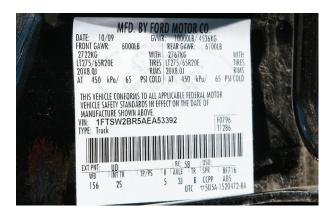
WEIGHT RATING COMPLIANCE AND SAFETY

Before your equipment leaves the yard, it's important to ensure your truck complies with weight limits. Overweight snow removal trucks not only are illegal, but they are also dangerous and can put you and the general public at risk.

1 READ THE LABEL



When determining the snow and ice equipment carrying capacity of your truck, check the vehicle's certification label for these important values:

- ☐ Front Gross Axle Weight Rating (FGAWR)
- ☐ Rear Gross Axle Weight rating (RGAWR)
- ☐ Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR)

2 HIT THE SCALES

To guarantee that your snow and ice management equipped truck is safe and compliant, you must accurately weigh the front and rear axles of the truck with the snow and ice equipment installed. Do this by weighing the truck with a scale or scales.





AXLE WEIGHT CHECKLIST

- ☐ The driver should be in position inside the vehicle during weighing.
- ☐ If a snowplow is attached it should be in its raised position.
- ☐ V-plows should have their wings in the transport position that will be used when traveling between jobs usually in the V-position with wings back toward the truck.
- ☐ If a spreader is installed it should be loaded with the appropriate amount of material so it does not exceed the manufacturer's specified vehicle weight rating.
- ☐ All vehicle fluids, including fuel, should be full.

Once the front and rear axle weights have been obtained, it's easy to compare the axle weights to the ratings posted on the vehicle certification label. The measured weight of the front axle must be lower than the published FGAWR; the measured weight of the rear axle must be less that the RGAWR; and the total vehicle weight, which is the front axle weight plus the rear axle weight, must be lower than the posted GVWR.

WEIGHT RATING COMPLIANCE AND SAFETY

3 FRONT AXLE WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION



The final check is to ensure that the front axle weight distribution is not exceeded with all of the equipment, driver and payload in place.

CALCULATION: Divide the front axle weight by the total vehicle weight.

The maximum allowable front weight distribution varies by truck manufacturer and model and can be found in the truck manufacturer's body builder guides or by contacting the truck manufacturer directly. Maintaining the front axle weight distribution within the manufacturer's specified range ensures that the vehicle will continue to meet braking standards and helps avoid the potential loss of vehicle control during hard breaking or steering maneuvers.





FGAWR, FRONT AXLE WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION OR GVWR

- ☐ Add weight (ballast) to transfer some of the snowplow weight off the front axle and onto the rear axle
- ☐ The ability to add ballast may be limited by the truck's total gross weight. In that case, the use of a lighter-weight snowplow may be the only option.

RGAWR OR GVWR

- ☐ Carry less payload in the spreader hopper
- ☐ Install a smaller and lighter hopper

Note: Once any remediation efforts have been made, the truck must be reweighed to ensure all four values remain in compliance.

