

(5) Before April 30, 1991, subsections (b) and (c) of this section do not apply to any combination of vehicles carrying manifested international freight as the only load of the vehicles in a sealed, seagoing container on a semitrailer titled and registered before May 1, 1987. However, this combination of vehicles:

(i) Is subject to the maximum load limits of 20,000 pounds for a single axle, 34,000 pounds for 2 consecutive axles, and 79,000 pounds for gross combination weight; and

(ii) May only be operated on any part of the interstate system or other State system highways that are designated by the Secretary in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Transportation, or on a highway that is the shortest practical route between a designated highway and a truck terminal, or point of origin/designation for cargo, or, for a distance not to exceed 1 mile, facilities for food, fuel, repairs, or rest.]

(b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this title, the overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecutive axles may not exceed an amount produced by application of the following formula:

$$W = 500 \left(\frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36 \right)$$

where "W" = overall gross weight on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, "L" = distance in feet measured horizontally between the vertical centerlines of the extreme of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles, and "N" = number of axles in group under consideration, except that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each providing the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more; provided, that such overall gross weight may not exceed eighty thousand (80,000) pounds, including any enforcement or statutory tolerances.

(c) The following table indicates the permissible overall gross weights based upon the above formula:

Distance in feet						
between the						
extremes of any						
group of 2 or						
more consecutive						
axles	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles	7 axles
4	34,000					
5	34,000					
6	34,000					
7	34,000					
8	34,000	34,000				
and						
less						
More						
than	38,000	42,000				