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and no motor vehicle, equipped with four wheels, of which the weight of the vehicle and the load combined exceeds twenty-five thousand (25,000) pounds shall be operated on any highway of this State, and no motor vehicle, equipped with six wheels, of which the weight of the vehicle and load combined exceeds forty thousand (40,000) pounds, shall be operated on any highway of this State. Except in the case of motor vehicles now owned and heretofore registered in this State, no certificate shall be granted for the registration of any motor vehicle, equipped with four wheels, having a rated carrying capacity of over five tons, nor of any motor vehicle, equipped with six wheels, having a rated carrying capacity of over ten tons, and except as aforesaid, no motor vehicle, equipped with four wheels, having a greater rated carrying capacity than five tons, and no motor vehicle, equipped with six wheels, having a greater rated carrying capacity than ten tons shall be operated over any public highway of this State, these provisions being absolutely necessary in the opinion of the General Assembly for the proper protection and continued maintenance of the public highways of this State.

(2A) Weight of Commercial Motor Vehicles, Two Axles, Equipped with Pneumatic Tires and Motor Fuel Operated. Commercial Motor Vehicles, two axles, pneumatic tires, and operated by motor fuel shall not be used or operated on any highway of this State with gross weight exceeding those as set forth in the following classes:

Commercial vehicles, with a shipping weight less than 2,500 pounds, shall not have a gross weight in excess of 6,000 pounds.

Commercial vehicles, with a shipping weight of 2,500 pounds and over, but less than 3,500 pounds shall not have a gross weight in excess of 9,000 pounds.

Commercial vehicles, with a shipping weight of 3,500 pounds and over, but less than 5,000 pounds shall not have a gross weight in excess of 12,000 pounds.

Commercial vehicles, with a shipping weight of 5,000 pounds and over, but less than 6,000 pounds shall not have a gross weight in excess of 16,000 pounds.

Commercial vehicles, with a shipping weight of 6,000 pounds and over, but less than 7,500 pounds, shall not have a gross weight in excess of 20,000 pounds.

Commercial vehicles, with a shipping weight of 7,500 pounds and over, shall not have a gross weight in excess of 25,000 pounds.

(2B) Weight of Commercial Vehicle, Three Axles, Equipped with pneumatic Tires, and Motor Fuel Operated. Commercial motor vehicles, three axles, pneumatic tires, and operated by motor fuel, shall not be used or operated on any highway of this State with gross weight exceeding those as set forth in the following classes:

Commercial vehicles with a shipping weight less than 3,500 shall not have a gross weight in excess of 11,000 pounds.