

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS SUPPLEMENT  
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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2004 No. 40.

**The Traffic and Road Safety (Weighbridges) Regulations, 2004.**

*(Under section 178 of the Traffic and Road Safety Act, Cap. 361)*

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon the Minister responsible for works by section 178 of the Traffic and Road Safety Act, 1998, these regulations are made this 5th day of December, 2003.

**1. Citation**

These Regulations may be cited as the Traffic and Road Safety (Weighbridges) Regulations, 2004.

**2. Interpretation**

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

“currency point” means twenty thousand shillings; or other values specified in the Traffic and Road Safety Act, 1998;

“owner” includes the legal owner, the person having custody or the person driving the vehicle, trailer or engineering plant;

“tandem axle group” means two axles suspended and interconnected in such a manner that any load imposed upon them will automatically be distributed to the two axles either equally or in proportions predetermined by the design of the suspension system, regardless of the road profile or road condition;

“triple axle group” means three axles suspended and interconnected in such a manner that any load imposed upon them will automatically be distributed to the three axles either equally or in proportions predetermined by the design of the suspension system, regardless of the road profile or road condition;

“quad axle group” means four axles suspended and interconnected in such a manner that any load imposed upon them will automatically be distributed to the four axles either equally or in proportions predetermined by the design of the system, regardless of the road profile or road condition;

“weighbridge controller ” means a person authorised by the Minister in writing.

### **3. Vehicles prohibited on roads**

The owner of a vehicle, trailer or engineering plant which has a gross weight which exceeds the total permissible combined axle load weights, shall not drive that vehicle, trailer or engineering plant on a road.

### **4. Permissible axle load weights**

(1) The maximum axle load weight allowed in case of a vehicle fitted with pneumatic tyres, whether laden or unladen, shall, if the axle or axle group is of—

- (a) a single steering axle, whether controlled by a draw bar or driver operated steering mechanism, be 8,000 kilogrammes;
- (b) a single axle fitted with four or more wheels, be 10,000 kilogrammes;
- (c) a tandem axle group on the front steering axle of a truck with two wheels on each axle be, 14,000 kilogrammes;
- (d) a tandem axle group having four wheels on each axle, be 16,000 kilogrammes;
- (e) a triple axle group having four wheels on each axle, be 24,000 kilogrammes;
- (f) a quad axle group having four wheels on each axle, be 32,000 kilogrammes;
- (g) a tandem axle group having four wheels on one axle and two wheels on another, be 12,000 kilogrammes;
- (h) a triple axle group having four wheels each on two axles and two wheels on one axle, be 18,000 kilogrammes.

(2) The axle weights specified in subregulation (1) are as configured in Part 1 of the Second Schedule.

### **5. Axle group not to transmit more than seventy five percent of permitted weight to road**

Except for the steering axle, a person shall not operate or drive any tandem or triple or quad axle group, where one or more of the axles is fitted with two wheels, and transmits to the road more than seventy five per cent of the maximum axle weight allowed.

### **6. Maximum gross weight**

(1) A person shall not drive or operate a vehicle, trailer or engineering plant or combination of vehicles, trailer or engineering plant fitted with pneumatic tyres, whether laden or unladen, where the gross weight exceeds, in the case of—

- (a) a vehicle, trailer or engineering plant with two axles, 18,000 kilogrammes;

- (b) a vehicle, trailer or engineering plant with three axles, 24,000 kilogrammes;
- (c) a vehicle, trailer or engineering plant with a tandem axle group on the front steering and a tandem axle at the rear, 30,000 kilogrammes;
- (d) a truck trailer vehicle with a total of four axles, 38,000 kilogrammes;
- (e) a truck trailer vehicle with a total of five axles, 42,000 kilogrammes;
- (f) a truck trailer vehicle with a total of six axles, 50,000 kilogrammes;
- (g) a truck trailer vehicle with a total of seven axles, 56,000 kilogrammes;
- (h) a semi-trailer vehicle with a total of three axles, 28,000 kilogrammes;
- (i) a semi-trailer vehicle with a total of four axles, 32,000 kilogrammes;
- (j) a semi-trailer vehicle with a total of five axles, 40,000 kilogrammes;
- (k) a semi-trailer vehicle with a total of six axles, 48,000 kilogrammes;
- (l) a semi-trailer vehicle with a total of seven axles, 56,000 kilogrammes.

(2) The truck load weights specified in subregulation (1) are as configured in Part II of the Schedule.

#### **7. Driving of vehicles transmitting excess weight prohibited**

No person shall drive a vehicle, trailer or engineering plant where any single axle of the vehicle transmits more than seventy five percent of the laden weight.

#### **8. Permissible vehicle, trailer or engineering plant dimensions**

The maximum vehicle, trailer or engineering plant dimensions permitted shall be as follows—

- (a) the maximum overall width of a motor vehicle, trailer or engineering plant together with any load projecting beyond the overall width of the vehicle, shall not exceed 2.5 metres;
- (b) the maximum overall height of a motor vehicle, trailer or engineering plant or combination of vehicles, trailer or engineering plant whether laden or unladen, shall not exceed 4.0 metres measured from the road surface;
- (c) the maximum overall length of a motor vehicle, trailer or engineering plant or combination of vehicles, trailer or engineering plant together with any load projecting beyond the overall length of the vehicle, trailer or engineering plant shall not exceed—
  - (i) for a single unit vehicle, trailer or engineering plant or drawbar trailer, 12.5 metres;
  - (ii) for an articulated vehicle, trailer or engineering plant including a semi-trailer, 17.0 metres;

- (iii) for a combination of vehicles, trailer or engineering plant consisting of either a motor vehicle, trailer or engineering plant and a drawbar trailer or an articulated vehicle, trailer or engineering plant with a drawbar trailer coupled to the semi-trailer, 22.0 metres.

## **9. Limitation on projecting loads**

The owner of a vehicle, trailer or engineering plant shall not carry a load on the vehicle, trailer or engineering plant if the load projects beyond—

- (a) the sides of a vehicle, trailer or engineering plant more than 0.15 metres;
- (b) the rear of a vehicle, trailer or engineering plant more than 1.25 metres;

except that a load may project beyond the rear of a vehicle, trailer or engineering plant not more than 1.8 metres, if the part of the load projecting that distance is clearly indicated by a conspicuous red marker during the day, and by a red light at night.

## **10. Permanent weigh-bridges**

(1) The Minister may cause permanent weighbridges to be erected alongside a public road or any other designated road for the purpose of weighing axle load weights of vehicles.

(2) The Minister shall, by notice in the *Gazette*, designate a weighbridge established under subregulation (1) as a weighbridge to which these Regulations apply.

## **11. Portable weigh-bridges**

There shall be kept in the custody of every District Executive Engineer or Officer-in-charge of a station of the Ministry responsible for public works, portable weighbridges which shall be used for the purpose of weighing the axle load weights of vehicles.

## **12. Weighbridge Unit.**

(1) There is established a Permanent Weighbridge Unit to be managed by the Ministry responsible for public works and the Uganda Revenue Authority or any other persons as shall be appointed by the Minister.

(2) The Permanent Weighbridge Unit shall be responsible for supervising the operation and maintenance of all weighbridges in Uganda.

## **13. Weighing of vehicles**

(1) The owner of a vehicle, trailer or engineering plant to which these Regulations apply shall, when required by a weighbridge controller to do so, submit his or her vehicle, trailer or engineering plant for weighing on a weighbridge.

(2) A person who refuses to submit his or her vehicle, trailer or engineering plant for weighing on a weighbridge under subregulation (1) commits an offence.

#### **14. Off-loading**

(1) A vehicle, trailer or engineering plant found in excess weight of the maximum axle weight allowed under regulation 4 may be off-loaded at the owner's risk and cost, up to the maximum axle weight allowed.

(2) Where a vehicle, trailer or engineering plant is found on a road to be in excess of the maximum prescribed axle weight for that road a police officer may—

(a) direct the driver or other person in charge of the motor vehicle, trailer or engineering plant to park it by the road side and remove the excess weight at the expense of the owner or other person responsible for the motor vehicle, trailer or engineering plant; or

(b) impound the motor vehicle, trailer or engineering plant until excess weight is removed at the expense of the owner or other person responsible for the load.

(3) Any person who obstructs the police in the carrying out of their functions under subregulation (2) or who otherwise refuses or fails without lawful excuse to offload under this regulation commits an offence.

#### **15. Exemption**

The Minister may, in writing, exempt a vehicle, trailer or engineering plant from any of the provisions of these regulations.

#### **16. Offences and penalties**

(1) Any person who contravenes regulation 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 13 of these Regulations, commits an offence.

(2) Any person who commits an offence under this or other provisions of these Regulations, is, on conviction liable—

(a) on a first offence to a fine not exceeding fifteen currency points or imprisonment, not exceeding one year or both;

(b) on a second or subsequent offence to a fine not exceeding thirty currency points or imprisonment not exceeding two years or both;

(c) in the case of a continuing offence to an additional fine not exceeding ten currency points in respect of each day on which the offence continues.

(3) Notwithstanding subregulation (2) (a), in the case of offences under regulation 4, 5, 6, or 7, the fine in the case of a first offence shall be—

(a) a minimum of ten currency points and not exceeding fifteen currency points, where the axle overload is in excess of five hundred

kilogrammes but does not exceed two thousand kilogrammes in respect of each overload axle;

- (b) not exceeding twenty currency points where the axle overload is in excess of two thousand kilogrammes but does not exceed four thousand kilogrammes in respect of each overload axle;
- (c) not exceeding thirty currency points where the axle overload is in excess of four thousand kilogrammes in respect of each overload axle; and
- (d) in the case of an offence to which paragraph (c) relates a police officer may—
  - (i) direct the driver or other person in charge of the motor vehicle, trailer or engineering plant to park it by the road side and remove the excess weight at the expense of the owner or other person responsible for the motor vehicle, trailer or engineering plant; or
  - (ii) impound the motor vehicle, trailer or engineering plant until the excess weight is removed at the expense of the owner or other person responsible for the load.

(4) Any court which convicts a person of a contravention of these Regulations may order the forfeiture to the State of anything used or involved in the commission of the contravention.

**17. Revocation of S.I. No. 70 of 1998**

The Traffic and Road Safety (Weighbridges) Regulations, 1998 are revoked.

SCHEDULE

*Regulation 4(2)*

Part I

AXLE CONFIGURATION

Limit in (Kgs '000)

SCHEDULE

*Regulation 6(2)*

Part II

TRUCK CONFIGURATION

Limit in (Kgs '000)

*Minister of Works, Housing and Communications.*

JOHN M. NASASIRA,