The Wisconsin Department of Transportation recently initiated a study of Wisconsin truck size and weight laws. The purpose of this study is to identify potential improvements to current truck size and weight restrictions that could allow for economic development gains and greater employment within the State, without negatively impacting roadway safety, roadway performance, and the costs to build and maintain infrastructure. Existing truck size and weight laws are summarized below. For additional detail on truck size and weight laws, see the Wisconsin Trucker’s Guide or visit http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/carriers/index.htm.

**Size Restrictions**
The general maximum size restrictions for vehicles are shown in the table to the right. Some exceptions apply for implements of husbandry, livestock haulers, timber haulers, and hay width. Length restrictions vary dependent on whether the roadway is a Designated Long, 75' Restricted, or 65' Restricted Truck Route.

**Weight Restrictions**
General maximum weight restrictions require that any vehicle operating on class “A” highways* may not exceed a maximum gross weight of 80,000 lbs. Any one wheel or wheels supporting one end of an axle cannot exceed 11,000 lbs. and a single axle cannot exceed 20,000 lbs.

The maximum allowable weights for various vehicle configurations are shown to the right. The axle separation field indicates the required distance (in feet) between the foremost and rearmost axles in order for the vehicle to legally operate at the maximum weight for its configuration type.

Overweight hauling permits are available, which enables carriers to exceed general weight restrictions for certain goods. Examples include permits for overweight trucks hauling fruits/vegetables, raw forest products and machinery. Wisconsin also has seasonal weight restrictions, which eases weight restrictions when roads are frozen and restricts overweight truck travel during Spring thaw.

*Class “B” highways (county trunk and town highways, designated city and village streets) weight limits are 60% of class “A” limits.

**Configurations**
Examples of conventional configurations under current Wisconsin law are shown to the right, followed by longer combination vehicle (LCV) configurations which typically exceed current size/weight regulations.