

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ROAD AND MOTOR TRANSPORT

Geneva

23 August 1949

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS AND WEIGHTS OF
MOTOR VEHICLES

Note by the Secretary-General

The annexed tables contain data supplied by Governments in reply to the Secretary-General's note of 28 April 1949 requesting information inter alia concerning existing limitations on the maximum size and weight of motor vehicles.

The replies received varied considerably in comprehensiveness and in the system of classification of vehicles used.

In order to compare the data supplied, it was necessary to adopt a common classification in the annexed tables. This necessitated some interpretation of the information supplied. An attempt has been made, however, to reproduce the information contained in the replies as completely as possible by the inclusion of footnotes and comments within the columns of the tables. A blank space in a column indicates that no maximum provision was reported with respect to the particular type of vehicle concerned.

Tables have also been included showing:

1. Two alternative lists of maximum dimensions and weights suggested by the Sub-Committee on Road Transport of the ECE Inland Transport Committee in the Explanatory Memorandum contained in Working Paper I: Draft Provisions for Insertion in a Convention on Road and Motor Transport Prepared by the Sub-Committee on Road Transport of the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe, hereafter referred to as "ECE Draft Provisions of 1943" (document E/CONF.8/3);

2. The maximum dimensions of vehicles stipulated in Article X of the Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automotive Traffic - Working Paper II for the Conference, hereafter referred to as "Inter-American Convention of 1943" (E/CONF.8/4).

/Attention is

Attention is drawn to the fact that, while the maximum dimensions and weights shown as being in force in the various countries, as well as the maximum dimensions stipulated in the Inter-American Convention of 1943, apply to highways in general in the countries concerned, the maxima suggested by the ECE Sub-Committee on Road Transport would apply to highways designated by the Governments concerned as "main international traffic arteries".

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Measured in the metric system.
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ANNEX I
 MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN THE COUNTRIES SHOWN
 (Measured in the metric system)

COUNTRY	WIDTH	LENGTH			HEIGHT
		Rigid unit	Tractor & semi-trailer	Other combinations	
	Metres	Metres	Metres	Metres	Metres
AUSTRALIA <u>6 States of the Commonwealth.</u> Some States have no provisions concerning dimensions of certain types of vehicles. <u>Proposals by the Australian Transport Advisory Council.</u>	2.29 to 2.44	8.38 to 9.45	8.38 to 20.11		2.74 to 4.26
	2.44	9.45	13.72 9.45 for rigid portion of articulated vehicle	15.24	3.81
AUSTRIA	2.35 2.50 in exceptional cases.	10.00 7.00 for trailers.	22.00	22.00	5.00
BULGARIA	2.50	-	-	-	4.00

/DENMARK

ANNEX I (Cont.)

COUNTRY	WIDTH	LENGTH			HEIGHT
		Rigid unit	Tractor & semi-trailer	Other combinations	
	Metres	Metres	Metres	Metres	Metres
DENMARK	2.30 2.40 in exceptional cases.	-	-	-	-
GREECE	The usual dimensions of vehicles are at present: The Greek Government is however, ready to accept as maxima the proposals by the Economic Commission for Europe as contained in documents E/ECE/TRANS/SC.1/16 E/ECE/TRANS/WP.10/9:	10.0	-	-	-
		11.0	-	-	4.0
INDIA	2.29 for transport vehicles other than motor cabs. 2.18 for other motor vehicles and motor cabs. 2.47 in exceptional cases.	8.38 for 1 or 2 axles. 9.14 for more than 2 axles. 6.71 for trailers.	10.06	-	3.35 4.73 for double-deckers.

/ITALY

ANNEX I (Cont.)

COUNTRY	WIDTH	LENGTH			HEIGHT
		Rigid unit	Tractor & semi-trailer	Other combinations	
	Metres	Metres	Metres	Metres	Metres
ITALY	2.50	6.0 for 1-axle vehicles. 10.0 for 2-axle vehicles. 12.0 for 3-axle vehicles.	-	22.0	4.0 4.50 for scheduled buses.
NEW ZEALAND	2.44	9.14	10.06	-	4.26
PHILIPPINES	2.44	12.00	15.00	15.00	4.00
PORTUGAL	2.45 for goods vehicles. 2.45 to 2.50 for passenger vehicles.	10.00 for goods vehicles. 9.00 to 10.00 for passenger vehicles.	-	-	3.50
SWITZERLAND	2.20 2.40 in exceptional cases.	9.50 11.0 for heavy buses and fire engines.	-	18.0 20.0 for combinations carrying passengers.	4.0
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA					
<u>4 Provinces</u>	2.44 to 2.59	8.23 to 9.14	10.97	7	3.65 to 4.57
<u>Proposed Uniform Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Regulation Ordinance.</u>	2.59	10.97	10.97	21.34	4.57

/UNITED KINGDOM

ANNEX I (Cont.)

COUNTRY	WIDTH	LENGTH			HEIGHT
		Rigid unit	Tractor & semi-trailer	Other combinations	
	Metres	Metres	Metres	Metres	Metres
UNITED KINGDOM	2.74 for "locomotives" 2.44 for public service vehicle on special routes. 2.29 for other vehicles.	8.38 for 4-wheel (except trailers and public service vehicles). 9.14 for vehicles with more than 4 wheels. 18.29 for heavy motor car.	10.06	18.29 for motor car drawing one trailer.	4.57 for public service vehicles
UNITED STATES 48 States and District of Columbia. Some States have no provisions concerning dimensions of certain types of vehicles.	2.44 to 2.59 2.74 for urban buses.	10.06 to 16.75	13.72 to 19.81	13.72 to 19.81	3.66 to 4.26
Proposed Uniform Vehicle Code. Rev. of 1947-48 by the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances.	2.44 2.59 in the future	10.69	15.24	15.24	3.81

ANNEX II

MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Measured in the English System

(Listing only those countries which reported in these measures.)

COUNTRY	WIDTH	LENGTH			HEIGHT
		Rigid unit	Tractor & semi-trailer	Other combinations	
	Feet & inches	Feet & inches	Feet & inches	Feet & inches	Feet & inches
AUSTRALIA <u>6 States of Commonwealth</u> Some States have no provisions concerning dimensions of certain types of vehicles. <u>Proposal by the Australian Transport Advisory Council</u>	7 1/2 to 8 feet. ----- 8 feet	27 1/2 to 31 feet. ----- 31 feet.	27 1/2 to 66 feet. ----- 45 feet. 31 feet for rigid portion of articulated vehicle.	- ----- 50 feet	9 to 14 feet. ----- 12 1/2 feet.
INDIA	7 feet 6 inches for transport vehicles other than motor cabs. 7 feet 2 inches for other vehicles and motor cabs. 8 feet 1 inch in exceptional cases.	27 1/2 feet for 1 or 2 axles. 30 feet for more than 2 axles. 22 feet for trailers.	33 feet.	-	11 feet 15 1/2 feet for double deckers.
NEW ZEALAND	8 feet.	30 feet	33 feet.	-	14 feet

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

ANNEX II (Continued)

COUNTRY	WIDTH	LENGTH			HEIGHT
	Feet & inches	Rigid unit Feet & inches	Tractor & semi-trailer Feet & inches	Other combinations Feet & inches	Feet & inches
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA <u>4 Provinces</u>	8 to 8 1/2 feet.	27 to 30 feet.	36 feet.	-	12 to 15 feet.
<u>Proposed Uniform Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Regulation Ordinance.</u>	8 1/2 feet.	36 feet.	36 feet.	70 feet.	15 feet.
UNITED KINGDOM	9 feet for "locomotive" 8 feet for public service vehicles on special routes. 7 1/2 feet for other vehicles.	27 1/2 feet for 4-wheel vehicles (except trailers and public service vehicles). 30 feet for vehicles with more than 4 wheels. 60 feet for heavy motor car.	33 feet.	60 feet for motor car drawing one trailer.	4.57 for public service vehicles.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA <u>48 States and District of Columbia.</u> Some States have no provisions concerning dimensions of certain types of vehicles.	96 to 102 inches 108 inches for urban buses	33 to 55 feet.	45 to 65 feet.	45 to 65 feet.	12 to 14 feet.
<u>Proposed Uniform Vehicle Code.</u> Rev. of 1947-48 by the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances.	96 inches 108 inches in future.	35 feet.	50 feet.	50 feet.	12 1/2 feet.

ANNEX III

MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS OF MOTOR VEHICLES SUGGESTED BY THE ECE SUB-COMMITTEE ON ROAD TRANSPORT

Measured in the metric system

(Lists 1 and 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying the ECE Draft Provisions of 1949
(Working Paper I - document E/CONF.8/3))

COUNTRY	WIDTH	LENGTH			HEIGHT
		Rigid unit	Tractor & semi-trailer	Other combinations	
	Metres	Metres	Metres	Metres	Metres
ECE DRAFT PROVISIONS OF 1949 <u>Explanatory Memorandum</u> <u>List 1.</u>	15.0	20.0 22.0 for 4 axles or more.	20.0	32.0	10.0
<u>Explanatory Memorandum</u> <u>List 2.</u>	19.0	26.0 for 3 axles or more.	26.0	40.0	13.0

/ANNEX IV

ANNEX IV

MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS OF MOTOR VEHICLES
 AS STIPULATED IN ARTICLE X OF THE
 INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION OF 1943
 Measured in the metric system
 (Working Paper II - document E/CONF.8/4)

COUNTRY	WIDTH	LENGTH			HEIGHT
		Rigid unit	Tractor & semi-trailer	Other combinations	
	Metres	Metres	Metres	Metres	Metres
INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION OF 1943. Article X	2.44	10.70	13.75	13.75	3.80

/ANNEX V

ANNEX V

MAXIMUM WEIGHT OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN THE COUNTRIES SHOWN
Measured in the metric system

COUNTRY	TOTAL WEIGHT OF VEHICLE (including full load)				TOTAL AXLE LOAD (including full load) Metric tons
	<u>2-axle truck</u> Metric tons	<u>3-axle truck</u> Metric tons	<u>Tractor & semi-trailer</u> Metric tons	<u>Other combinations</u> Metric tons	
AUSTRALIA <u>6 States of the Commonwealth</u> Some States have no provisions concerning dimensions of certain types of vehicles. <u>Proposals by the Australian Transport Advisory Council</u>	8.1 to 12.3 12.7	8.1 to 12.3 17.7 18.6 for 4 axles	12.2 to 17.1 20.8 for 3 axles. 23.6 for 4 and 5 axle	- 25.4	6.1 to 7.4 plus 10% extra for Metropolitan areas. 2.26 per single tyre. 8.26 per single axle dual tyre 13.1 per dual axle dual tyre.
AUSTRIA	10.0* to 10.8 5.0 for one-axle trailer 8.0 for two (or more) axle trailer	15.0* to 15.8 * Vehicles without pneumatic tyres.	15.0* to 15.8	25.0	7.2 for 2-axle vehicles and articulated vehicles. 5.5 for 3-axle vehicles. 5.0 for trailers. 7.2 for 1-axle of articulated vehicle. 5.5 for other axles.
BULGARIA	-	-	-	-	7.5
DENMARK	12.00 for trucks and trailers	-	-	-	7.0

/GREECE

ANNEX V (Cont'd)

COUNTRY	TOTAL WEIGHT OF MOTOR VEHICLE (including full load)				TOTAL AXLE LOAD (including full load)
	<u>2-axle truck</u>	<u>3-axle truck</u>	<u>Trailer & semi-trailer</u>	<u>Other combinations</u>	
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	
<p>GREECE</p> <p>The usual dimensions of vehicles are at present: the Greek Government is, however, ready to accept as maxima the proposals by the Economic Commission for Europe as contained in documents: /ECE/TRANS/SC.1/16 /ECE/TRANS/WP.10/9:</p>	<p>12</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p>26</p>	-	-	-
<p>INDIA</p> <p>The maximum overall weight of vehicles varies from 3½ to 9 tons according to the condition of the roads and bridges, etc., obtaining in the various provinces.</p>	-	3.6 to 9.1	-	-	-
<p>ITALY</p> <p>6.0 for 1-axle trailers.</p>	14.0	18.0	-	-	-
<p>NEW ZEALAND</p>	10.2	-	-	-	6.1 for 3 or more axles.

/THE PHILIPPINES

ANNEX V (Cont'd)

COUNTRY	TOTAL WEIGHT OF MOTOR VEHICLE (including full load)				TOTAL AXLE LOAD (including full load)
	<u>2-axle truck</u>	<u>3-axle truck</u>	<u>Trailer & semi-trailer</u>	<u>Other combinations</u>	
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
THE PHILIPPINES	8.0 for 4-wheel vehicles.	12.0 for 6-wheel vehicles. Motor trucks having one rear axle equipped with dual tyres are not considered as having four wheels on such rear axle. The last 2 axles shall be spaced not less than one metre apart.	-	-	-
PORTUGAL	15.0 Maximum pressure on ground 150 kg. per centimetre of width of wheel rim, measured at contact with ground.	20.0 for more than two axles.	-	-	-
SWITZERLAND	13.0 3.0 for 1-axle trailers of heavy buses.	13.0	18.0 The weight of the trailer with full load may not exceed the net weight of the drawing vehicle.	20.0 for trucks and one 2-axle trailer.	No axle load may exceed 4/5 of total load. 5.0 for trailers.

/UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

ANNEX V (Cont'd)

COUNTRY	TOTAL WEIGHT OF MOTOR VEHICLE (including full load)				TOTAL AXLE LOAD (including full load) Metric tons
	<u>2-axle truck</u>	<u>3-axle truck</u>	<u>Trailer & semi-trailer</u>	<u>Other combinations</u>	
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA <u>4 Provinces</u>	18.1 to 19.9 12.7 for trailers	-	-	34.4	6.35 to 7.70 10.2 in Johannesburg.
<u>Proposed Uniform Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Regulation Ordinance</u>					8.16* 2.73* for other than pneumatic tyres. * Provided that no axle carries less than 20 per cent of total load.
					In addition, in the case of solid rubber tyres, cushion tyres, etc., the relation between width of tyre and load per inch of width is prescribed by special tables.

/UNITED KINGDOM

ANNEX V (Cont'd)

COUNTRY	TOTAL WEIGHT OF MOTOR VEHICLE (including full load)				TOTAL AXLE LOAD (including full load)
	<u>2-axle truck</u>	<u>3-axle truck</u>	<u>Trailer & semi-trailer</u>	<u>Other combinations</u>	
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	
UNITED KINGDOM	12.1 for 4 wheels 19.3 for 5 or 6 wheels	22.4 for more than 6 wheels	-	Motor Vehicle draw- ing one trailer: 32.5 if trailer is equipped with power brakes. 22.4 if trailer is not equipped with power brakes. 40.6 for total of trailers drawn by "locomotive".	8.1 for motor car or articulated vehicle with two wheels in line transversely. 6.6 for trailer (ex- cluding trailer of articulated vehicle) with 2 wheels in line transversely. 10.2 for motor car or trailer with more than two wheels in line transversely.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA <u>48 States and District of Columbia</u> Some States have no pro- visions concerning dimen- sions of certain types of vehicles. <u>Proposed Uniform Vehicle Code Rev. of 1947-48 by the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances</u>	10.9 to 14.5 11.8	10.9 to 20.9 18.1	17.2 to 32.6 28.3	18.1 to 51.7 31.6	8.2 to 10.0 8.2

ANNEX VI
 MAXIMUM WEIGHT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
 Measured in the English system
 (Listing only those countries which reported in these measures)

COUNTRY	TOTAL WEIGHT OF MOTOR VEHICLE (including full load)				TOTAL AXLE LOAD (including full load) Tons & lbs.
	<u>2-axle truck</u>	<u>3-axle truck</u>	<u>Trailer & semi-trailer</u>	<u>Other combinations</u>	
	Tons & lbs.	Tons & lbs.	Tons & lbs.	Tons & lbs.	
AUSTRALIA <u>6 States of the Commonwealth</u> Some States have no provisions concerning dimensions of certain types of vehicles. <u>Proposals by the Australian Transport Advisory Council</u>	8.0 to 12.1 tons 28,000 lbs.	8.0 to 12.1 tons 39,000 lbs. 41,000 lbs. for 4 axles.	12 tons to 16 tons 17 cwt. 46,000 lbs. for 3 axles. 52,000 lbs. for 4 and 5 axles.	- 56,000 lbs.	6 tons to 7 tons 6 cwt. plus 10 per cent extra for Metropolitan areas. 5,000 lbs. per single tyre. 18,000 lbs. per single axle dual tyre. 29,000 lbs. per dual axle dual tyre.
INDIA	The maximum weight over-all of vehicles varies from 3½ to 9 tons according to the condition of the roads and bridges etc. obtaining in the various provinces.				
NEW ZEALAND	10.0 tons	-	-	-	6.0 tons for more than 3 axles.

/UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

ANNEX VI (Cont'd)

COUNTRY	TOTAL WEIGHT OF VEHICLE (including full load)				TOTAL AXLE LOAD (including full load)
	<u>2-axle truck</u> Tons & lbs.	<u>3-axle truck</u> Tons & lbs.	<u>Tractor & semi-trailer</u> Tons & lbs.	<u>Other combinations</u> Tons & lbs.	
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA <u>4 Provinces</u>	40 to 44,000 lbs. 28,000 lbs. for trailers.	40 to 44,000 lbs.	-	76,000 lbs.	14 to 17,000 lbs. 22,400 lbs. in Johannesburg.
<u>Proposed Uniform Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Regulation Ordinance</u>	-	-	-	-	18,000 lbs.*
	In addition, in the case of solid rubber tyres, cushion tyres, etc., the relation between the width of tyre and load per inch of width is prescribed by special tables.				6,000 lbs.* for other than pneumatic tyres. * Provided that no axle carries less than 20 per cent of total load.
	In addition, in the case of solid rubber tyres, cushion tyres, etc., the relation between width of tyre and load per inch of width is prescribed by special tables.				

/UNITED KINGDOM

ANNEX VI (Cont'd)

COUNTRY	TOTAL WEIGHT OF VEHICLE (including full load)				TOTAL AXLE LOAD (including full load)
	2-axle truck Tons & lbs.	3-axle truck Tons & lbs.	Tractor & semi-trailer Tons & lbs.	Other combinations Tons & lbs.	Tons & lbs.
UNITED KINGDOM	12.0 tons for 4 wheels. 19.0 tons for 5 or 6 wheels.	22.0 tons for more than 6 wheels.		Motor Vehicle drawing one trailer: 32.0 tons if trailer is equipped with power brakes. 22.0 tons if trailer is not equipped with power brakes. 40.0 tons for total of trailers drawn by locomotive.	8.0 tons for motor car or articulated vehicle with 2 wheels in line transversely. 6.5 tons for trailer (exclusive articulated vehicle), with two wheels in line transversely. 10.0 tons for motor car or trailer with more than two wheels in line transversely.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	24 to 32,000 lbs.*	24 to 46,000 lbs.*	38 to 72,000 lbs.*	40 to 114,000 lbs.*	18 to 22,000 lbs.
<u>48 States and District of Columbia</u> Some States have no provisions concerning dimensions of certain types of vehicles.	* Practical maximum gross weights, based upon tables or formulae relating the maximum gross weight to the length of the vehicle.				
<u>Proposed Uniform Vehicle Code Rev. of 1947-48 by the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances.</u>	26,000 lbs.*	40,000 lbs.*	62,360 lbs.*	69,790 lbs.*	18,000 lbs.
	* Practical maximum gross weights, based upon table relating the maximum gross weight to the length of vehicle.				

ANNEX VII

MAXIMUM WEIGHTS OF MOTOR VEHICLES SUGGESTED BY THE ECE SUB-COMMITTEE ON ROAD TRANSPORT

Measured in the metric system

(Lists 1 and 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum Accompanying the ECE Draft Provisions of 1949: Working Paper I - document E/CONF.8/3)

COUNTRY	TOTAL WEIGHT OF VEHICLE (including full load)				TOTAL AXLE LOAD (including full load)
	<u>2-axle truck</u> Metric tons	<u>3-axle truck</u> Metric tons	<u>Tractor & semi-trailer</u> Metric tons	<u>Other combinations</u> Metric tons	Metric tons
ECE DRAFT PROVISIONS OF 1949 <u>Explanatory Memorandum</u> <u>List 1.</u>	2.50	10.0 for vehicles with 2 axles. 11.0 for vehicles with 3 or more axles.	14.0	18.0 for combina- tions with one trailer. 22.0 for combina- tions with two trailers.	3.50
<u>Explanatory Memorandum</u> <u>List 2.</u>	2.50	11.0 for vehicles with 2 axles. 12.0 for vehicles with 3 or more axles.	14.0	20.0 for combina- tions with one trailer. 24.0 for combina- tions with two trailers.	4.0