

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 6

WEIGHT AND BALANCE

Paragraph No.		Page No.
6.1	General	6-1
6.3	Airplane Weighing Procedure	6-3
6.5	Weight and Balance Data and Record.....	6-6
6.7	Weight and Balance Determination for Flight	6-11

SECTION 6
WEIGHT AND BALANCE

6.1 GENERAL

In order to achieve the performance and flying characteristics which are designed into the airplane, it must be flown with the weight and center of gravity (C.G.) position within the approved operating range (envelope). Although the airplane offers flexibility of loading, it cannot be flown with the maximum number of adult passengers, full fuel tanks and maximum baggage. With the flexibility comes responsibility. The pilot must ensure that the airplane is loaded within the loading envelope before he makes a takeoff.

Misloading carries consequences for any aircraft. An overloaded airplane will not take off, climb or cruise as well as a properly loaded one. The heavier the airplane is loaded, the less climb performance it will have.

Center of gravity is a determining factor in flight characteristics. If the C.G. is too far forward in any airplane, it may be difficult to rotate for takeoff or landing. If the C.G. is too far aft, the airplane may rotate prematurely on takeoff or tend to pitch up during climb. Longitudinal stability will be reduced. This can lead to inadvertent stalls and even spins; and spin recovery becomes more difficult as the center of gravity moves aft of the approved limit.

A properly loaded airplane, however, will perform as intended. Before the airplane is licensed, it is weighed, and a basic empty weight and C.G. location is computed (basic empty weight consists of the standard empty weight of the airplane plus the optional equipment). Using the basic empty weight and C.G. location, the pilot can easily determine the weight and C.G. position for the loaded airplane by computing the total weight and moment and then determining whether they are within the approved envelope.

The basic empty weight and C.G. location are recorded in the Weight and Balance Data Form (Figure 6-5) and the Weight and Balance Record (Figure 6-7). The current values should always be used. Whenever new equipment is added or any modification work is done, the mechanic responsible for the work is required to compute a new basic empty weight and C.G. position and to write these in the Aircraft Logbook and the Weight and Balance Record. The owner should make sure that it is done.

A weight and balance calculation is necessary in determining how much fuel or baggage can be boarded so as to keep within allowable limits. Check calculations prior to adding fuel to ensure against improper loading.

The following pages are forms used in weighing an airplane in production and in computing basic empty weight, C.G. position, and useful load. Note that the useful load includes usable fuel, baggage, cargo and passengers. Following this is the method for computing takeoff weight and C.G.

6.7 WEIGHT AND BALANCE DETERMINATION FOR FLIGHT

- (a) Add the weight of all items to be loaded to the basic empty weight.
- (b) Use the Loading Graph (Figure 6-13) to determine the moment of all items to be carried in the airplane.
- (c) Add the amount of all items to be loaded to the basic empty weight moment.
- (d) Divide the total moment by the total weight to determine the C.G. location.
- (e) By using the figures of item (a) and item (d) (above), locate a point on the C.G. range and weight graph (Figure 6-15). If the point falls within the C.G. envelope, the loading meets the weight and balance requirements.

	Weight (Lbs)	Arm Aft Datum (Inches)	Moment (In-Lbs)
Basic Empty Weight			
Pilot and Front Passenger	340.0	80.5	27370
Passengers (Rear Seats)*	340.0	118.1	40154
Fuel (48 Gallon Maximum)		95.0	
Baggage*		142.8	
Total Loaded Airplane			

The center of gravity (C.G.) of this sample loading problem is at _____ inches aft of the datum line. Locate this point () on the C.G. range and weight graph. Since this point falls within the weight - C.G. envelope, this loading meets the weight and balance requirements.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PILOT TO ENSURE THAT THE AIRPLANE IS LOADED PROPERLY.

*Utility Category Operation - No baggage or aft passengers allowed.

SAMPLE LOADING PROBLEM (NORMAL CATEGORY)

Figure 6-9

**SECTION 6
WEIGHT AND BALANCE**

PIPER AIRCRAFT CORPORATION
PA-28-151, CHEROKEE WARRIOR

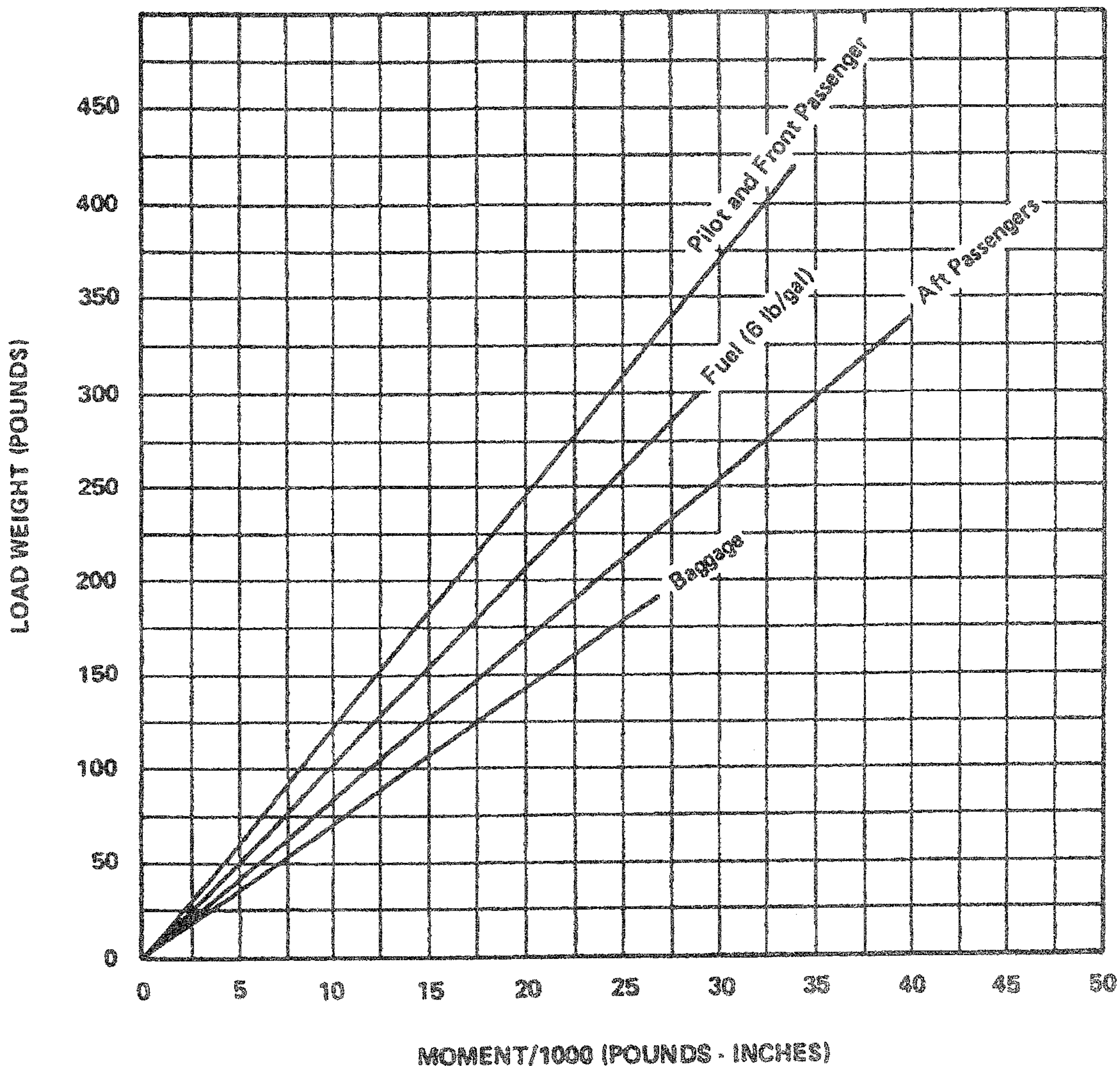
	Weight (Lbs)	Arm Aft Datum (Inches)	Moment (In-Lbs)
Basic Empty Weight			
Pilot and Front Passenger		80.5	
Passengers (Rear Seats)*		118.1	
Fuel (48 Gallon Maximum)		95.0	
Baggage*		142.8	
Total Loaded Airplane			

Totals must be within approved weight and C.G. limits. It is the responsibility of the pilot to ensure that the airplane is loaded properly. The Basic Empty Weight C.G. is noted on the Weight and Balance Data Form (Figure 6-5). If the airplane has been altered, refer to the Weight and Balance Record for this information.

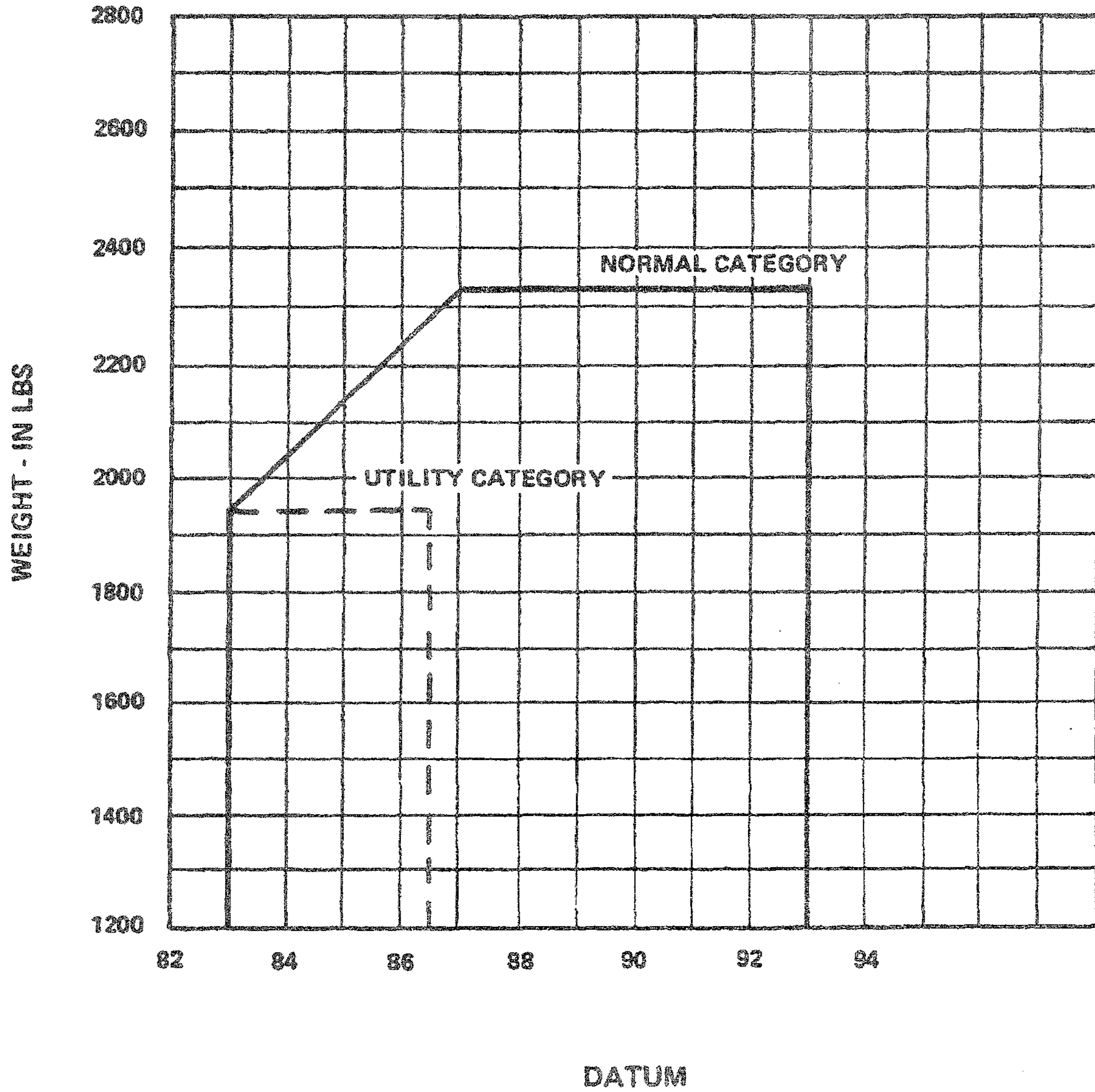
*Utility Category Operation - No baggage or aft passengers allowed.

WEIGHT AND BALANCE LOADING FORM

Figure 6- 11



LOADING GRAPH
Figure 6-13



C. G. RANGE AND WEIGHT

Figure 6-15