



February 15, 2013  
02-37-R2

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## **New requirements to affect heavy loads on Yaquina Bay Bridge in Newport**

NEWPORT—Certain semi trucks, operating under a permit by the ODOT Motor Carrier Transportation Division, will soon be subject to new requirements when traveling over the US 101: Yaquina Bay Bridge in Newport.

The new restriction will affect only those trucks hauling non-divisible loads exceeding 98,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight, or exceeding 21,500 pounds per single axle or 43,000 pounds per tandem axle.

Beginning March 1, 2013 the permitted heavy haul trucks will be required to stop traffic and straddle the center line, using certified flaggers for traffic control at both ends of the bridge, so that they are the only vehicle on the bridge.

“These crossings won’t take much time,” said ODOT District 4 Manager Joe Squire. “Motorists will be delayed only 5 to 10 minutes,” he said.

Approximately 200 heavy haul permitted trucks annually will be affected by the weight restriction. With daily traffic of 16,500 vehicles per day, that represents a slight fraction of a percent of the current traffic volume of the bridge.

## **New requirements to prolong the life of the historic bridge**

The new load restriction is designed to extend the usable life of the bridge, designed by premier bridge designer Conde McCullough, and built between 1934 and 1936.

The bridge is a combination of both steel and concrete arches. The main span is a 600-foot steel through arch, flanked by two 350-foot steel deck arches. There are five secondary reinforced concrete deck arch spans on the south end.

The Yaquina Bay Bridge was built to standards for traffic in the 1930's. With modern maintenance techniques, the bridge has withstood the harsh coastal environment and has accommodated the increasingly heavy loads of the modern freight industry. In order to assure decades more of usable life, ODOT has decided to implement the weight restriction.

“Newport is, and will remain easily and safely accessible, and open for business for the traveling public and freight,” said Squire.

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