



October 27, 2016

Registration and Title Bulletin # 010-16 Policy and Procedure

TO: All County Tax Assessor-Collectors

SUBJECT: **Determining Empty Weight of Certain Motor Vehicles**

PURPOSE

To provide guidance for determining the empty weight of certain motor vehicles that do not have a prior Texas record.

DETAILS

The department has recently received requests to provide guidance in determining the empty weight of motor vehicles that do not have a prior Texas record. Use the following options to determine the empty weight of motor vehicles:

Review the Surrendered Ownership Evidence. The gross weight and empty weight are the same for passenger vehicles. You may use these weights when capturing the empty weight at the time of title and/or registration. Do not use any recorded weight for passenger vehicles if the surrendered ownership evidence does not clearly list the weight as an empty or gross weight. For trucks, only an empty weight recorded on a surrendered ownership evidence document may be used since the recorded gross weight can vary depending on the carrying capacity. Do not use any recorded weight for trucks if the surrendered ownership evidence does not clearly list the weight as an empty weight.

Utilize Web Resources. You can visit www.kbb.com or www.nadaguides.com if an empty weight cannot be determined from the surrendered ownership evidence. Navigate to the “research” section of those websites, enter the required vehicle description, and navigate to the vehicle’s “specification” section. Use the curb weight provided by either website as the empty weight. There may be differences in the curb weight reported by each website. You may refer to one or both websites and use the weight you determine to be the most accurate. Please note the curb weight reflected is that of the base model. Different trim packages or modifications to the vehicle may affect the weight. Extra consideration should be given to these trim packages or modifications as the curb weight nears 6,000 pounds since the registration is impacted at the 6,000 pound threshold.

Require a Weight Certificate. An applicant for Texas title and/or registration will be required to obtain a certified weight certificate in order to establish the correct empty weight if the empty weight cannot be determined from either of the preceding options or a web resource indicates a curb weight in excess of 5,800 pounds.

An applicant will need to provide the intended carrying capacity for any trucks once the empty weight has been established. The empty weight plus carrying capacity cannot exceed the manufacturer’s gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR). If the GVWR needs to be established, you may request the applicant provide the GVWR which they can obtain from their driver’s side door frame.

As a reminder, empty weight may be referred to as curb weight or shipping weight. Curb and shipping weight are acceptable for use as empty weight of a vehicle.

Requirements for establishing the weight of commercial vehicles, buses, trailers, and other specific vehicles have not changed. These requirements can be found in the *Motor Vehicle Registration Manual*.

COUNTY ACTION

Please use the options provided above to establish the empty weight of motor vehicles. Once the empty weight has been established, add 100 pounds. All weights must be rounded to the next highest 100 pounds.

You may request the applicant obtain a certified weight certificate if there is question as to the true empty weight of a motor vehicle.

CONTACT

If you have any questions, please contact your local Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Regional Service Center.

Sincerely,



Jeremiah Kuntz, Director
Vehicle Titles and Registration Division

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