



## Vehicle Weight

The National Ground Water Association, founded in 1948, is a not-for-profit professional society and trade association for the groundwater industry. Our international membership includes some of the leading public and private sector groundwater scientists, engineers, water well contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers of groundwater-related products and services. NGWA has been and continues to be a forum for discussing and promoting the responsible protection, utilization, and cleanup of the nation's groundwater.

### Subjects

Water well construction and service; water well pump installation and service; vehicle movement; vehicle weight; safety

### Audience

Government officials, contractors

### Background

When the Federal Bridge Formula was adopted in the mid-1950s, grandfather provisions were given to most states. This grandfathering policy has created a confusing and antibusiness climate when groundwater contractors attempt to move their equipment from shop to job or from one job to another. Since equipment is designed for off-road use, it may be difficult to comply with the weight limitation pertinent to axle weight while maintaining equipment stability and safety on the road. Moving from state to state, especially in compact geographic business areas, can be especially complicated in attempting to secure the appropriate permits where they exist.

Congress requested that the Transportation Research Board (TRB) conduct a study on the recalculation of the Bridge Formula in the late 1980s, which it did. Congress has never taken any action on this study or the recalculations.

## Recommended Position

- Request that Congress accept the recalculated Bridge Formula presented to it by the TRB.
- Request that Congress mandate the U.S. Department of Transportation to address both truck and non-trucking distinctions when conducting the zero-base and writing regulations; reevaluate the Federal Motor Carrier Regulations with respect to specialized mobile equipment designed for off-road use, as opposed to the trucking industry.
- NGWA should pursue congressional acknowledgment that equipment particular to the groundwater industry should be appropriately regulated. Across-the-board application of regulations devised for other activities, such as motor carriers, misuses economic resources without enhancing public health, safety, or welfare.

## Contact

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## Dates

*Excerpted from Weight Restrictions Supporting Document approved by the NGWA Government Affairs Committee on January 20, 1995; technical update December 15, 2011; technical update June 19, 2013; technical update July 21, 2014; technical update March 26, 2015; technical update February 24, 2016.*

The National Ground Water Association is a not-for-profit professional society and trade association for the global groundwater industry. Our members around the world include leading public and private sector groundwater scientists, engineers, water well system professionals, manufacturers, and suppliers of groundwater-related products and services. The Association's vision is to be the leading groundwater association advocating for responsible development, management, and use of water.



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