

*RECORDING AND ANALYSIS OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF HEAVY GOODS
VEHICLES AT SECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAYS OF KATERINI -
EYZONI AND THESSALONIKI - KAVALA. COMPARISON WITH SIMILAR DATA
OF THE FRENCH MOTORWAYS.*

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research is to record and analyse the static and dynamic characteristics of heavy goods vehicles (HGV) at particular sections of the Greek National road network. Also it is aimed to define the distribution of the axle and total weights of HGV, the number of the overweighted axles and vehicles, to determine deterioration factors for paved roads and to estimate the remaining life - time of asphaltic surfaces of the Greek National road network. Measurements were made during the period from October 1988 to June 1989 at three positions of the New National Highways of Katerini - Eyzoni and Thessaloniki - Kavala. The characteristics of the motion of 110272 vehicles were recorded from which 54669 were HGV. The analysis of the data showed that a considerable number of heavily loaded axles and vehicles exists on the Greek roads.

Also, the number of overweighted axles and vehicles is very high. That shows the absence of systematic police checks for overweighted vehicles. The use of two factors that will allow the conversion of simple classified traffic counts to axle equivalents of 18.000 lbr. is proposed. Last, the comparison between similar data from Greek and French roads shows that the loads of the vehicles that use the Greek road network are higher than the loads recorded on French motorways.