
SENATE BILL 6524

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators Deccio, Prince, Newhouse, Sellar, Morton, Hochstatter, Hale, Owen and Loveland

Read first time 01/17/96. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to tire factors in maximum gross weights; and
2 amending RCW 46.44.042.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.44.042 and 1993 c 103 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 Subject to the maximum gross weights specified in RCW 46.44.041, it
7 is unlawful to operate any vehicle upon the public highways with a
8 gross weight, including load, upon any tire concentrated upon the
9 surface of the highway in excess of six hundred pounds per inch width
10 of such tire. (~~Other than the nonliftable steering axle on the power
11 unit or tiller axle on fire fighting apparatus,~~) An axle manufactured
12 after July 31, 1993, carrying more than ten thousand pounds gross
13 weight must be equipped with four or more tires. Effective January 1,
14 1997, an axle(~~(, excluding the nonliftable steering axle on the power
15 unit or tiller axle on fire fighting apparatus,~~) carrying more than
16 ten thousand pounds gross weight must have four or more tires,
17 regardless of date of manufacture. Instead of the four or more tires
18 per axle requirements of this section(~~(:—(1))~~), an axle may be
19 equipped with two tires limited to five hundred pounds per inch width

1 of tire(~~(; or (2) in the case of a ready mix concrete transit truck,~~
2 ~~the rear booster trailing axle may be equipped with two tires limited~~
3 ~~to six hundred pounds per inch width of tire)).~~ This section does not
4 apply to vehicles operating under oversize ((and)) or overweight
5 permits, or both, issued under RCW 46.44.090, while carrying a
6 nonreducible load.

7 The following equipment may operate at six hundred pounds per inch
8 width of tire: (1) A nonliftable steering axle or axles on the power
9 unit; (2) a tiller axle on fire fighting apparatus; (3) a rear booster
10 trailing axle equipped with two tires on a ready-mix concrete transit
11 truck; and (4) a straddle trailer manufactured before January 1, 1996,
12 equipped with single-tire axles or a single axle using a walking beam
13 supported by two in-line single tires and used exclusively for the
14 transport of fruit bins between field, storage, and processing. A
15 straddle trailer manufactured after January 1, 1996, meeting this use
16 criteria may carry five hundred fifteen pounds per inch width of tire
17 on sixteen and one-half inch wide tires.

18 For the purpose of this section, the width of tire in case of solid
19 rubber or hollow center cushion tires, so long as the use thereof may
20 be permitted by the law, shall be measured between the flanges of the
21 rim. For the purpose of this section, the width of tires in case of
22 pneumatic tires shall be the maximum overall normal inflated width as
23 stipulated by the manufacturer when inflated to the pressure specified
24 and without load thereon.

25 The department of transportation, under rules adopted by the
26 transportation commission with respect to state highways, and a local
27 authority, with respect to a public highway under its jurisdiction, may
28 extend the weight table in RCW 46.44.041 to one hundred fifteen
29 thousand pounds. However, the extension must be in compliance with
30 federal law, and vehicles operating under the extension must be in full
31 compliance with the 1997 axle and tire requirements under this section.

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