

Bridge Weight Limit Signs Explained

For the past several years the City of Seattle has been evaluating our bridges for Specialized Hauling Vehicles as required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). As a result, several bridges throughout the city have been posted for these types of vehicles. Below are examples of the street signs which indicate the allowable loads for these vehicles.

Standard Bridge Weight Limit Sign

Single Unit Truck: a three-axle single-unit vehicle with a maximum legal load of 25 Tons. *In this example, the sign indicates the bridge can carry a single unit truck weighing a maximum of 8 Tons.*

Standard Semi-Truck: a five-axle single-unit vehicle with a maximum legal load of 36 Tons. *In this example, the sign indicates the bridge can carry a semi-truck weighing a maximum of 12 Tons.*

Combination Truck: a six-axle combination of a single unit vehicle pulling a trailer with a maximum legal load of 40 Tons. *In this example, the sign indicates the bridge can carry a combination truck weighing a maximum of 16 Tons.*



Specialized Hauling Vehicle Weight Limit Sign

4-axle Single Unit Truck: maximum legal load of 27 Tons. *In this example, the sign indicates the bridge can carry a 4-axle single unit truck weighing a maximum of 27 Tons.*

5-axle Single Unit Truck: maximum legal load of 31 Tons. *In this example, the sign indicates the bridge can carry a 5-axle single unit truck weighing a maximum of 29 Tons.*

6-axle Single Unit Truck: maximum legal load of 34.7 Tons. *In this example, the sign indicates the bridge can carry a 6-axle single unit truck weighing a maximum of 29 Tons.*

7-axle Single Unit Truck: maximum legal load of 38.7 Tons. *In this example, the sign indicates the bridge can carry a 7-axle single unit truck weighing a maximum of 30 Tons.*

