

# **BRIDGE WEIGHT LIMIT NOTIFICATION**

## **(BMS#: 46-1042-0060-0000)**

This is to inform you that the bridge carrying **Church Road (SR 1042)** over **Branch Perkiomen Creek (Upper Hanover, Montgomery County County)** will soon carry a weight limit of **16 Tons (32,000 lbs.) except combinations of 26 Tons (52,000 lbs.)**, under Section §4902(a) of the PA Vehicle Code. An engineering study determined the weight limit based on its structural condition, taking into account the extensive deterioration of this bridge. All overweight vehicles requesting permission to cross this bridge must fill out Application Form **M-4902**, and submit it to the “*Pennsylvania Department of Transportation*” for review and approval (at the address listed below). Approval of the permit is conditional, based upon a bridge analysis performed by the Department to ensure that the permitted vehicle(s) does not damage the bridge.

*The Public agencies covered under this letter that may require the use of this application include, but are not limited to: Postmaster, School District, Township Vehicles, Fire Department, Emergency Response Vehicles, etc.*

Please contact Sevon Navarro (PennDOT Engineering District 6-0; Bridge Unit) at (610) 205-6623 or ([snavarro@pa.gov](mailto:snavarro@pa.gov)) for more information, or questions regarding Form **M-4902**.

### **Below is further information for your use:**

For vehicles exceeding the posted weight or other load capacity restrictions (speed, number of vehicles on bridge, etc.), an Application Form must be filled out each year for approval to cross the bridge. One form is required for each bridge and each vehicle. The completed form(s) should be sent to the PennDOT Bridge Unit for review and processing, along with a “*Certificate of Liability Insurance*”.

**\*Note:** The total weight of each axle (Due to Vehicle and Load) and the distance between each axle, must be accurately measured (under maximum loading condition), not estimated.

Please make sure that the “**GROSS WEIGHT**” shown on the application(s), matches the total combined weight of the axles (“*Due to Vehicle and Load*”).

There is a **\$15** application fee for each **single trip** permit, and a **\$50** application fee for each **3-month (unlimited trips)** or **12-month (limited no. of trips – Must Specify)** permit; *except* for exempted entities as specified under Section §1901(a) of the Vehicle Code (i.e., Fire/Emergency Response, Township, and State/Local Authorities). Please make all remittance certified/cashiers checks or money orders made payable to: “**The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation**”

### **The completed form(s) should be sent to:**

**Pennsylvania Department of Transportation**  
**District 6-0, Bridge Unit**  
**7000 Geerdes Boulevard**  
**King of Prussia, PA 19406**  
**\*Attn: Steve Bartkovich, P.E. (Acting District Bridge Engineer)**

### **Emergency Vehicles & Fire Trucks are NOT exempt from Bridge Weight Restrictions:**

In Title 75 (Vehicle Code), Chapter 49, Section §4902(b) Restriction on use of highways and bridges states: “School buses, emergency vehicles, and vehicles making local deliveries or pickups may be exempted from the restrictions on the use of highways imposed under this section.” This exception is ONLY applicable to Highways. It is NOT applicable to Bridges.

Although public safety is the main issue:

- The Fire Company could have 2 emergencies on its hands, if its truck causes the bridge to fail.
- The fire truck operator and/or fire department may be held liable for any damage caused to the bridge by an unpermitted fire truck that is heavier than the posted weight limit.

Options available to assist the fire department’s need for timely emergency response could include, but are not limited to, a combination of:

- An M-4902 permit to exceed the posted weight limit (if appropriate).
- The use of a lighter fire truck as the first responder, while the heavier fire trucks travel the approved detour.
- Partnering with other fire companies to cover the area restricted by the bridge posting with a lighter fire truck.