



Vehicle Weight Restriction FAQ's:

Why are there length/width/height restrictions for vehicles boarding a ferry?

Vehicle length, width, and height restrictions are in place to ensure safe and efficient loading, unloading, and transit aboard the ferry.

Length: Long vehicles require a larger turning radius, which can present challenges when maneuvering on and off the ferry—especially on vessels that load from both the port and starboard sides.

Width: Vehicle width is limited by the design of the ferry's vehicle lanes. Each lane has a fixed width, and vehicles must fit safely within these lanes to avoid damage or operational issues. Width is also a factor for ferries with vehicle elevators.

Height: Height restrictions are determined by the overhead clearance of the ferry's vehicle access doors and interior decks. Vehicles exceeding the maximum height may not be able to safely board or may pose a risk to the ferry's structure.

Why are there weight restrictions for vehicles boarding a ferry?

Weight restrictions ensure the structural safety of the ferry. The vehicle deck is designed to handle specific loads—too much weight can overstress the deck plating or exceed the shear limits of welded internal structures. These factors have been carefully calculated and approved by the USCG and ABS to meet safety standards.

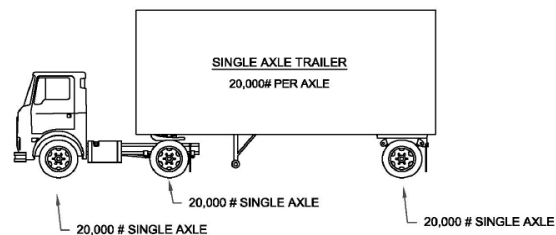
How does weight per axle work?

Knowing the gross weight is not enough information. Even if a truck's total (gross) weight is below the 70,000 lb ferry limit (60,000 lbs for Tustumena), we still must make sure no axle or axle group exceeds safe weight limits. Too much weight on one axle can damage the ferry deck and cause unsafe loading conditions.

Example 1: Small Box Truck with Single Axles

Configuration:

- 3 Single Axles (1 front, 1 drive, 1 trailer)
- Each axle may carry up to 20,000 lbs
- Max possible gross weight = 60,000 lbs



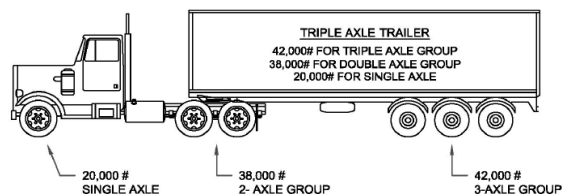
Example 2: Large Semi with Triple Axle Trailer

Configuration:

- 1 Single front axle (20,000 lbs)
- 1 Double axle (38,000 lbs)
- 1 Triple axle group (42,000 lbs)

Max axle total = 100,000 lbs,

however this truck may only be loaded to a gross weight of 70,000 lbs or 60,000 lbs for the Tustumena.





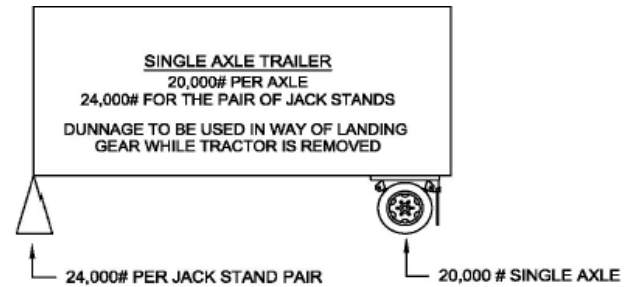
Vehicle Weight Restriction FAQ's:

What about heavy trailers or containers?

When dropping off trailers without the tractor unit, jack stands must be used to support the front end of the trailer in place of landing gear. Jack stands prevent tipping or damage during transit. Always use dunnage (wooden blocks or similar supports) underneath jack stands to ensure stability on deck.

Example 1: Single Axle Trailer

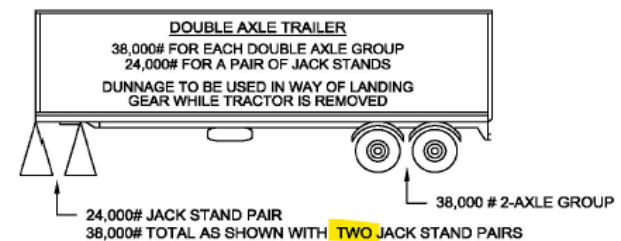
- Axle Group Weight: 20,000 lbs (per axle)
- Jack Stand Load: 24,000 lbs (per jack stand pair)
- Max Gross Weight (Axle + Jack Stand Support): 44,000 lbs



Example 2: Double Axle Trailer

- Axle Group Weight: 38,000 lbs (for 2 axles)
- Jack Stand Load: 24,000 lbs (per jack stand pair)
- Max Gross Weight (with 2 jack stand pairs): 62,000 lbs

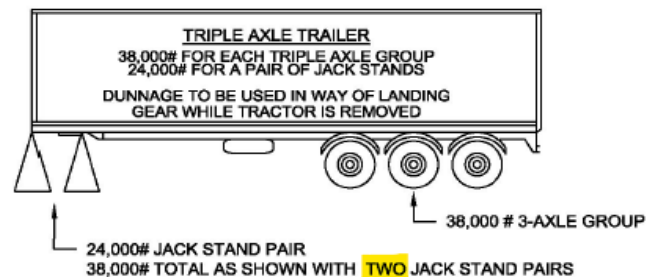
Note: If jack stand load exceeds 24,000 lbs per pair, use a second pair of jack stands or place them on a major transverse frame as specified



Example 3: Triple Axle Trailer

- Axle Group Weight: 38,000 lbs (for 3 axles — grouped limit stays the same)
- Jack Stand Load: 24,000 lbs (per jack stand pair)
- Max Gross Weight (with 2 jack stand pairs): 62,000 lbs

Note: Same jack stand placement rules apply as above.





Vessel-Specific Vehicle Restrictions

Loading ramps limit the gross vehicle weight to 70,000 lb. The Tustumena is limited to 60,000 lbs.

Restrictions and capacities shown are for standard vehicle bookings. Commercial vehicles may have additional restrictions. Please contact the Commercial Desk for further information.

Vessel	Loading Door/ Elevator Configuration	Vehicle Restrictions- Length/Width/Height	Vehicle Restrictions- Weight Per Axle	Van Capacity	Notes
Columbia	1. Side loading: Port and Starboard 2. Stern loading	Length: 70' Width: 12' Height: 13'6"	Maximum single axle weight = 20,000 lbs (10 tons) Maximum double axle weight = 38,000 lbs (19 tons) Maximum triple axle weight = 38,000 lbs (19 tons)	16 vans	2 cardecks, upper and lower. Loading is done via lower car deck with internal elevators to carry vehicles to upper cardeck. Height restrictions may apply to upper car deck.
Kennicott	1. Side loading: Port and Starboard 2. Stern loading 3. Vehicle Elevator Port and Starboard loading	Length: 70' using standard loading ramps. 50' using loading elevator Width: 12' Height: 13' 6"	Maximum single axle weight = 20,000 lbs (10 tons) Maximum double axle weight = 38,000 lbs (19 tons) Maximum triple axle weight = 42,000 lbs (21 tons)	17 vans	See Dock Restrictions for ports where loading elevator is used. Double shuffle may be required when elevator is in use.
Tustumena	Vehicle Elevator Port and Starboard loading	Length: 40' Width: 10'8" Height: 13'6"	Maximum single axle weight = 10,000 lbs (5 tons) Maximum double axle weight = 20,000 lbs (10 tons) Maximum triple axle weight = 30,000 lbs (15 tons)	6 vans	The vehicle elevator is used at all ports the Tustumena calls at. Double shuffle may be required when elevator is in use. See next page for width restrictions on vehicle elevator.
Aurora	1. Side loading: Port and Starboard 2. Stern loading	Length: 60' Combination, 35' Single Unit Width: 12' Height: 13'6"	Maximum single axle weight = 20,000 lbs (10 tons) Maximum double axle weight = 38,000 lbs (19 tons) Maximum triple axle weight = 42,000 lbs (21 tons)	7 vans	Portion of car deck ("the tunnel") is height restricted. Additional dock restrictions apply when serving Prince William Sound ports.
LeConte	1. Side loading: Port and Starboard 2. Stern loading	Length: 60' Combination, 35' Single Unit Width: 12' Height: 13'6"	Maximum single axle weight = 20,000 lbs (10 tons) Maximum double axle weight = 38,000 lbs (19 tons) Maximum triple axle weight = 42,000 lbs (21 tons)	8 vans	Portion of car deck ("the tunnel") is height restricted.
Hubbard	1. Side loading: Port and Starboard 2. Stern loading	Length: 60' Combination, 45'1" Single Unit Width: 12' Height: 13'6"	Maximum single axle weight = 20,000 lbs (10 tons) Maximum double axle weight = 38,000 lbs (19 tons) Maximum triple axle weight = 42,000 lbs (21 tons)	5 vans	
Tazlina	1. Side loading: Port and Starboard 2. Stern loading	Length: 60' Combination, 45'1" Single Unit Width: 12' Height: 13'6"	Maximum single axle weight = 20,000 lbs (10 tons) Maximum double axle weight = 38,000 lbs (19 tons) Maximum triple axle weight = 42,000 lbs (21 tons)	5 vans	
Lituya	1. Starboard side loading 2. Stern loading	Length: 40' Width: 12' Height: N/A	Maximum single axle weight = 20,000 lbs (10 tons) Maximum double axle weight = 38,000 lbs (19 tons) Maximum triple axle weight = 42,000 lbs (21 tons)	2 vans	Open car deck. Restriction of 2 double axle vehicles per sailing. Contact the Commercial Desk for information.
Matanuska	1. Side loading: Port and Starboard 2. Stern loading	Length: 70' Width: 12' Height: 13'6"	Maximum single axle weight = 18,000 lbs (10 tons) Maximum double axle weight = 38,000 lbs (19 tons) Maximum triple axle weight = 42,000 lbs (21 tons)	10 vans	None

Dock Restrictions and Facility Details

Port/Terminal

Capabilities/Restrictions

Akutan
Unattended

1. Utilizes dock owned by Aleutians East Borough -fixed facility – Vehicles larger than 4 wheelers need City permission, due to road/boardwalk limitations.
 2. Tie up provided by residents.
-

Angoon
Attended

1. Stern loading facility.
 2. Maximum loads over stern ramp 25 tons.
-

Bellingham
Staffed by Port of Bellingham
Reservations and Ticketing
available

1. Stern loading facility.
-

Chenega Bay
Unattended

1. Utilizes North Pacific Rim Housing Authority dock - fixed facility - maximum weight dependent upon vessel's vehicle elevator or ramp: MV Tustumena limit is 30 tons.
 2. Tie up provided by residents
-

Chignik
Unattended

1. Chignik dock, fixed facility.
 2. Tie up provided by the City.
-

Cold Bay
Attended

1. Utilizes Aleutian East Borough dock - fixed facility - maximum weight dependent upon vessel's vehicle elevator: MV Tustumena 30 tons
 2. Tie up provided by Mayor.
-

Cordova
AMHS Staff
Reservations and Ticketing
available

1. Two dock facilities:
 - a) Tidal ramp structure with side loading and FVF stern loading. Maximum bridge load is 35 tons.
 - b) Fixed City Dock, maximum load dependent on vessel's vehicle elevator: MV Tustumena 30 tons, MV Kennicott 35 tons.
 2. Tie up at City Dock provided by longshoremen.
-

Dutch Harbor/Unalaska
Unattended

1. Utilizes Unalaska Marine Center Position 3 - fixed facility - maximum weight dependent upon vessels vehicle elevator: MV Tustumena 30 tons.
 2. Tie up provided by longshoremen
-

False Pass
Unattended

1. Utilizes City dock - fixed facility - maximum weight dependent upon vessels vehicle elevator: MV Tustumena 30 tons.
 2. Tie up provided by residents.
-

Gustavus
Unattended

1. Side loading facility.
 2. Transfer bridge maximum load 35 tons.
-

Port/Terminal	Capabilities/Restrictions
Haines <i>AMHS Staff</i> Reservations and Ticketing available	1. Side loading syncrolift ramp. 2. Transfer bridge maximum load 35 tons.
Homer <i>AMHS Staff</i> Reservations and Ticketing available	1. Utilizes the City dock - fixed facility - maximum weight dependent upon vessels 2. Vehicle elevator: MV Tustumena 30 tons, MV Kennicott 35 tons.
Hoonah <i>AMHS Staff</i> Reservations and Ticketing available	1. Side loading facility. 2. Transfer bridge maximum load 35 tons.
Juneau/Auke Bay <i>AMHS Staff</i> Reservations and Ticketing available	1. Three loading facilities: a) East Berth - Side loading, 35 tons b) West Berth - Side loading, 35 tons c) Stern Berth - FVF stern loading, 35 tons
Juneau Reservations Office (JCO) <i>AMHS Staff</i> Reservations available by phone. No public access. Call Center Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30AM to 4:30PM 1-800-642-0066	1. No dock facilities. 2. Call Center, Commercial Services, Customer Re-lations, Tour and Youth Group Desks located here.
Juneau Southeast DOT Warehouse Reservations or Ticketing	1. No dock facilities. 2. SE Warehouse and Lost and Found located here. 3. No Public Access- Customers for Lost and Found may be permitted after contacting warehouse staff. 4. NOTE: Not the same building as JCO. Mail and deliveries should be labeled with the appropriate address.
Kake Attended	1. Side loading facility. 2. Transfer bridge maximum load 35 tons
Ketchikan <i>AMHS Staff</i> Reservations and Ticketing available	1. Two loading facilities: a) Main Berth - Side loading, 35 tons b) Stern Berth - Stern loading, 35 tons 2. A third ramp may be available which is part of the shipyard, side loading, 35 tons
Ketchikan Central Administrative Offices (KCO) Front Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00AM to 4:30PM Reservations or Ticketing available	1. No dock facilities. 2. General Manager, Dispatch, Vessel Scheduling, Financial and Administrative Services, IT, Operations and Terminal Management located here.
King Cove Unattended	1. Utilizes dock owned by Aleutians East Borough -fixed facility - maximum weight dependent upon vessels vehicle elevator: MV Tustumena 30 tons 2. Tie up provided by King Cove residents.

Port/Terminal	Capabilities/Restrictions
Kodiak <i>AMHS Staff</i> Reservations and Ticketing available	1. Two dock facilities: a) M/V Tustumena: Kodiak City Pier 1. Fixed facility. Terminal located here. b) M/V Kennicott: Kodiak City Pier 2. Fixed facility. located on northwest side of St. Paul Harbor. No terminal facilities, AMHS staff provide check-in and boarding services. 2. Maximum weight dependent upon vessels vehicle elevator: MV Tustumena 30 tons, MV Kennicott 35 tons
Marine Engineering Facility (MEF) No Reservations or Ticketing	1. No dock facilities.
Metlakatla/ Annette Bay Unattended	1. Side loading facility. 2. Transfer bridge maximum load 35 tons.
Old Harbor Unattended	1. New City Dock, fixed facility - maximum weight dependent upon vessels vehicle elevator: MV Tustumena 30 tons. 2. Tie up provided by Old Harbor residents.
Ouzinkie Unattended	1. Ouzinkie Bulkhead, fixed facility - maximum weight dependent upon vessels vehicle elevator: MV Tustumena 30 tons. 2. Tie up provided by Ouzinkie residents.
Pelican Attended	1. Stern loading facility 2. Transfer bridge maximum load 35 tons 3. Vehicles MUST obtain permit from Pelican City Council before being allowed to enter Pelican -limited roadways.
Petersburg <i>AMHS Staff</i> Reservations and Ticketing available	1. Side loading facility 2. Transfer bridge maximum load 35 tons.
Port Lions Unattended	1. Utilizes the City dock - fixed facility. 2. 30 ton limit on entire structure. 3. Tie up provided by City of Port Lions.
Prince Rupert <i>Contract Employees</i> Reservations and Ticketing available	1. Stern loading facility 2. Transfer bridge maximum load 35 tons. 3. NOTE: Heavy loads require axle weight information, contact terminal or Commercial Services for information. 4. Maximum vehicle width 12'5" dependent upon the wheel configuration. 5. US and Canadian Customs located at terminal.
Sand Point Unattended	1. Utilizes the City dock - fixed facility - maximum weight dependent upon vessels vehicle elevator: MV Tustumena 30 tons. 2. Tie up provided by Harbormaster.

Port/Terminal	Capabilities/Restrictions
Seldovia <i>City of Seldovia Staff</i> Reservations and Ticketing available	1. Utilizes City dock - fixed facility - maximum weight dependent upon vessels vehicle elevator: MV Tustumena 30 tons MV Kennicott 35 tons 2. Tie up provided by City of Seldovia
Sitka <i>AMHS Staff</i> Reservations and Ticketing available	1. Side loading facility 2. Transfer bridge maximum load 35 tons
Skagway <i>AMHS Staff</i> Reservations and Ticketing available	1. City of Skagway floating dock with AMHS side loading facility. Loading requires 90 degree turn to board vessels. Possible length and trailer restrictions may apply. 2. Transfer bridge maximum load 35 tons
Tatitlek Attended	1. Utilizes dock owned by North Pacific Rim Housing Authority - fixed facility with two tidal ramps for stern loading via vessel stern ramp. 2. Maximum weight dependent upon vessels stern ramp: MV Aurora 25 tons. 3. Tie up provided by residents.
Tenakee Attended	1. Utilizes dock owned by Tenakee Springs City, passenger only loading ramp, no vehicles. 2. Transfer of vehicles at Tenakee is limited to motorcycles, ATV's and other small motorized vehicles under 10' length and a maximum weight limit of 1000 lbs.
Valdez <i>AMHS Staff</i> Reservations and Ticketing available	1. Side loading syncrolift ramp with restricted ramp apron. Vehicles over 35' require vessel approval. 2. Transfer bridge maximum load 35 tons.
Whittier <i>AMHS Staff</i> Reservations and Ticketing available	1. Two dock facilities: a) Stern loading syncrolift ramp located at terminal - maximum load 35 tons, MV Aurora stern ramp 25 tons. b) Cruise Ship Pier utilized by MV Tustumena. Maximum weight dependent upon vessels vehicle elevator: MV Tustumena 30 tons
Wrangell <i>AMHS Staff</i> Reservations and Ticketing available	1. Side loading facility 2. Transfer bridge maximum load 35 tons
Yakutat Attended	1. Utilizes dock owned by City of Yakutat - fixed facility - maximum weight dependent upon vessels vehicle elevator: MV Kennicott 35 tons 2. Tie up provided by residents.

AMHS Vehicle Weight Declaration Form

This form is required for any vehicle approaching 70,000 lbs or with unusual axle configurations. Please attach a weight slip and any applicable documentation.
Refer to our vessel restriction policy for more information.

Company Name: _____

Date: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email (optional): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Ferry Route (From → To): _____

Requested Sailing Date: _____

Type of Equipment: _____

Vehicle License Plate #: _____

Trailer License Plate #: _____

Axle Configuration and Weights

Please indicate each axle or axle group, its type, and the actual or estimated weight on it.

Axle Position	Axle Type (circle one)	Weight (lbs)
Axle 1	Single / Double / Triple / Quad	_____
Axle 2	Single / Double / Triple / Quad	_____
Axle 3	Single / Double / Triple / Quad	_____
Axle 4	Single / Double / Triple / Quad	_____

Total Gross Vehicle Weight: _____ **lbs**

I certify that the information provided above is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that incorrect or incomplete information may result in denial of boarding or liability for any resulting damage to ferry property.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____