



Clarification Memo: Weight Restriction Clarification for Feed Ingredients and Fertilizer

To: Feed, Grain & Fertilizer Distributors

From: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Date: April 20, 2020

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation hereby issues the following clarifications on weight restrictions for Feed Ingredients and Fertilizers:

On April 20, 2020, PennDOT issued an updated exemption 2020-13(A) regarding the following applicable types of operations.

Commercial motor vehicle operations providing direct assistance in support of emergency relief efforts related to the COVID-19 outbreaks, including transportation to meet immediate needs for: (1) medical supplies and equipment related to the testing, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19; (2) supplies and equipment necessary for community safety, sanitation, and prevention of community transmission of COVID-19 such as masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, soap and disinfectants; (3) food, paper products and other groceries for emergency restocking of distribution centers or stores; (4) **immediate precursor raw materials**-such as paper, plastic or alcohol-that are required and to be used for the manufacture of items in categories (1), (2) or (3); (5) fuel; (6) liquefied gases to be used in refrigeration or cooling systems; and, (7) equipment and supplies necessary to establish and manage temporary housing, quarantine, and isolation facilities related to COVID-19. Direct assistance does not include routine commercial deliveries including mixed loads with a nominal quantity of the above referenced goods and materials to obtain the benefits of this Exemption.

Exemption 2020-13(A) includes "Special Conditions (1): The vehicle weight and permitting requirements of 67 Pa. Code, Chapter 179 (relating to Oversize and Overweight Loads and Vehicles) are hereby waived for motor carriers utilizing combination vehicles with divisible load limits equal to or less than 90,000 pounds that are providing direct assistance in transporting goods and materials necessary to respond to the COVID-19 virus disaster emergency."

To further clarify the applicability of this exemption for the agricultural sector, the following materials are covered under exemption 2020-13(A) as "**immediate precursor raw materials**" including:

- Grains
- Oilseeds and Seeds for Planting
- Feed ingredients
- Oils
- Fertilizers
- Livestock

All of these materials are considered applicable in Pennsylvania during this limited instance for COVID-19 relief due to their necessity as immediate precursor raw materials for the making and growing of food. For further clarification on fertilizer, please visit the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrations [FAQs page](#).

To get the most up to date information, please visit the COVID-19 web pages for both the [Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture](#) and [Department of Transportation](#).