



PR#222

PRESS RELEASE

Regulations Pertaining to Tractors, Trucks and Trailers

Belmopan. March 29, 2021. 11:15 a.m.

The Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics through the Department of Transport hereby reminds the public of the regulations pertaining to the transport of freight, trailers and other loads (scrap metals, logs, homes, etc). *[See Appendix attached for regulations: **Appendix A - Maintenance of Vehicles and loads so as not to be a danger. Appendix B - Diagrams and photos]***

It is hereby advised that the Department of Transport will be making routine checks and inspection to ensure that these regulations are being adhered to. Any operators found in contravention of these regulations will be fined and the motor vehicle ordered to be taken off the road.

Additionally, the Ministry reminds the public that the transportation of any load that falls outside of the stipulated regulations, must seek approval from the Chief Transport Officer at the Department of Transport. This comes as part of the Ministry's overall strategy to better regulate and enforce traffic laws to ensure safer roads for all road users.

The Department of Transport recommends that truck operators carrying logs, wide loads, and any other heavy equipment to kindly do so between the hours of 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Ends

For more information, please contact the Department of Transport at 802-2038.

Appendix: A - Maintenance of Vehicles and loads so as not to be a danger.

Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Regulations, Chapter 192 of the Subsidiary Laws of Belize, R.E. 1991

PART VIII

Regulation 126.

(1) Every motor vehicle and every trailer drawn thereby and all parts and accessories of such vehicle and trailer shall at all times be in such condition, and the weight, packing and adjustment of the load, of such vehicle or trailer shall at all times be such that no danger is caused or is likely to be caused to any person on the vehicle or trailer or on a road.

(2) The load carried by any motor vehicle or trailer shall be so secured that danger is not likely to be caused to any person on a road by reason of the load or any part thereof falling from the vehicle.

(3) No motor vehicle or trailer shall be used for any purpose for which it is so unsuitable so as to cause or be likely to cause danger to any person on the vehicle or trailer or on a road.

(4) No luggage or goods shall be carried on a motor vehicle other than within the body of the vehicle or upon a suitable carrier attached to the rear or roof of the vehicle.

(5) Every motor vehicle and every trailer shall, when carrying logs, be fitted with three chains at least of links of not less than half of an inch in cross-sectional diameter and such chains shall be tightly bound, at approximately equal distances apart, around the logs and platform of the motor vehicle together, or the logs and body of the trailer together, as the case may be, and shall be secured to such motor vehicle or trailer by proper load binders of a type approved by the Department of Transport.

(6) Every motor vehicle and every trailer shall, when carrying sand, stone, gravel, debris, or like material on a road, be fitted with a tarpaulin or similar covering, and the driver as well as the owner of every such motor vehicle or trailer shall securely cover all material as aforesaid by tarpaulin or other suitable covering and shall ensure that no such material falls from the said vehicle while on a road.

Limitation of number of trailers

Regulation 147. No motor tractor shall draw more than two trailers, and no truck shall draw more than one trailer, and no private motor car shall draw a trailer the unladen weight of which exceeds the unladen weight of the drawing vehicle:

Provided that where a motor tractor is engaged in transporting sugar cane to a sugar factory it may, on its journey to the factory and back to the point of loading, be employed to draw three trailers.

Restriction on loads

Regulation 152. No person shall load nor shall any person in charge of a motor vehicle or trailer permit the same to be so loaded that any goods, freight or merchandise of any description or class –

- (a) protrudes more than six inches beyond either side; or
- (b) protrudes beyond that portion of the body constructed or adapted for the carriage of freight in such a manner as to hinder the free opening and closing of any door of the cab or driver's compartment of such vehicle; or
- (c) obstructs the view of the driver when seated in the driving seat either to the front or the right or the left or renders ineffective the rear-view mirror; or
- (d) protrudes more than three feet beyond the front or rear of the vehicle:

Provided that permission may be granted in writing by the Department of Transport to enable any person to carry on a suitable vehicle an indivisible load other than in conformity with the above provisions. Such permission shall be produced on demand by a police constable in uniform and may be subject to such conditions as regards the time and route to be taken by the vehicle and in other respects as the Department may think fit.

The information contained in this document are excerpts from the Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Act, Chapter 230 of the Substantive Laws of Belize R.E. 2011 and the Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Regulation, Chapter 19 of the Subsidiary Laws of Belize R.E. 1991. The information has not been altered.

Researched and prepared by:
Peter Williams, Acting Operations Officer

Appendix B - Diagrams and photos

STRAPPING THE LOAD

Use the recommended number of load straps to each bay of timber in accordance with this guidance. See below:

VEHICLE WITH HEADBOARD

UPTO 3.3 metres **ONE load strap per bay**
At least **ONE LOAD STRAP PER BAY** if the logs are up to a maximum length of 3.3 metres with bark still present.

LONGER than 3.3 metres **TWO load straps per bay**
At least **TWO LOAD STRAPS PER BAY** if the logs are longer than 3.3 metres or irrespective of the length if the bark has been removed.

VEHICLE WITHOUT HEADBOARD

UPTO 3.3 metres **TWO load straps per bay**
At least **TWO LOAD STRAPS PER BAY** if the logs are up to a length of 3.3 metres

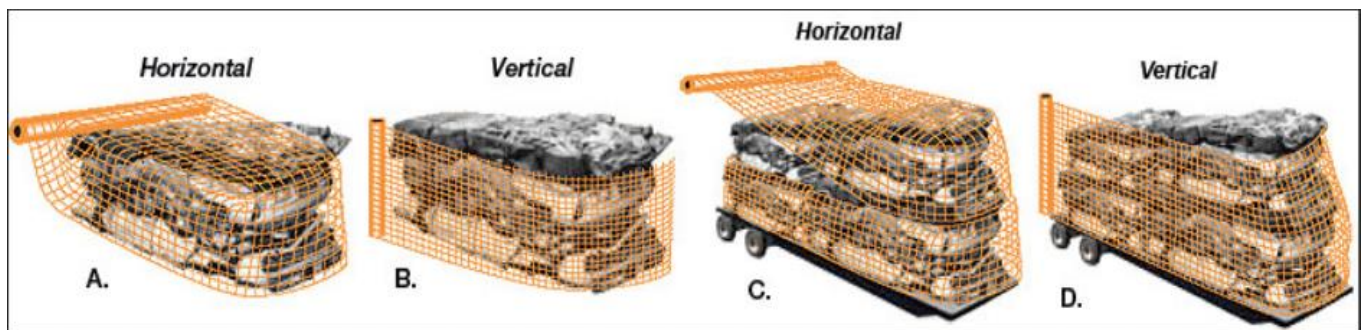
UPTO 5.0 metres **THREE load straps per bay**
At least **THREE LOAD STRAPS PER BAY** if the logs are up to a length of 5.0 metres

LONGER than 5.0 metres **FOUR load straps per bay**
At least **FOUR LOAD STRAPS PER BAY** if the logs are longer than 5.0 metres

STAKES

Additional bunks or stanchions will be required to ensure that each bay is secured by two bunks or stanchions.





<https://www.coillte.ie/media/2018/06/8.1-Coilte-Load-Secure-poster-A.jpg>
(1755x2480) (coillte.ie)