Recognised Loading Control Method #2
Using Portable Scales

September 2017

The following is a recognised loading control method under the Accredited Mass Management Scheme.

Similar to using a weighbridge, measuring the vehicle's axle groups at the ground using portable scales is a very reliable loading control method.

It gives assurance to the driver that their vehicle is loaded within the allowable mass limits of their permit and enables them to record this information as part of their trip records.

It also ensures the driver can easily detect any overloads and rectify them prior to departure.

It is important to remember that weighing must take place on firm, level ground and suspension torque must be managed to ensure the weights determined are correct each time.

The weighing process must take these factors into consideration and it must be clearly documented in the operator's loading plan.

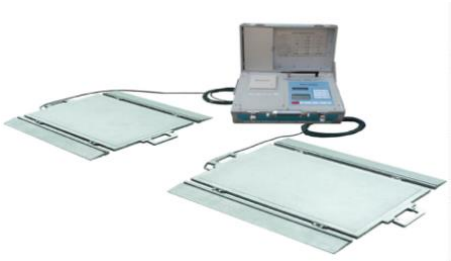
You must also ensure your drivers are adequately trained to carry out the weighing process.

The technology for portable scales can vary greatly as it can range from sensor pads with an integrated analogue gauge, through to sensor pads that link to a central electronic control unit.

For sensor pads with an integrated analogue or digital gauge, it will require the driver to have a documented process to record the axle group weights each time the vehicle is weighed.

This could be in the form of a simple spreadsheet / trip sheet or schematic of the particular vehicle combination for the driver to record axle group weights, which needs to be signed and dated. Alternatively, time stamped photographs can be taken of the readouts. These can then simply be included in their trip records.

More advanced systems include where the sensor pads link to an electronic control unit and can print a basic weigh docket showing the mass for each axle, registration of the prime mover and the date and time the weigh took place.



This docket could then simply be signed off by the driver and included in their trip records.

'You need to make sure the portable scales are maintained and calibrated as per the manufacturer requirements and you must have documented evidence of this.'

Regardless of the type of portable scales you use, you must ensure they are maintained and calibrated according to the manufacturer requirements.

You must have written procedures to outline the ongoing maintenance process, and current calibration documentation for the portable scales.