

**Western Association of State Highway
and Transportation Officials**

Resolution 4-97

Federal Definition of Non-Divisible Loads

Whereas, the members of the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (WASHTO) are dedicated to promoting and coordinating their efforts in regards to the safety of the motoring public, protection of the infrastructure and economic efficiencies; and

Whereas, the Federal Highway Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation, through its rule making process, has adopted a definition of Non-Divisible Loads, which is contrary to the needs of WASHTO member states, and has not acted on repeated requests by both the public and private sectors to allow state officials to make decisions based on regional/state safety and economic considerations; and

Whereas, the current Federal definition of non-divisible vehicles and/or loads generates conflict between the industry and regulatory/enforcement agencies in the interpretation and enforcement thereof; and

Whereas, the Federal Highway Administration has threatened to withhold states' highway funds unless the individual states recognize the Federal position even in cases where public health and safety are at risk;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the WASHTO member states endorse and support the definition of Non-Divisible Loads found in the Guide for Uniform Laws and Regulations Governing Truck Size and Weights among the WASHTO States, as follows: *"A load which cannot be readily or reasonably dismantled and which is reduced to a minimum practical size and weight. Portions of a load can be detached and reloaded on the same hauling unit provided that the separate pieces are necessary to the operation of the machine or equipment which is being hauled, if the arrangement does not exceed the permissible limits;"* and

Be it further resolved, that WASHTO urges the FHWA to initiate a rulemaking proceeding to reconsider the definition of Non-Divisible Loads and adopt the WASHTO definition.

Adopted by the WASHTO Policy Committee on July 30, 1997 at the WASHTO annual meeting in Sun Valley, Idaho.

Dwight M. Bower President

This Resolution was signed by
Dwight Bower, Date Unknown