

Colorado

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COLORADO REVISED STATUTES - Title 42, Vehicles and Traffic

42-4-504. **Height** and length of vehicles

- (1) No vehicle unladen or with load shall exceed a **height** of thirteen feet; except that vehicles with a **height** of fourteen feet six inches shall be operated only on highways designated by the department of transportation.
- (2) No single motor vehicle shall exceed a length of forty-five feet extreme overall dimension, inclusive of front and rear bumpers. The length of vehicles used for the mass transportation of passengers wholly within the limits of a town, city, or municipality or within a radius of fifteen miles thereof may extend to sixty feet. The length of school buses may extend to forty feet.
- (3) Buses used for the transportation of passengers between towns, cities, and municipalities in the state of Colorado may be sixty feet extreme overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers but shall not exceed a **height** of thirteen feet six inches, if such buses are equipped to conform with the load and weight limitations set forth in [section 42-4-508](#); except that buses with a **height** of fourteen feet six inches which otherwise conform to the requirements of this subsection (3) shall be operated only on highways designated by the department of transportation.
- (4) No combination of vehicles coupled together shall consist of more than four units, and no such combination of vehicles shall exceed a total overall length of seventy feet. Said length limitation shall not apply to unladen truck tractor-semitrailer combinations when the semitrailer is fifty-seven feet four inches or less in length or to unladen truck tractor-semitrailer-**trailer** combinations when the semitrailer and the **trailer** are each twenty-eight feet six inches or less in length. Said length limitations shall also not apply to vehicles operated by a public utility when required for emergency repair of public service facilities or properties or when operated under special permit as provided in [section 42-4-510](#), but, in respect to night transportation, every such vehicle and the load thereon shall be equipped with a sufficient number of clearance lamps on both sides and marker lamps upon the extreme ends of any projecting load to clearly mark the dimensions of such load.
- (4.5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (4) of this section, the following combinations of vehicles shall not exceed seventy-five feet in total overall length:
 - (a) Saddle-mount combinations consisting of no more than four units;
 - (b) Laden truck tractor-semitrailer combinations; and

- (c) Specialized equipment used in combination for transporting automobiles or boats. The overall length of such combination shall be exclusive of:
 - (I) Safety devices; however, such safety devices shall not be designed or used for carrying cargo;
 - (II) Automobiles or boats being transported;
 - (III) Any extension device that may be used for loading beyond the extreme front or rear ends of a vehicle or combination of vehicles; except that the projection of a load, including any extension devices loaded to the front of the vehicle, shall not extend more than four feet beyond the extreme front of the grill of such vehicle and no load or extension device may extend more than six feet to the extreme rear of the vehicle.
- (5) The load upon any vehicle operated alone or the load upon the front vehicle of a combination of vehicles shall not extend beyond the front wheels of such vehicles or vehicle or the front most point of the grill of such vehicle; but a load may project not more than four feet beyond the front most point of the grill assembly of the vehicle engine compartment of such a vehicle at a point above the cab of the driver's compartment so long as that part of any load projecting ahead of the rear of the cab or driver's compartment shall be so loaded as not to obscure the vision of the driver to the front or to either side.
- (6) The length limitations of vehicles and combinations of vehicles provided for in this section as they apply to vehicles being operated and utilized for the transportation of steel, fabricated beams, trusses, utility poles, and pipes shall be determined without regard to the projection of said commodities beyond the extreme front or rear of the vehicle or combination of vehicles; except that the projection of a load to the front shall be governed by the provisions of subsection (5) of this section, and no load shall project to the rear more than ten feet.
- (7) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

History

42-4-506. **Trailers** and towed vehicles

- (1) When one vehicle is towing another, the drawbar or other connection shall be of sufficient strength to pull all weight towed thereby, and said drawbar or other connection shall not exceed fifteen feet from one vehicle to the other, except the connection between any two vehicles transporting poles, pipe, machinery, or other objects of a structural nature which cannot readily be dismembered and except connections between vehicles in

which the combined lengths of the vehicles and the connection does not exceed an overall length of fifty-five feet and the connection is of rigid construction included as part of the structural design of the towed vehicle.

- (2) When one vehicle is towing another and the connection consists of a chain, rope, or cable, there shall be displayed upon such connection a white flag or cloth not less than twelve inches square.
- (3) Whenever one vehicle is towing another, in addition to the drawbar or other connection, except a fifth wheel connection meeting the requirements of the department of transportation, safety chains or cables arranged in such a way that it will be impossible for the vehicle being towed to break loose from the vehicle towing in the event the drawbar or other connection were to be broken, loosened, or otherwise damaged shall be used. This subsection (3) shall apply to all motor vehicles, to all **trailers**, except semitrailers connected by a proper fifth wheel, and to any dolly used to convert a semitrailer to a full **trailer**.
- (4) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

42-4-223. Brakes

- (1) **Brake** equipment required:
 - (a) Every motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with **brakes** adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold such vehicle, including two separate means of applying the **brakes**, each of which means shall be effective to apply the **brakes** to at least two wheels. If these two separate means of applying the **brakes** are connected in any way, they shall be so constructed that failure of any one part of the operating mechanism shall not leave the motor vehicle without **brakes** on at least two wheels.
 - (b) Every motorcycle and low-power scooter, when operated upon a highway, shall be equipped with at least one **brake**, which may be operated by hand or foot.
 - (c) Every **trailer** or semitrailer of a gross weight of three thousand pounds or more, when operated upon a highway, shall be equipped with **brakes** adequate to control the movement of and to stop and to hold such vehicle and so designed as to be applied by the driver of the towing motor vehicle from the cab, and said **brakes** shall be so designed and connected that in case of an accidental breakaway of the towed vehicle the **brakes** shall be automatically applied. The provisions of this paragraph (c) shall not be applicable to any **trailer** which does not meet the definition of "commercial vehicle" as that term is defined in [section 42-4-235 \(1\) \(a\)](#) and which is owned by a farmer when transporting agricultural products produced on the owner's farm or supplies back to the farm of the owner of the **trailer**, tank **trailers** not exceeding ten thousand pounds gross weight used

solely for transporting liquid fertilizer or gaseous fertilizer under pressure, or distributor **trailers** not exceeding ten thousand pounds gross weight used solely for transporting and distributing dry fertilizer when hauled by a truck capable of stopping within the distance specified in subsection (2) of this section.

- (d) Every motor vehicle, **trailer**, or semitrailer constructed or sold in this state or operated upon the highways shall be equipped with service **brakes** upon all wheels of every such vehicle; except that: (I) Any **trailer** or semitrailer of less than three thousand pounds gross weight, or any horse **trailer** of a capacity of two horses or less, or any **trailer** which does not meet the definition of "commercial vehicle" as that term is defined in [section 42-4-235 \(1\) \(a\)](#) and which is owned by a farmer when transporting agricultural products produced on the owner's farm or supplies back to the farm of the owner of the **trailer**, or tank **trailers** not exceeding ten thousand pounds gross weight used solely for transporting liquid fertilizer or gaseous fertilizer under pressure, or distributor **trailers** not exceeding ten thousand pounds gross weight used solely for transporting and distributing dry fertilizer when hauled by a truck capable of stopping with loaded **trailer** attached in the distance specified by subsection (2) of this section need not be equipped with **brakes**, and any two-wheel motor vehicle need have **brakes** on only one wheel.
 - (II) Any truck or truck tractor, manufactured before July 25, 1980, and having three or more axles, need not have **brakes** on the wheels of the front or tandem steering axles if the **brakes** on the other wheels meet the performance requirements of subsection (2) of this section.
 - (III) Every **trailer** or semitrailer of three thousand pounds or more gross weight must have **brakes** on all wheels.
- (e) Provisions of this subsection (1) shall not apply to manufactured homes.
- (2) Performance ability of **brakes**:
 - (a) The service **brakes** upon any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles shall be adequate to stop such vehicle when traveling twenty miles per hour within a distance of forty feet when upon dry asphalt or concrete pavement surface free from loose material where the grade does not exceed one percent.
 - (b) Under the conditions stated in paragraph (a) of this subsection (2), the hand **brakes** shall be adequate to stop such vehicle within a distance of fifty-five feet, and said hand **brake** shall be adequate to hold such vehicle stationary on any grade upon which operated.
 - (c) Under the conditions stated in paragraph (a) of this subsection (2), the service **brakes** upon a motor vehicle equipped with two-wheel **brakes** only, when permitted under this section, shall be adequate to stop the vehicle within a distance of fifty-five feet.

- (d) All **braking** distances specified in this section shall apply to all vehicles mentioned, whether such vehicles are not loaded or are loaded to the maximum capacity permitted under this title.
- (e) All **brakes** shall be maintained in good working order and shall be so adjusted as to operate as equally as possible with respect to the wheels on opposite sides of the vehicle.
- (2.5) The department of public safety is specifically authorized to adopt rules relating to the use of surge **brakes**.
- (3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

42-4-215. Signal lamps and devices - additional **lighting** equipment

- (1) To be operated on a road, any motor **vehicle** may be equipped, and when required under this article must be equipped, with a stop lamp or lamps on the rear of the **vehicle** that, except as provided in [section 42-12-204](#), display a red or amber **light**, or any shade of color between red and amber, visible from a distance of not less than one hundred feet to the rear in normal sunlight, that are actuated upon application of the service (foot) brake, and that may but need not be incorporated with one or more other rear lamps. Such stop lamp or lamps may also be automatically actuated by a mechanical device when the **vehicle** is reducing speed or stopping. If two or more stop lamps are installed on any motor **vehicle**, any device actuating such lamps must be so designed and installed that all stop lamps are actuated by such device.
- (2) Any motor **vehicle** may be equipped, and when required under this article must be equipped, with lamps showing to the front and rear for the purpose of indicating an intention to turn either to the right or to the left. The lamps showing to the front must be located on the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and when in use display a white or amber **light**, or any shade of color between white and amber, visible from a distance of not less than one hundred feet to the front in normal sunlight, and the lamps showing to the rear must be located at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and, except as provided in [section 42-12-204](#), when in use must display a red or amber **light**, or any shade of color between red and amber, visible from a distance of not less than one hundred feet to the rear in normal sunlight. When actuated, the lamps must indicate the intended direction of turning by flashing the **light** showing to the front and rear on the side toward which the turn is made.
- (3) No stop lamp or signal lamp shall project a glaring or dazzling **light**.
- (4) Any motor **vehicle** may be equipped with not more than two side cowl or fender lamps which shall emit an amber or white **light** without glare.
- (5) Any motor **vehicle** may be equipped with not more than one runningboard courtesy lamp on each side thereof, which shall emit a white or amber **light** without glare.

- (6) Any motor **vehicle** may be equipped with not more than two back-up lamps either separately or in combination with other lamps, but no such back-up lamp shall be **lighted** when the motor **vehicle** is in forward motion.
- (7) Any **vehicle** may be equipped with lamps that may be used for the purpose of warning the operators of other **vehicles** of the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring the exercise of unusual care in approaching, overtaking, or passing and, when so equipped and when the **vehicle** is not in motion or is being operated at a speed of twenty-five miles per hour or less and at no other time, may display such warning in addition to any other warning signals required by this article. The lamps used to display such warning to the front must be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and display simultaneously flashing white or amber **lights**, or any shade of color between white and amber. The lamps used to display the warning to the rear must be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and, except as provided in [section 42-12-204](#), show simultaneously flashing amber or red **lights**, or any shade of color between amber and red. These warning **lights** must be visible from a distance of not less than five hundred feet under normal atmospheric conditions at night.
- (8) Any **vehicle** eighty inches or more in overall width may be equipped with not more than three identification lamps showing to the front which shall emit an amber **light** without glare and not more than three identification lamps showing to the rear which shall emit a red **light** without glare. Such lamps shall be mounted horizontally.
- (9) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

42-4-226. **Mirrors** - exterior placements

- (1) Every motor **vehicle** shall be equipped with a **mirror** or **mirrors** so located and so constructed as to reflect to the driver a free and unobstructed view of the highway for a distance of at least two hundred feet to the rear of such **vehicle**.
- (2) Whenever any motor **vehicle** is not equipped with a rear window and rear side windows or has a rear window and rear side windows composed of, covered by, or treated with any material or component that, when viewed from the position of the driver, obstructs the rear view of the driver or makes such window or windows nontransparent, or whenever any motor **vehicle** is towing another **vehicle** or trailer or carrying any load or cargo or object that obstructs the rear view of the driver, such **vehicle** shall be equipped with an exterior **mirror** on each side so located with respect to the position of the driver as to comply with the visual requirement of subsection (1) of this section.
- (3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.