

Research at a Glance

Technical Brief

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NJDOT Commercial Vehicle Size and Weight Guidebook Update

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) engaged Cambridge Systematics (CS) to assist with the development of updates to the NJDOT Commercial Vehicle Size and Weight Guidebook and accompanying Reference Guide.

Research Problem Statement

Federal and New Jersey State regulations that govern the maximum allowable dimensions and weights for commercial vehicles can be difficult for motor carriers to understand and comply with. New Jersey offers several types of permits that motor carriers can request to allow them to carry certain types of over dimensional and overweight loads. The permits have specific requirements regarding applicability and use. To help motor carriers understand the regulations and to learn more about how to acquire and use permits, NJDOT published a Commercial Vehicle Size and Weight Guidebook in 2017. NJDOT desires an updated version of the Commercial Vehicle Size and Weight Guidebook and Reference Guide that corresponds to current rules and regulations and addresses the needs and inquiries of the motor carrier industry.

Research Objectives

The goal of this research task was to help NJDOT produce an updated Commercial Vehicle Size and Weight Guidebook and companion Reference Guide that addresses current Federal and State rules and regulations. This goal was achieved by performing research to accomplish the following objectives:

- Identify relevant changes in Federal and state regulations and statutes that necessitate updates to the Commercial Vehicle Size and Weight Guidebook and Reference Guide.
- Learn from other states and organizations what messages and information the motor carrier industry needs to know and how best to communicate it with them.
- Work with a working group of NJDOT and FHWA representatives to develop an updated version of the Guidebook and accompanying Reference Guide.



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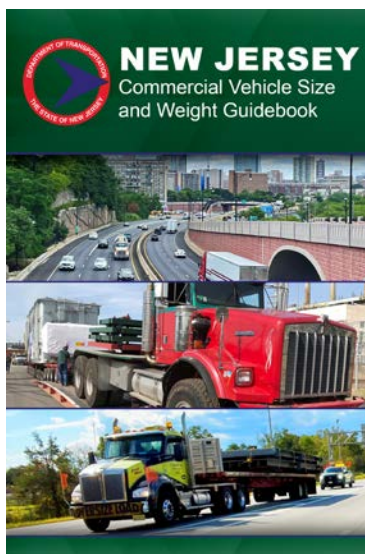
Methodology

This research utilized a literature review of relevant Federal and New Jersey State rules and regulations that govern commercial vehicle size and weight. CS conducted a scan of guidance documents and websites produced by other states on size and weight regulations and permitting requirements to identify common features and best practices. CS interviewed representatives from key states and organizations to learn more about effective communications strategies. CS lead four working group sessions with representatives from NJDOT, FHWA, and New Jersey State Police to develop updated versions of the NJDOT Commercial Vehicle Size and Weight Guidebook and accompanying Reference Guide.

Results

The findings of the research and engagement with the working group informed the development of an updated version of the NJDOT Commercial Vehicle Size and Weight Guidebook and the NJDOT Commercial Vehicle Size and Weight Reference Guide. Key features of the updates include:

- Updates to the truck diagrams, tables, and text to account for the weights and dimensions allowed by the FAST Act.
- New document layout, color scheme, and cover.
- Addition of a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and links to information for motor carriers operating in neighboring states and jurisdictions.
- Conversion of the Reference Guide from a trifold brochure to wall-size map with tables, graphics, and explanatory text on the opposite side.
- Recommended “next steps” to help ensure that the motor carrier industry can find and extensively use these guidance materials to operate safely and legally in New Jersey.



This brief summarizes NJ-2024-001, “NJDOT Commercial Vehicle Size and Weight Guidebook Update”, produced through the New Jersey Department of Transportation Bureau of Research, 1035 Parkway Avenue, P.O. Box 600, Trenton, NJ 08625-0600