


MEMORANDUM

To: Col. Freddy Johnson, Jr., Commander, North Carolina State Highway Patrol
Jeffrey Smythe, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Public Safety

CC: Steve Troxler, North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture
Daniel Johnson, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Transportation

From: Josh Stein, Governor, North Carolina 

Date: January 20, 2026

Re: Temporary Waiver Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.70(g)

A winter storm is expected to cause significant impacts to North Carolina on or near January 23-26, 2026. To prepare, farmers are working diligently to harvest ripe crops and relocate livestock and poultry to avoid economic losses associated with crop damage and livestock and poultry loss.

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.70(g), upon the recommendation of the North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture and the existence of an imminent threat of severe economic loss of livestock, poultry, or crops ready to be harvested, I direct the Commander of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol (NCSHP) to temporarily suspend weighing pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-118.1 vehicles used to transport livestock, poultry, or crops ready to be harvested.

Weighing is suspended statewide. This directive is effective until the earliest of: (1) issuance of an Executive Order declaring a state of emergency in anticipation of the impacts from the aforementioned winter storm; (2) rescission of this directive by the Governor; or (3) at 5 p.m. eastern time on January 27, 2026. If the Governor issues an Executive Order declaring a state of emergency in anticipation of the impacts from the aforementioned winter storm, that Executive Order supersedes this directive.

This waiver is subject to the following conditions:

1. The gross weight of any vehicle or combination may not exceed the safe load carrying capacity established by DOT on any bridge pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 136-72.
2. A vehicle that a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe is creating an imminent hazard to public safety may not be operated.
3. The weight exemption for vehicles will be allowed on all DOT-designated routes, except those routes designated as light traffic roads under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-118.
4. Commercial vehicles operating outside the normal weight restrictions under the authority of this Directive shall be issued permits by DOT pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-119. Said vehicles shall be subject to any special conditions DOT and the NCSHP may list on applicable permits. Nothing in this Directive shall be construed to allow any vehicle to exceed weight limits posted for bridges and like structures, nor shall anything in this Directive be construed to relieve compliance with restrictions other than those specified

in this Directive or from any statute, rule, order, or other legal requirement not specifically waived herein.

5. Oversize permits may be issued by the DOT, Oversize/Overweight Unit, during normal business hours, Monday through Friday by calling 1-888-221-8166 or through the online portal at <https://connect.ncdot.gov/business/trucking/Pages/overpermits.aspx>.

NCSHP shall enforce this direct in a manner that does not endanger North Carolina motorists.