



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Department of Transportation  
Motor Carrier Transportation Division  
3930 Fairview Industrial Dr SE  
Salem, OR 97302-1166

**DATE:** April 14, 2014

**TO:** All Motor Carriers with Single Unit Trucks Registered

**FROM:** Christy Jordan, Manager  
Over-Dimension Permit Unit

**SUBJECT:** **New Bridge Load Rating and Posting Requirements for Specialized Hauling Vehicles (SHVs)**

This letter is to advise you of new federal bridge load rating and posting requirements for "Specialized Hauling Vehicles" (SHVs).

SHVs are closely-spaced multi-axle single unit trucks which were introduced by the trucking industry in the last decade. These 4-axle, 5-axle, 6-axle, and 7-axle trucks are heavier, however still comply with Federal Bridge Formula B weights and are considered legal. Examples include dump trucks, construction vehicles, solid waste trucks and other hauling trucks.

A study was conducted of the current AASHTO standard legal vehicle models, which are used to complete bridge load ratings. The study demonstrated that the models did not characterize all vehicles, specifically the SHVs. As a result, new legal models for SHVs were developed and adopted by AASHTO and are now required to be included in each State's load rating process.

Beginning in June 2014, all load rating analysis will now factor in and evaluate these new SHV vehicle models for load posting purposes. Per a joint ODOT-FHWA Memo of Agreement, if a load rating analysis shows that a bridge has insufficient capacity for legal vehicles (including the new SHV models), Oregon will have 6 months to have the bridge either repaired or posted for the load.

The intent of the load rating and posting provisions is to ensure all bridges are appropriately evaluated to determine their safe live load carrying capacity considering all unrestricted legal loads as well as permit loads, and that bridges are appropriately posted if required.

Per Federal requirements, all bridges that have a load rating analysis for standard legal vehicles with a capacity rating below a set threshold will need to be evaluated to include the SHV models no later than December 31, 2017. The remaining bridges shall be completed by December 31, 2022.

Please take some time to review the enclosed document which explains these new requirements and SHV models in more detail.

For questions regarding this information, you may contact Bert Hartman, ODOT Bridge Program Manager, (503) 986-3395.

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Over-Dimension Permit Manager  
503-378-6192

Enclosure