



The Pennsylvania Towing Association (PTA) would like to make you aware of some of the rules and regulations effecting our industry. We encourage our members to adhere to all the laws and follow the guidelines provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We want you to keep safety in the forefront of everything you do when performing your job. It would be impossible to address every towing law however we wanted to answer some of the most commonly asked questions.

The PTA realizes that many trucks built today do not have the same load capacity as trucks built in the past, specifically those designed for normal passenger vehicles and light trucks. The average rollback used today for passenger vehicles and light trucks will have an average Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of approximately 19,500 lbs. with a curb weight (Unladen Weight) of 12,000 lbs., allowing you to haul up to 7,500 lbs. legally. As we move up in the various weight classifications the calculations as stated above for load capacities will increase accordingly. You do not want to exceed the recommended load capacity.

For the purpose of traveling only within the State of Pennsylvania (Intrastate Commerce) you will be subjected to same weight limitations or by the weight limitations noted on the manufacturers specifications commonly found inside the driver's door.

When traveling outside the borders of Pennsylvania (Interstate Commerce) you will be expected to adhere to the proper hauling weights as described above. In addition, you will be expected to have a registration certificate indicating the gross GVWR. Most other states do not recognize RT Tags (Repair & Towing) therefore you may be subjected to some hefty fines.

[Click here to learn more about Pennsylvania Registrations Fees](#)

Note: The above-mentioned registration fees are subject to change without notice.

In both cases Interstate or Intrastate you cannot exceed the gross vehicle weight rating. It is recommended that you determine the amount of weight you're hauling before loading and beginning your trip. Please refer to the link we provided, PA Truckers Handbook, PUB-194 for all other weight classifications and weight limitations. This handbook is very informative. You will learn more about Interstate travel and what is required such as:

- USDOT Numbers
- MC Numbers
- IFTA Motor Carriers Road Tax
- UCR Numbers Unified Carrier Registration
- HVUT Heavy Vehicle Use Tax

The following link will take you to the PA Trucker's Handbook (PUB 194), this handbook has most of the information you'll need to operate a truck in Pennsylvania safely. The Truckers Handbook is an excellent resource for finding information about the trucking business. You'll also find licensing requirements, legal weights, and so much more.

[Click here to learn more about the Truckers Handbook PUB-194](#)

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The following links will help you find information about many of the different rules and regulations for the trucking industry. These links have been provided by the various agencies directly involved in our industry.

[Pennsylvania Department of Motor Vehicles](#)

[Commercial Driver's License Fact Sheet](#)

[Requirements for a Miscellaneous Dealer \(Repair & Towing Tags\)](#)

[Do I need a USDOT Number?](#)

[Registering for the USDOT Number](#)

[Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration \(FMCSA\)](#)

[Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission \(PUC\)](#)

[Pennsylvania Highways / Truck Information](#)

