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## **Overloading Policy Opicorp (PTY) Limited T/A Auto Carriers**

### **1. Background**

Overloading is recognized to be both a safety concern as well as a cost concern. Economic growth demands an adequate transport infrastructure. Overloaded vehicles, especially freight vehicles, are destroying our roads, impacting negatively on economic growth – the damage caused grows exponentially as the load increases. Damage to roads because of overloading leads to higher maintenance and repair costs and shortens the life of a road which in turn places an additional burden on the state as well as law abiding road users who ultimately carry the costs of careless and inconsiderate overloading. If the problem of overloading is not controlled, this cost must be carried by the road user, which will require significant increases in road user charges such as the fuel levy, vehicles license fees, and overloading fees to mention just a few. Overloading is a safety hazard that leads to unnecessary loss of life, and the rapid deterioration of our roads, resulting in increased maintenance and transportation costs.

### **2. The risks to road safety posed by Overloading**

Overloading contributes to many fatal accidents on our roads as well as threatens road safety. The overloaded vehicle will not only put the driver at risk but also other road users.

Overloading will pose the following risks:

- Less stability on the road and increased stopping duration.
- Tyres will overheat and wear rapidly which increases the chance of blowouts.
- The Drivers control over an overloaded vehicle is diminished which increases the chance of an accident.
- The overloaded vehicle loses the ability to accelerate as normal and makes it difficult to overtake.
- An overloaded vehicle leads to a higher maintenance cost to the vehicle (Brakes, tyres, shock absorbers and a higher fuel consumption).

### **3. Overloading Tolerance**

Opicorp (PTY) Limited T/A Auto Carriers has a no overloading Policy.

Every time a vehicle is loaded it is imperative that the drivers check for dimensional compliance, and should a load be non-compliant adjustments would need to be made.