

Maximum permitted weights and dimensions, goods transport France

Height	no restriction ¹
Width	
Motor vehicle/trailer	2.55m
Refrigerated vehicle (minimum thickness of walls - 45mm)	2.60m
Length	
Motor vehicle	12.00m
Trailer	12.00m
Articulated vehicle	16.50m ²
Road train	18.75m
Road train, used for the transport of vehicles (when loaded, using authorised load support)	20.35m ³
Weight per axle	
single axle	13.0t or 12.0t ⁴
single drive axle	13.0t or 12.0t ⁴
the load on the heaviest axle of a group of axles may not exceed the following values for a distance between the axles of	
· <0.90m	7.35t
· 0.90m to <1.35m	7.35t + 0.35t per 5cm of the distance between the axles minus 0.90m
· 1.35m to <1.80m	10.5t
the load on the drive axle which is part of the tandem axle of a motor vehicle may be increased to 11.5t on condition that the total load on the tandem does not exceed the following values for a distance between the axles of	
· <0.90m	13.15t
· 0.90m to <1.00m	13.15t + 0.65t per 5cm of the distance between the two axles minus 0.90m
· 1.00m to <1.35m, the higher of the following two values	13.15t + 0.65t per 5cm of the distance between the two axles minus 0.90m, or 16.0t
· 1.35m to <1.80m	19.0t
Maximum permitted weight	
Motor vehicle	
· with 2 axles	19.0t
· with 3 axles	26.0t ⁵
· with 4 axles or more	32.0t ⁵
Trailer	
· with 2 axles	19.0t
· with 3 axles or more	26.0t
Articulated vehicle	
· with 4 axles (2+2)	38.0t
· with 5/6 axles (2+3, 3+2/3)	44.0t ⁶
· with 5/6 axles (3+2/3) for the transport of 40' ISO containers or swap bodies as part of a combined transport operation	44.0t
Road train	
· with 4 axles (2+2)	38.0t
· with 5/6 axles (2+3, 3+2/3)	40.0t ⁶

¹ commonly 4.00m, 4.30m

² maximum length increased by 40cm for the transport of a maritime container or a swap body in a combined transport operation, and by 80cm for the transport of a 45' "tunnel" container

³ The overhang of 1.60m is permitted at the rear of the vehicle only. Overhang to the front is forbidden.

⁴ 13t or 12t for articulated vehicles of a road transport unit between 40t and 44t

The weight borne by the driving axle(s) of a vehicle or a combined vehicle must not be less than 25% of the total laden weight of the vehicle, when used in international traffic.

⁵ With a maximum laden weight of 5t per metre of distance between the outermost axles

⁶ For motor vehicles (articulated vehicle or road train) between 40t and 44t, the maximum weight borne by the most heavily loaded axle is 12t.

Time limitations are applied depending on the age of the vehicles. By Order, the French Transport Ministry has established specific conditions which allow the movement of these vehicles up to 44t as follows:

- until 30 September 2014, when the motor vehicle has been registered subsequent to 1 October 2001 (Euro III vehicles);
- until 20 September 2017, when the motor vehicle has been registered subsequent to 1 October 2006 (Euro IV and Euro V vehicles);
- vehicles registered subsequent to 1 October 2009.

Sources: IDIT, May 2013
Highway Code (Art. R312-4), January 2013
AFTRI, October 1999