



CH-Berne, January 2008

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR DRIVERS OF FOREIGN HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES (TOTAL AUTHORISED WEIGHT EXCEEDING 3.5T) TO, IN TRANSIT THROUGH, AND OUT OF SWITZERLAND**

### **1 *Vehicle weights and dimensions***

#### **1.1 Maximum gross weights**

Maximum gross weights apply to HGVs and trailers according to registered category:

Motor vehicles:

- 40 t for motor vehicles with more than four axles, respectively 44 t for unaccompanied combined transports (see No. 4);
- 32 t for motor vehicles with four axles;
- 25 t for motor vehicles with three axles;
- 26 t for motor vehicles with three axles, when the driving axle is fitted with twin tyres and air suspension (or equivalent), or if each driving axle is fitted with twin tyres and the maximum weight of each axle does not exceed 9.5 tonnes;
- 18 t for motor vehicles with two axles.

Trailers (excluding semi-trailers and centre-axle trailers):

- 32 t for trailers with four axles;
- 24 t for trailers with three axles;
- 18 t for trailers with two axles.

Road trains:

- 40 t for road trains with 5 or more axles, respectively 44 t for unaccompanied combined transports (see No. 4), though neither the motor vehicle nor the trailer may exceed the above-mentioned weight limit for single vehicles.

Articulated vehicles:

40 t for articulated vehicles (with 5 or more axles) respectively 44 t for unaccompanied combined transports (see No. 4).

1.2 Maximum axle weights

Motor vehicles:

10 t single axles;

11.5 t single driving axles;

11.5 t tandem axles with a distance between the axles of less than 1 metre;

16 t tandem axles with a distance between the axles from 1 metre to less than 1.3 metres;

18 t tandem axles with a distance between the axles from 1.3 metres to less than 1.8 metres;

19 t tandem axles with a distance between the axles from 1.3 metres to less than 1.8 m, if the driving axle is fitted with twin tyres and air suspension or an equivalent suspension, or if each driving axle is fitted with twin tyres and the maximum weight of each axle does not exceed 9.5 tonnes.

21 t tri-axles with distances between the axles of not more than 1.3 metres;

24 t tri-axles with distances between the axles of more than 1.3 metres and not more than 1.4 metres;

27 t tri-axles with a distance between the axles of more than 1.4 metres.

Trailers:

10 t single axles;

11 t tandem axles with a distance between the axles of less than 1 metre;

16 t tandem axles with a distance between the axles from 1 metre to less than 1.3 metres;

18 t tandem axles with a distance between the axles from 1.3 metres to less than 1.8 metres;

20 t tandem axles with a distance between the axles from 1.8 metres or more;

- 21 t tri-axles with distances between the axles of not more than 1.3 metres;
- 24 t tri-axles with distances between the axles of more than 1.3 metres and not more than 1.4 metres.
- 27 t tri-axles with a distance between the axles of more than 1.4 metres .

### 1.3 Maximum lengths (metres)

- 12.00 m motor vehicles, except buses;
- 12.00 m trailers, excluding semi-trailers;
- 13.50 m buses with two axles;
- 15.00 m buses with more than two axles;
- 16.50 m articulated vehicles;
- 18.75 m road trains;
- 18.75 m articulated buses.

If any removable attachments such as ski-boxes are fitted to a bus or a articulated bus, it's length, including the attachments, must not exceed the maximum length laid down above.

### 1.4 Maximum widths (metres)

- 2.60 m conditioned vehicles (each sidewall at least 45 mm thick);
- 2.55 m all other vehicles.

### 1.5 Maximum height (metres)

- 4.00 m all vehicles, including load.

## 2 **Tolerance**

There are no tolerances on the above mentioned weights and dimensions.

### **3 Exemptions from maximum weights and dimensions**

Vehicles and vehicle combinations that exceed the maximum weights and dimensions cited in section 1 above require a special exemption permit.

Exemptions may only be granted for overweight or over-size vehicles if they are carrying non-separable goods with qualified vehicles.

Applications for exemptions from maximum weights and dimensions should be submitted to the Bundesamt für Strassen, c/o Schadenwehr Gotthard, Postfach, CH-6487 Göschenen (phone no. + 41 (0)41 885 03 20, fax no. + 41 (0)41 885 03 21, [www.sonderbewilligung.ch](http://www.sonderbewilligung.ch)). All applications must be made in writing 7 days prior to commencement of the journey. Exemptions for transports from Switzerland to a foreign country are issued by the relevant cantonal authorities (see [www.asa.ch](http://www.asa.ch)).

### **4 Unaccompanied combined transport: road/water or road/rail**

Unaccompanied combined transport refers to the carriage of containers and removable superstructures or the transport of HGV trailers from or to any rail freight transfer station or from or to any port in Switzerland, whereby the load does not change containers during transfer from one form of transport to another.

The following foreign rail and shipping transfer stations located immediately across the Swiss border are regarded as equivalent to Swiss transfer stations:

Singen (Germany), Bludenz (Austria), Wolfurt (Austria), Busto Arsizio (Italy), Rheinhafen Weil (Germany).

Journeys to and from transfer stations for the purpose of unaccompanied combined transport may be carried out by vehicles with a total weight of up to 44 tonnes without the need for a permit. However, drivers must be able to demonstrate that their journey is expressly for the purpose of unaccompanied combined transport. For deliveries to a transfer station they should possess a booking confirmation, and for collection from a transfer station they should be able to present a bill of lading stamped by the rail operator, or an equivalent certificate from the shipping company. If no such documents can be produced, the maximum permissible total weight is 40 tonnes.

The applicable maximum weights for individual vehicles may not be exceeded. The dimensions of transfer equipment (bridges, containers, etc.) do not count as part of the load and must be treated as fixed vehicle installations when measuring the length, width and height of the vehicle.

### **5 Cabotage (inland traffic)**

Inland traffic with foreign vehicles is prohibited. If used in for-profit transport of passengers or goods picked up and set down in Switzerland, and provided Swiss custom laws do not permit such transports with foreign vehicles, both motor vehicles and trailers must have Swiss vehicle documents and license plates.

## **6 Sunday and night-time ban**

With the exception of passenger vehicles, there is a ban on transport on Sundays and general legal holidays concerning

- motor vehicles with a total authorized weight exceeding 3.5t
- articulated vehicles with a total authorized towing weight exceeding 5 t; and
- vehicles with a trailer with a total authorized weight exceeding 3.5 t.

Moreover, there is a year-round ban on night-time driving concerning these vehicles from 10pm to 5am.

Exemptions:

Exemptions may only be granted for emergencies (unavoidable journey on a Sunday or at night). Applications for exemptions must be submitted to the canton of domicile, or to the canton of origin of the journey subject to approval. In the event of journeys originating abroad, the journey subject to approval begins in the canton of entry into Switzerland. As a rule, the permit-granting authority is the cantonal Road Traffic Office (Strassenverkehrsamt), or the cantonal Motor Vehicle Inspection Office (Motorfahrzeugkontrolle), respectively (see [www.asa.ch](http://www.asa.ch)). In the cantons of Basel-City, Basel-Country and Grisons, please apply to the cantonal or traffic police (see [www.police.ch](http://www.police.ch)).

## **7 Speed limits**

Maximum permissible speeds on Swiss roads:

Within developed areas	50 km/h
Outside developed areas	
- Motor vehicles with a total permissible weight of more than 3.5 t	80 km/h
- Semi-trailers and articulated trucks	80 km/h
On motorways (minimum speed, 80 km/h)	80 km/h

These speed limits may not be exceeded, even if higher maximum speeds are indicated on road signs.

## **8 Useful addresses**

Federal Department of  
Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC)  
Bundeshaus Nord  
CH-3003 Berne, Switzerland  
Phone no. ++41 (0)31 322 57 11  
Fax no. ++41 (0)31 322 58 11

Swiss Federal Roads Authority (FEDRO)  
Vehicles division  
Mühlestrasse 2, 3063 Ittigen,  
CH-3003 Berne, Switzerland  
Phone no. ++41 (0)31 322 94 11  
Fax no. ++41 (0)31 323 23 03

Swiss Federal Customs Administration  
Vehicles and Road Use Fees  
Monbijoustrasse 40  
CH-3003 Berne, Switzerland  
Phone no. ++41 (0)31 322 66 63  
Fax no. ++41 (0)31 322 78 72

Swiss Road Transport Association (ASTAG)  
Weissenbühlweg 3  
CH-3007 Berne, Switzerland  
Phone no. ++41 (0)31 370 85 85  
Fax no. ++41 (0)31 370 85 89