



Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

September 18, 2017

CIRCULAR LETTER 2017-22

BRIDGE POSTING FOR “LEGAL LOADS ONLY”

COUNTY ENGINEERS / SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS / DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS / MAYORS
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS – DIRECTORS
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

This circular letter provides guidance regarding signs to be used for posting “Legal Loads Only” (LLO) bridges, and updates previously issued BLRS Circular Letter 2009-13.

LLO postings are intended to alert drivers operating under the provisions of an overweight permit, including a limited continuous operation overweight permit, of the need to use a different route. LLO postings shall not be considered a restriction in regard to the movement of legally configured vehicles meeting the weight requirements of the Illinois Vehicle Code.

Pursuant to Public Act 099-0717 effective August 5, 2016, several legal weight configurations defined by Illinois Compiled Statute 625 ILCS 5/15-111 were amended. The new upper limits considered as legal weight configurations on all Federal, State and Local routes are now 12 tons on a single axle, 20 tons on a tandem axle, and 41 tons gross.

At their discretion, a local public agency may erect weight limit signs at the structure. LLO structures will not be subject to the Department’s policy for Posting and Closure Review.

When a local public agency elects to post for Legal Loads Only, as designated by the Bureau of Bridges and Structures, the following LLO posting sign shall be used.

WEIGHT LIMIT 12 TONS AXLE 41 TONS GROSS

(Sign R12-I108)

September 18, 2017

Overweight vehicles should not cross LLO bridges, and permits allowing travel over these bridges should not be issued. Vehicles traveling with annual permits must obey posted weight limits.

Although not required for local agency structures, weight limit signs erected adjacent to LLO bridges will alert vehicles operating under a single trip or annual permit of the need to use an alternative route. Such signs allow law enforcement to discern that overweight permit vehicles should not traverse the LLO structure.

Previously installed LLO signs, displaying 9 or 10 tons per axle, and 37 or 40 tons gross, are now restricting trucks to less than legal loads. These signs shall not be replaced with the new higher weight limits until an updated load rating has been performed and the higher weight limits have been approved by the Bureau of Bridges and Structures. Some structures will not be able to safely carry this new higher loading.

Requirements and guidance for the installation of weight limit signs are provided in the Illinois Supplement to the National MUTCD. IDOT manuals and supplemental guides will be updated to reflect this change as appropriate.

Questions regarding this circular letter may be directed to the Local Policy and Technology Unit by telephone at (217) 785-5048 or by email at DOT.LocalPolicy@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,



Maureen E. Kastl, P.E.
Engineer of Local Roads and Streets



D. Carl Puzey, P.E., S.E.
Engineer of Bridges and Structures

JK/tw

cc: Dan Brydl, FHWA - Illinois Division
Gary Iles, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Elias Ajami, Illinois State Toll Highway Authority
Joel Moore, Illinois Association of County Engineers
Joe Schatteman, Illinois Municipal League
Bryan Smith, Township Officials of Illinois
Charlie Montgomery, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois