

Kansas:

<http://www.kansashighwaypatrol.org/faqs/trailers.html>

Brakes

Kansas law requires brakes on all axles of trailers being towed by commercial vehicles.

Registration

Kansas law exempts trailers from registration if the total weight of the trailer and load being carried does not exceed 2,000 pounds.

Farm trailers are exempt from registration, unless the load being carried on the trailer exceeds 6,000 pounds.

Safety Hitches

Kansas law requires all trailers to have a safety hitch or chain of adequate strength in place to maintain a connection between vehicles if the regular hitch fails.

Towing Combinations

Vehicles are allowed to tow two trailers in tandem if there is an anti-sway device on the first trailer and an active braking system on the second trailer. The overall length of this combination cannot exceed 65 feet from the front bumper of the towing vehicle to the rear bumper of the last trailer.

Article 14 of Chapter 8 of the Kansas Statutes:

8-126. Definitions. The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them herein:

(h) "Trailer" means every vehicle without motive power designed to carry property or passengers wholly on its own structure and to be drawn by a motor vehicle.

(i) "Semitrailer" means every vehicle of the trailer type so designed and used in conjunction with a motor vehicle that some part of its own weight and that of its own load rests upon or is carried by another vehicle.

8-1902. Width of vehicles and loads thereon. (a) The total outside width of any vehicle or the load thereon shall not exceed 8 1/2 feet, except as otherwise provided in this section.

8-1904. Height and length of vehicles and loads; exceptions to maximums. (a) No vehicle including any load thereon shall exceed a height of 14 feet, except that a vehicle transporting cylindrically shaped bales of hay as authorized by subsection (e) of K.S.A. 8-1902, and

amendments thereto, may be loaded with such bales secured to a height not exceeding 14 1/2 feet. Should a vehicle so loaded with bales strike any overpass or other obstacle, the operator of the vehicle shall be liable for all damages resulting therefrom. The secretary of transportation may adopt rules and regulations for the movement of such loads of cylindrically shaped bales of hay.

(b) No motor vehicle including the load thereon shall exceed a length of 45 feet extreme overall dimension, excluding the front and rear bumpers, except as provided in subsection (d).

(c) Except as otherwise provided in K.S.A. 8-1914 and 8-1915, and amendments thereto, and subsections (d), (e), (f), (g) and (h), no combination of vehicles coupled together shall exceed a total length of 65 feet.

(d) The length limitations in subsection (b) shall not apply to a truck tractor. No semitrailer which is being operated in combination with a truck tractor shall exceed 59 1/2 feet in length. No semitrailer or trailer which is being operated in a combination consisting of a truck tractor, semitrailer and trailer shall exceed 28 1/2 feet in length.

(e) The limitations in this section governing maximum length of a semitrailer or trailer shall not apply to vehicles operating in the daytime when transporting poles, pipe, machinery or other objects of a structural nature which cannot readily be dismembered, except that it shall be unlawful to operate any such vehicle or combination of vehicles which exceeds a total length of 85 feet unless a special permit for such operation has been issued by the secretary of transportation or by an agent or designee of the secretary pursuant to K.S.A. 8-1911, and amendments thereto. For the purpose of authorizing the issuance of such special permits at motor carrier inspection stations, the secretary of transportation may contract with the superintendent of the Kansas highway patrol for such purpose, and in such event, the superintendent or any designee of the superintendent may issue such special permit pursuant to the terms and conditions of the contract. The limitations in this section shall not apply to vehicles transporting such objects operated at nighttime by a public utility when required for emergency repair of public service facilities or properties or when operated under special permit as provided in K.S.A. 8-1911, and amendments thereto, but in respect to such 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.

(f) The limitations of this section governing the maximum length of combinations of vehicles shall not apply to a combination of vehicles consisting of a truck tractor towing a house trailer, if such combination of vehicles does not exceed an overall length of 97 feet.

(g) The length limitations of this section shall not apply to stinger-steered automobile or boat transporters or one truck and one trailer vehicle combination, loaded or unloaded, used in transporting a combine to be engaged in farm custom harvesting operations, as defined in subsection (d) of K.S.A. 8-143j, and amendments thereto. A stinger-steered automobile or boat transporter or one truck and one trailer vehicle combination, loaded or unloaded, used in transporting a combine to be engaged in farm custom harvesting operations, as defined in

subsection (d) of K.S.A. 8-143j, and amendments thereto, shall not exceed an overall length limit of 75 feet, exclusive of front and rear overhang.

(h) The length limitations of this section shall not apply to drive-away saddlemount or drive-away saddlemount with fullmount vehicle transporter combination. A drive-away saddlemount or drive-away saddlemount with fullmount vehicle transporter combination shall not exceed an extreme overall dimension of 97 feet.

- (a) **Reflectors** when required by [K.S.A. 8-1710](#) shall be mounted at a height not less than twenty-four (24) inches and not more than sixty (60) inches above the ground on which the vehicle stands, except that if the highest part of the permanent structure of the vehicle is less than twenty-four (24) inches the **reflector** at such point shall be mounted as high as that part of the permanent structure will permit.

The rear **reflectors** on a pole **trailer** may be mounted on each side of the bolster or load.

Any required **red reflector** on the rear of a vehicle may be incorporated with the tail lamp, but such **reflector** shall meet all the other **reflector** requirements of this article.

- (b) Clearance lamps, so far as is practicable, shall be mounted on the permanent structure of the vehicle in such a manner as to indicate the extreme height and width of the vehicle, except that when rear identification lamps are required and are mounted as high as is practicable, rear clearance lamps may be mounted at optional height and when the mounting of front clearance lamps results in such lamps failing to indicate the extreme width of the **trailer**, such lamps may be mounted at optional height but must indicate, as near as practicable, the extreme width of the **trailer**. Clearance lamps on truck-tractors shall be located so as to indicate the extreme width of the truck-tractor cab. Clearance lamps and side marker lamps may be mounted in combination if illumination is given as required herein with reference to both.

8-1712. Mounting of **reflectors**, clearance lamps and side marker lamps.

- (a) **Reflectors** when required by [K.S.A. 8-1710](#) shall be mounted at a height not less than twenty-four (24) inches and not more than sixty (60) inches above the ground on which the vehicle stands, except that if the highest part of the permanent structure of the vehicle is less than twenty-four (24) inches the **reflector** at such point shall be mounted as high as that part of the permanent structure will permit.

The rear **reflectors** on a pole **trailer** may be mounted on each side of the bolster or load.

Any required **red reflector** on the rear of a vehicle may be incorporated with the tail lamp, but such **reflector** shall meet all the other **reflector** requirements of this article.

- (b) Clearance lamps, so far as is practicable, shall be mounted on the permanent structure of the vehicle in such a manner as to indicate the extreme height and width of the vehicle, except that when rear identification lamps are required and are mounted as

high as is practicable, rear clearance lamps may be mounted at optional height and when the mounting of front clearance lamps results in such lamps failing to indicate the extreme width of the **trailer**, such lamps may be mounted at optional height but must indicate, as near as practicable, the extreme width of the **trailer**. Clearance lamps on truck-tractors shall be located so as to indicate the extreme width of the truck-tractor cab. Clearance lamps and side marker lamps may be mounted in combination if illumination is given as required herein with reference to both

-1740. **Mirrors.**

- (a) After January 1, 1975, every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a **mirror** mounted on the left side of the vehicle and so located as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway to the rear of the vehicle.
- (b) Every motor vehicle, except a motorcycle, shall be equipped with an additional **mirror** mounted either inside the vehicle approximately in the center or outside the vehicle on the right side and so located as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway to the rear of the vehicle.
- (c) All **mirrors** required by regulations of the United States department of transportation shall be maintained in good condition.

8-1563. Special **speed** limitations applicable to certain vehicles and portions of highways; powers of secretary and local authorities; violations, evidence of safe **speed**.

- (a) No person shall drive a vehicle which is towing a **house trailer** at a **speed** greater than a maximum of fifty-five (55) miles per hour.
- (b) No person shall drive any vehicle equipped with solid rubber tires at a **speed** greater than a maximum of ten (10) miles per hour.
- (c) No person shall drive a vehicle over any bridge or other elevated structure constituting a part of a highway at a **speed** which is greater than the maximum **speed** which can be maintained with safety to such bridge or structure, when such structure is signposted as provided in this section.
- (d) The secretary of transportation and local authorities on highways under their respective jurisdictions may conduct an investigation of any bridge or other elevated structure constituting a part of a highway, and if it shall thereupon find that such structure cannot with safety to itself withstand vehicles traveling at the **speed** otherwise permissible under this article, the secretary or local authority shall determine and declare the maximum **speed** of vehicles which such structure can safely withstand, and shall cause or permit suitable signs stating such maximum **speed** to be erected and maintained not less than one hundred (100) feet before each end of such structure.
- (e) Upon the trial of any person charged with a violation of this section, proof of said determination of the maximum **speed** by said secretary and the existence of said signs

shall constitute conclusive evidence of the maximum **speed** which can be maintained with safety to such bridge or structure.

8-1907. Towing vehicles; connection and safety equipment; exceptions.

- (a) When one vehicle is towing another, the drawbar, towbar or other connections shall be of sufficient strength to pull, stop and hold all weight towed thereby, and so designed, constructed and installed as to insure that any vehicle or motor vehicle towed on a level, smooth, paved surface will follow in the path of the towing vehicle when it is moving in a straight line. In addition to the drawbar connections between any two such vehicles, there shall be provided an adequate safety **hitch**.
 - (b) 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 12 inches square.
 - (c) Motor vehicles in transit may be transported in combination by means of towbar, saddlemount or fullmount mechanisms, utilizing the motive power of one of the motor vehicles in such combination, except that not more than two vehicles in any such combination of motor vehicles in transit may be connected by means of a towbar mechanism. Whenever motor vehicles are transported as authorized in this subsection, such motor vehicles shall be connected securely in combination in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the secretary of transportation, and any combination of such motor vehicles shall comply with the limitations prescribed by [K.S.A. 8-1904](#), and amendments thereto.
- (d) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c), not more than three vehicles, including the towing vehicle, in any combination of vehicles may be connected by means of a towbar mechanism, and if the three such vehicles are connected by towbar mechanisms, the towbar mechanism between the towing vehicle and the first towed vehicle shall be equipped with an anti-sway mechanism. In addition, the second towed vehicle of every combination of vehicles so connected shall be equipped with service brakes acting on the wheels of at least one axle, and which are of a type approved by the secretary of transportation and of such character as to be applied automatically and promptly, except that this sentence shall not apply to combinations of vehicles which include a slow-moving