



Construction Policy Bulletin

CPB 16-1 Vehicle Load Limits on Structures for Material Transfer Vehicles and Other Equipment

References:	2010 revised <i>Standard Specifications</i>	Section 39, "Hot Mix Asphalt"
	2010 <i>Standard Specifications</i>	Section 5-1.23B, "Action Submittals" Section 5-1.37, "Maintenance and Protection"
	California Vehicle Code	Division 15, "Size, Weight, and Load"
	<i>Bridge Construction Records and Procedures</i>	BCM 150-1.0, "Weight Overload Guidelines for Bridges on Construction Projects"
	<i>Construction Manual</i>	Section 3-519, "Maintenance and Protection" Section 4-3902J, "Prepaving Conference" Section 5-003, "Preconstruction Conferences With the Contractor"

Effective Date: January 5, 2016

Approved: 
RACHEL FALSETTI, Chief
Division of Construction

Approval Date: January 4, 2016

New Procedure

When the contract requires the use of material transfer vehicles (MTVs), or other types of heavy paving equipment, it is the resident engineer's responsibility to protect Caltrans' structural assets. To accomplish this, the resident engineer is to discuss at the prepaving and preconstruction conferences the contractor's plans to conform to the load limit requirements.

The resident engineer must coordinate with the project's structure representative on the review of all submittals requesting authorization to place on, or cross a structure with equipment that exceeds the weight limits. If a structure representative has not been assigned to the contract, coordinate the review through the bridge construction engineer. Structure construction personnel will review the overload proposal in accordance with the *Bridge Construction Records and Procedures* manual, Bridge Construction Memo 150-1.0, "Weight Overload Guidelines for Bridges on Construction Projects." After written authorization is provided, the resident engineer will coordinate with the structure representative (or the bridge construction engineer) to ensure the contractor's plan to move the overload across the structure is implemented according to the authorized plan.

California Vehicle Code Division 15 establishes weight limits for vehicles on highways that resident engineers must enforce by not allowing anything over the limits on structures unless the contractor has been provided written authorization. The authorization may be from the resident engineer, or have already been provided by a permit issued by the Transportation Permit Office. Immediately stop work on the related portion of the contract if the contractor refuses to comply with the weight limit specification on structures.

Background

MTVs are being specified more frequently since *Standard Specifications* Section 39, “Hot Mix Asphalt,” was revised in April 2014 to require the use of MTVs on projects placing rubberized hot mix asphalt, open-graded friction courses, and bonded-wearing courses. The most commonly used MTVs have axle loadings double the legal limit when empty, and triple the legal limit when loaded. MTVs typically exceed the legal weight limit established by California Vehicle Code, Division 15, “Size, Weight, and Load.”

Prior to this change, MTVs were only specified on bonded-wearing course projects. Existing guidelines regarding load limits are described in *Construction Manual* Sections 3-519B, “Load Limits”; and 5-003, “Preconstruction Conferences With the Contractor.”

If you have questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Pete Spector, Division of Construction, at pete.spector@dot.ca.gov or (916) 227-7306.