State of California
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Traffic Operations, Mail Station 36
Transportation Permits Branch

Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

Caltrans Proposal Response

Subject : **Dynamic Testing and Mixed Suspension**

Proposal Date : December 29, 2006

Response Date : July 14, 2008

Policy : **Transportation permits Manual Section 302.4**

I. Change current policy

Industry Proposed Revision:

This proposal seeks to revise Section 302.4 of the Transportation Permits Manual (TPM) in order to more correctly reflect state of the art axle suspension designs as it applies to 'mixed suspension' and 'dynamic' testing requirements. Suspension systems are used to mitigate the weight distribution between axles and such support the lifecycle of the infrastructure.

Vehicles operating at extralegal weight shall be equipped with a suspension system. All axles within the same suspension group shall divide weight between all axles. Individual axle weights shall be with in plus or minus ten percent of the ***mean*** *weight of that axle group.*

The Department's Response:

The Department encourages new design concepts and innovative suspension systems. The Department appreciates industry's continued efforts in improving suspension systems to better distribute weights and reduce impacts on State highways and bridges. This proposal is too broad as currently submitted and does not define specific suspension systems for evaluation. The Department has a process in place that is available to customers, which allows a request for an Extralegal Transportation Equipment Review. The Department is willing to consider a specific suspension system provided that industry can present complete description, literature, drawings, manufacturer specifications and test data that proofs the system equitably distribute weight between axles and axle groups. The Department would be interested if the proposed system has been used in other states and what methods used to test the system. One of the Department's goals is to be good stewards of existing facilities and will work with industry on any proposal that will distribute weight equitably between axles to help preserve the existing infrastructure.