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Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

Overweight Truck Enforcement Is Serious Business at MTA Bridges and Tunnels Crossings

MTA Bridges and Tunnels is putting truck drivers carrying overweight loads—generally over 80,000 lbs.—on notice that they risk fines as high as \$10,000 if they attempt to cross MTA facilities.

“Keeping the roadways safe and sound for customers is the number one priority for MTA Bridges and Tunnels,” said Acting President David Moretti, “and the agency’s overweight truck enforcement program plays a critical role in this mission. In recent months we have issued more than 100 summonses per month to trucks with weights in excess of allowable loads.”

“We take our enforcement role very seriously—we’ve actually stopped trucks as heavy as 200,000 lbs.,” said Chief of Special Operations James Fortunato. “They are fined and turned around. Overweight vehicles stress roadway pavements and decks.”

According to Chief Engineer Thomas Bach: “We know from a study done by an outside consultant that the extra weight accelerates the wear and tear on the facilities, making repairs more costly and frequent. We’re doing a service to the bridge but also to the public by restricting these vehicles.”

Bridge and Tunnel Officers at all agency facilities perform routine weight checks on trucks, in addition to enforcement by the truck unit from the Special Operations Division. The officers are trained to recognize overweight indicators and, after a truck is stopped, use the New York State bridge formula to determine the amount of allowable vehicle load. While trucks over 80,000 lbs. are generally classified as “overweight” and therefore in need of special handling, what identifies overall weight compliance according to the formula is actually based on number and spacing of axles relative to load carried.

There is a designated area where trucks are pulled over, to avoid interference with toll plaza traffic flow, and the officers use a set of portable scales that fit under the vehicles.

Trucks that do not meet the bridge formula must call in advance to the facility to make arrangements for crossing, which often means crossing at night at slow speeds. At the Throgs Neck Bridge certain heavier trucks with State permits are allowed to cross at any time at slow speeds in the middle lane only.

MTA Bridges and Tunnels facilities, which serve more than 830,000 daily customers, are the Bronx-Whitestone, Cross Bay Veterans Memorial, Henry Hudson, Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Memorial, Throgs Neck, Triborough and Verrazano-Narrows Bridges, and the Brooklyn-Battery and Queens Midtown Tunnels.

PHOTO CAPTION: (Bridge and Tunnel Officers pull over trucks to check permit (left) and weight (right) for safe crossing over and through MTA facilities.

