



Weight Restrictions:

Each year, beginning as early as February and running as late as May, county road commissions around the state begin enforcing seasonal weight restrictions for trucks on Michigan roads. For propane, this means propane delivery trucks carry only 20-30% of the fuel they normally carry and make 3 to 5 times as many trips as they do during the rest of Winter.

Simple and logical reasons for an exemption from weight restrictions for heating fuel delivery vehicles:

1. First and foremost, **propane is a necessary and vital commodity** consumers need to heat their homes. Michigan is the largest propane consuming state in the country for residential heat.
2. An exemption for deliverable liquid heating fuels will significantly reduce – if not prevent – the need for most emergency situations.
3. A handful of counties have realized the necessity of delivering home heating fuel and do allow an exemption to the weight restrictions. They prefer drivers make just one fully loaded trip on the road as opposed to several lighter trips. However, without uniformity and consistency from one county to the next, drivers risk different levels of enforcement from county to county. A statewide exemption would create **uniform and consistent enforcement**.
4. Not only is there inconsistency from county to county, there is even inconsistency within counties. For instance, some propane businesses have better relationships than others with road commissions and road commissions have given preferential treatment to some propane companies over others even within the same county! That means **weight restrictions have created unlevel playing fields**.
5. Less road wear caused by making just 1 trip as opposed to making 3 or 4 trips with a 20-30% loaded truck. The propane industry makes an estimated **12,000 extra trips** during seasonal weight restrictions alone!
6. Weight restrictions are an **added burden to Michigan businesses**. In an effort to add more gallons during weight restrictions, many propane companies add "lift axles" to trucks allowing for more gallons to delivery trips. Lift axles cost approximately \$10,000 per truck and adds extra weight to trucks throughout the rest of the year ultimately adding to more costs to consumers. Even with lift axles, propane delivery trucks cannot deliver full loads during weight restrictions.
7. Weight restriction law is an archaic law that adds unnecessary and costly burdens on Michigan businesses and consumers in rural areas.
8. According to propane executives across the country, Michigan is one of just two states remaining that enforce weight restrictions on propane deliveries.
9. Consumers suffer with higher fuel prices due to the extra costs to comply with weight restrictions. At a time when heating prices are already high, consumers should not face higher prices because of restrictions on how they receive their heat.