting from the impact of heavier truck
 weights taking into consideration that all
 vehicles use more fuel on deteriorated highways and fuel is used in maintaining and
 replacing these highways.
- --Identify the economic effect of changes in weight laws, the cost and benefits, who will pay the costs, and who will receive the benefits.
- --Determine the impact of any weight limit change on the current highway user tax structure and what changes may be needed to assure equitable allocation of costs.

INADEQUATE WEIGHT LIMITS

Current Federal weight limits do not protect the Federal-aid highway system from deterioration caused by excessive truck weights. This system constitutes only 20 percent of the Nation's highway mileage but carries about 75 percent of the traffic. Federal limits do not

apply to the noninterstate Federal-aid highways, which are generally much less capable of handling heavy trucks than the interstate system. Currently, 27 States have at least one weight limit--single axle, tandem axle, or gross weight--higher than the Federal limits on these noninterstate roads.

For interstate highways, 20 States have at least one weight limit higher than Federal limits because a provision in Federal law allowed States to retain higher limits. This provision also allows States to issue permits and exemptions for millions of unnecessary excessively heavy truck shipments each year.

Differences in State weight laws and permit policies create enforcement problems in States with lower limits, accelerate deterioration in States with higher limits, and present problems for interstate trucking. (See p. 37.)

OVERWEIGHT TRUCKS ON FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS

GAO's review of shipping records in 10 States showed numerous instances of routine over-weight truck shipments involving the Federal Government and private industry. For example,

- --90 percent of 179 grain deliveries to a Texas port facility exceeded State weight limits; one truck weighing 38,040 pounds over the State gross weight limit had traveled over 470 miles;
- --65 percent of 107 trucks hauling sand and gravel in Ohio were overweight. The average excess weight was 10,395 pounds; and
- --91 percent of 312 shipments from a Government facility in Ohio were overweight; more than 25 percent exceeded the State limits by 30,000 pounds.

STATE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

A good weight enforcement program requires effective enforcement techniques, stringent penalties, and adequate staff and funds. GAO identified numerous effective elements, but they were scattered among 50 State programs.

GAO found that many States efforts need improvement. For example:

- --State agencies enforce weight laws on only 40 percent of the Nation's highways.
- --There is little weight enforcement in urban areas.
- --Many States devote only minimal resources to weight enforcement.
- --Most fines for overweight violations are too low to be effective deterrents.
- --Many States do not have effective enforcement provisions.
- --Most permanent scales are ineffective because they are easily avoided. (See p. 61.)

FEDERAL ROLE IN WEIGHT ENFORCEMENT

By law, States must certify annually that they are adequately enforcing their weight limits and provide information on their enforcement efforts. The Secretary of Transportation uses this information to evaluate the adequacy of State efforts. If the Secretary determines that a State is not adequately enforcing State weight limits on Federal-aid highways, he must withhold 10 percent of that State's Federal-aid highway funds.

Despite congressional concern about the adequacy of State enforcement efforts, the Federal Highway Administration has not provided the guidance and assistance necessary to improve State programs.

Recently proposed new certification procedures will not assure adequate enforcement on a national basis because they provide for different performance criteria in each State. Evaluation criteria must assure that all State programs are directed toward a national enforcement objective.

States need a standard to evaluate their program that will enable them to identify problems and reliable alternative solutions.

The Highway Administration could fulfill this need by developing a model program and providing technical assistance through a small full-time group.

The Secretary of Transportation should direct the Federal Highway Administrator to:

- --Establish criteria for evaluating weight enforcement certifications and weight enforcement programs that will result in uniform and adequate levels of State enforcement on a national basis.
- --Develop, in cooperation with the States, a model weight enforcement program containing effective weight enforcement organization structures, methods, equipment, penalties, and laws.
- --Establish a small weight enforcement operating group within the Highway Administration to administer the certification requirement and act as a focal point for gathering and disseminating weight enforcement information and providing ongoing technical assistance to the States.

These and other recommendations are included in chapter 7.

OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

A number of Federal agencies, their contractors, and grantees, ship and receive cargoes in trucks that exceed State weight limits. The Director, Office of Management and Budget, in cooperation with the Secretary of Transportation, should formulate a Government-wide policy including legislation, if necessary, to prevent overweight truck shipments involving Federal agencies. (See p. 52.)

A QUESTION OF SAFETY

Although our review focused on truck weights, weight-related truck safety issues cannot be ignored. The public is being exposed to increasing vehicle size and weight differentials as automobiles get smaller and lighter while trucks become larger and heavier.

In 1969, the Highway Administrator told a congressional committee that he did not have enough reliable information to comment on the safety aspects of a proposed weight increase. As of June 1979, the agency was expecting a draft report on the relationship between truck weight and accidents. This is the first phase of a research project on truck safety scheduled to be completed by 1983. (See p. 30.)

AGENCY COMMENTS AND OUR EVALUATION

The Department of Transportation agreed with most of GAO's findings and supported its recommendations to the Congress. However, there were certain areas of disagreement and a lack of commitment to implement recommended agency action.

Department officials said that current diversity in State laws and practices clearly prevented them from establishing uniform enforcement criteria at this time. They agreed that a model program would be useful to the States but did not say they would develop one. Finally, the Department said it already had the basis for establishing a small operating group but did not discuss its plans to augment enforcement staffing.

Legitimate differences in State laws and practices do not preclude establishing uniform enforcement criteria because alternative approaches for effective enforcement currently exist in the States. Variances in State enforcement levels, methods, and laws will continue to reduce the effectiveness of weight enforcement. States need enforcement criteria to insure that their programs are directed toward a common objective. However, it must be broad enough to allow States to meet the criteria in the manner best suited to their particular needs.

The Department has information available to develop a model weight enforcement program but needs to make a commitment to do it. The Department's experience, the effective State enforcement elements identified in this report, and other information readily available in the

APPENDIX I

States is sufficient for both establishing the uniform criteria needed to evaluate and improve State weight enforcement and for developing a model program. In addition, the Department has not committed itself to establishing the small group needed to accomplish its enforcement objectives. (See p. 91.)

The Office of Management and Budget and the Department agreed that Federal agencies should be setting a better example in complying with State weight laws. They will discuss instituting a Government-wide policy to control overweight truck shipments and their ability to enforce it. GAO believes if such a policy cannot be developed under current law, OMB should propose new legislation because overweight shipments involving Federal agencies and their contractors and grantees need to be controlled by a unified Federal policy. (See p. 59.)

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