

Oklahoma Statute Title 47. Motor Vehicles

§47-1-162. Semitrailer.

Every vehicle with or without motive power, other than a pole trailer, designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that some part of its weight and that of its load rests upon or is carried by another vehicle.

Laws 1961, p. 320, § 1-162.

§47-1-180. Trailer.

Every vehicle with or without motive power, other than a pole trailer, designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that no part of its weight rests upon the towing vehicle, provided however, the definition of trailer herein shall not include implements of husbandry as defined in Section 1-125 of this chapter.

Laws 1961, p. 321, § 1-180.

§47-12-405.1. Coupling devices - Stay chains, cables or other safety devices.

A. Every trailer, semitrailer, manufactured home, or towed motor vehicle shall be equipped with a coupling device which shall be designed, constructed, and used so that the trailer, semitrailer, manufactured home, or towed motor vehicle will follow substantially in the path of the vehicle drawing it without whipping or swerving from side to side. In addition, every such trailer, semitrailer, manufactured home, or towed motor vehicle, except a semitrailer drawn by a truck-tractor type designed to draw or support the front end of a semitrailer, shall be coupled with:

1. Stay chains or cables to the vehicle by which it is being drawn, which chains or cable shall be of sufficient size and strength to prevent parting from the drawing vehicle, should the regular coupling device break or become otherwise disengaged; or
2. Chains, cables or a safety device which provides strength, security of attachment and directional stability equal to or greater than that provided by safety chains and which prevent parting from the drawing vehicle should the regular coupling device break or otherwise become disengaged. The safety device shall be designed, constructed, and installed so that if the coupling device fails or becomes disconnected the coupling device will not drop to the ground.

B. Nothing in this section shall be construed as excepting commercial vehicles subject to the provisions of 49 C.F.R., Subpart F, Coupling Devices and Towing Methods, from complying with the provisions thereof.

C. No person shall tow any vehicle by sole use of a chain, cable, ropes, or any combination thereof.

Added by Laws 2003, c. 411, § 55, eff. Nov. 1, 2003.

§47-14-103. Width, height and length of vehicle and load.

Except as otherwise provided for by this chapter:

A. No vehicle, with or without load, shall have a total outside width in excess of one hundred two (102) inches excluding:

1. Tire bulge;
2. Approved safety devices;
3. A retracted awning with a width of eight (8) inches or less or other appurtenance of four (4) inches or less which is attached to the side of a recreational vehicle, as defined in Section 1102 of this title; and
4. Pins used as a safety precaution or as a load-assisting device if the pins do not extend the overall width of the vehicle beyond nine (9) feet. The State of Oklahoma hereby declares it has determined, in accordance with 23 C.F.R., Section 658.15, that such pins are necessary for the safe and efficient operation of motor vehicles.

The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any person engaged in the hauling of round baled hay with a total outside width of eleven (11) feet or less when the hay is owned by such person and is being hauled for any purpose other than resale. The provisions of this subsection shall also not apply to any county official or employee engaged in the hauling or pulling of a trailer or equipment owned by the county on the county roads of such county.

B. No vehicle, with or without load, shall exceed a height of thirteen and one-half (13 1/2) feet.

C. 1. No single truck, with or without load, shall have an overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of forty-five (45) feet.

2. No single bus, with or without load, shall have an overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of forty-five (45) feet.

3. a. On the National Network of Highways which includes the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways and four-lane divided Federal Aid Primary System Highways, no semitrailer operating in a truck-tractor/semitrailer combination shall have a length greater than fifty-three (53) feet, except as provided in subsection C of Section 14-118 of this title which shall apply to semitrailers exceeding fifty-three (53) feet but not exceeding fifty-nine (59) feet six (6) inches. On the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways and four-lane divided Federal Aid Primary System Highways, no semitrailer or trailer operating in a truck-tractor/semitrailer and trailer combination shall have a length greater than fifty-three (53) feet.

b. On roads and highways not a part of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways or four-lane divided Federal Aid Primary System Highways, no semitrailer operating in a truck-tractor/semitrailer combination shall have a length greater than fifty-three (53) feet and no semitrailer or trailer operating in a truck-tractor/semitrailer and trailer combination shall have a length greater than twenty-nine (29) feet. Except as provided for in subsection D of Section 14-118 of this title, no other combination of vehicles shall have an overall length, inclusive of

front and rear bumpers, in excess of seventy (70) feet on all roads and highways. For the purposes of this paragraph, oil field rig-up trucks shall be considered to be truck-tractors, when towing a trailer or semitrailer.

4. No combination of vehicles shall consist of more than two units, except:

a. one truck and semitrailer or truck-tractor/semitrailer combination may tow one complete trailer or semitrailer, or

b. vans, suburbans, blazers or other similar types of vehicles and self-propelled recreational vehicles with a three-quarter (3/4) ton or more rated capacity, may tow a semitrailer and one complete trailer or semitrailer for recreational purposes only, provided the overall length, inclusive of the front and rear bumpers, does not exceed sixty-five (65) feet.

5. Poles and gas lines used to maintain public utility services, not to include new construction, may be moved during daylight hours, and during nighttime hours only in an emergency, subject to traffic and road restrictions promulgated by the Commissioner of Public Safety, when the overall length does not exceed eighty (80) feet. When this length is exceeded, these loads are subject to the requirements of Section 14-118 of this title.

6. For the purposes of paragraphs 1, 3, and 4 of this subsection, the length of unitized equipment, which is defined to be equipment so constructed and attached to a rubber-tired vehicle that the vehicle and load become a unit and are for all practical purposes inseparable, shall be the length of the vehicle itself, and shall not include any protrusion of the equipment load so constructed or attached. Said equipment shall not protrude for a distance greater than two-thirds (2/3) of the wheel base of said vehicle, shall not impair the driver's vision, and if less than seven (7) feet above the roadway, shall be safely marked, flagged or illuminated. Any such protruding structure shall be securely held in place to prevent dropping or swaying. Unitized equipment shall carry such safety equipment as shall be determined to be necessary for the safety, health, and welfare of the driving public by the Commissioner of Public Safety.

7. For the purposes of paragraphs 1, 3, and 4 of this subsection, a truck-tractor, when being towed by another vehicle with the wheels of its steering axle raised off the roadway, shall be considered to be a semitrailer as defined in Section 1-162 of this title.

8. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 of this subsection shall not apply to any contractor or subcontractor, or agents or employees of any contractor or subcontractor, while engaged in transporting material to the site of a project being constructed by, for, or on behalf of this state or any city, town, county, or subdivision of this state.

9. Special mobilized machinery, as defined in Section 1102 of this title, which exceeds the size provisions of this section shall only use the highways of the State of Oklahoma by special permit issued by the Commissioner of Public Safety or an authorized representative of the Commissioner. Such special permit shall be:

a. a single-trip permit issued under the provisions of Section 14-116 of this title, or

b. a special annual oversize permit issued for one (1) calendar year period upon payment of a fee of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) plus any amount as provided by subsection H of Section 14-118 of this title.

§47-14-106. Trailers and towed vehicles.

Every trailer, or semitrailer, shall be equipped with a coupling device which shall be so designed and constructed that the trailer, or semitrailer will follow substantially in the path of the vehicle drawing it without whipping or swerving from side to side. In addition, every such trailer or semitrailer except a semitrailer drawn by a truck-tractor type designed to draw or support the front end of a semitrailer, shall be coupled with stay chains or cables to the vehicle by which it is being drawn which chains or cable shall be of sufficient size and strength to prevent parting from the drawing vehicle should the regular coupling device break or become otherwise disengaged.

47-14-121. Special combination vehicles - Permits.

A. No person shall operate a special combination vehicle within this state without a special combination vehicle permit for the vehicle issued by the Department of Public Safety. Such permit may be issued for operation upon Federal Aid Interstate Highways or four-lane divided Federal Aid Primary Highways and for access or egress between points of origin or destination.

B. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall promulgate rules for the issuance of special combination vehicle permits and shall collect an annual fee of Two Hundred Forty Dollars (\$240.00) for each such permit issued. Except as provided in Section 4 of this act, fees collected pursuant to this section shall be remitted to the State Treasurer to be credited to the General Revenue Fund in the State Treasury.

C. For the purposes of this section, a special combination vehicle shall consist of a truck-tractor semitrailer combination towing two complete trailers or semitrailers. No semitrailer or trailer used in such a combination shall have a length greater than twenty-nine (29) feet nor shall a special combination vehicle exceed the weight limitations imposed by Sections 14-109 and 14-116 of this title.

§47-1102. Definitions.

As used in the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act:

6. "Commercial trailer" means any trailer, as defined in Section 1-180 of this title, or semitrailer, as defined in Section 1-162 of this title, when such trailer or semitrailer is used primarily for business or commercial purposes;

7. "Commercial trailer dealer" means any person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of selling any new and unused, or used, or both new and used commercial trailers;

8. "Commercial vehicle" means any vehicle over eight thousand (8,000) pounds combined laden weight used primarily for business or commercial purposes. Each motor vehicle being registered pursuant to the provisions of this section shall have the name of the commercial establishment or the words "Commercial Vehicle" permanently and prominently displayed upon the outside of the

vehicle in letters not less than two (2) inches high. Such letters shall be in sharp contrast to the background and shall be of sufficient shape and color as to be readily legible during daylight hours, from a distance of fifty (50) feet while the vehicle is not in motion;

§ 12-301. **Brake** equipment required

- **A.** Every motor vehicle manufactured prior to September 1, 1961, 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.**
 - **1.** Every motor vehicle manufactured on or after September 1, 1961, operated upon the highways shall be equipped with service **brakes** upon all wheels.
 - **2.** A truck or truck-tractor having three or more axles need not be equipped with **brakes** on the front axle if:
 - **a.** the vehicle was manufactured on or before July 24, 1980, or
 - **b.** the vehicle was manufactured on or after July 25, 1980, but no later than October 26, 1986, and the **brake** components have not been removed. If the **brake** components have been removed, the vehicle shall be retrofitted to meet the requirements of this section.
- **C.** 1. Every **trailer**, semitrailer, and pole **trailer** of a gross vehicle weight rating of three thousand (3,000) pounds or more when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with **brakes**:
 - **a.** adequate to control the movement of and to stop and to hold such vehicle,
 - **b.** so designated as to be applied by the driver of the towing motor vehicle from its cab. Provided, **braking** systems commonly known as "surge **brakes**" shall be lawful when used on a **trailer** which is towing or transporting a vessel or vessels, and
 - **c.** so designed and connected that in case of an accidental breakaway of the towed vehicle the **brakes** shall be automatically applied.
 - **2.** Every **trailer**, semitrailer, and pole **trailer** required to be equipped with **brakes**, except motor vehicles engaged in drive-away tow-away operations as provided in 49 C.F.R., Part 393.42, shall be equipped with **brakes** which are designed to be applied automatically and promptly

upon break-away from the towing vehicle, and means shall be provided to maintain application of the **brakes** on the **trailer** in such a case for at least fifteen (15) minutes.

- **3.** Any **trailer**, semitrailer, or pole **trailer** having a gross vehicle weight rating of less than three thousand (3,000) pounds need not be equipped with **brakes**; provided, the **trailer**, semitrailer, or pole **trailer** shall be equipped with **brakes** if the weight of the towed vehicle exceeds forty percent (40%) of the gross vehicle weight rating of the towing vehicle.
- **D.** Every motor vehicle and every combination of vehicles shall be equipped with a parking **brake** system adequate to hold the vehicle or combination on any grade on which it is operated under all conditions of loading, on a surface free from snow, ice, or loose material.
- **E.** The **braking** system on the rear axle of any motor vehicle may be used for both service **brake** and parking **brake** operation.
- **F.**
 - **1.** Air **brake** systems installed on towed vehicles manufactured shall be designed as provided in [49 C.F.R., Section 393.43](#).
 - **2.** Every truck or truck-tractor, if used to tow a **trailer** equipped with **brakes**, shall be equipped with service **brakes** as provided in [49 C.F.R., Section 393.43](#).
 - **3.** Every truck or truck tractor equipped with air **brakes**, when used to tow another vehicle equipped with full air **brakes**, in operations other than drive-away or tow-away, shall, in addition to the above, be equipped with two means of activating the emergency features of the **trailerbrakes** as provided in [49 C.F.R., Section 393.43](#).
 - **4.** Every motor vehicle which is equipped with power **brakes**, shall comply with [49 C.F.R., Section 393.49](#).
 - **5.** Every truck tractor and truck used for towing other vehicles equipped with vacuum **brakes**, in operations other than drive-away tow-away, on and after September 1, 1961, shall, in addition to other requirements of state and federal law, comply with [49 C.F.R., Section 393.43](#).
- **G.** Every bus, truck, and truck-tractor which is equipped with an air or vacuum **brake** system, shall be equipped with a reservoir as required by [49 C.F.R., Section 393.50](#), sufficient to insure a **brake** application capable of stopping the vehicle within the stopping distance requirements of Section 12-302 of this title in the event the engine stops.
- **H.** Every bus, truck and truck-tractor shall be equipped with service **brake** warning devices and signals as required by 49 C.F.R., Part 393.51.

- **I.** All **brakes** shall be maintained in good working order and shall be so adjusted as to operate as equally as practicable with respect to the wheels on opposite sides of the vehicle. The **brakes** shall be capable of stopping the vehicle, or a combination of vehicles, within the stopping distance requirements of Section 12-302 of this title.

§ 12-405.1. Coupling devices--Stay **chains**, cables or other safety devices

- **A.** Every **trailer**, semitrailer, manufactured home, or towed motor vehicle shall be equipped with a coupling device which shall be designed, constructed, and used so that the **trailer**, semitrailer, manufactured home, or towed motor vehicle will follow substantially in the path of the vehicle drawing it without whipping or swerving from side to side. In addition, every such **trailer**, semitrailer, manufactured home, or towed motor vehicle, except a semitrailer drawn by a truck-tractor type designed to draw or support the front end of a semitrailer, shall be coupled with:
 - **1.** Stay **chains** or cables to the vehicle by which it is being drawn, which **chains** or cable shall be of sufficient size and strength to prevent parting from the drawing vehicle, should the regular coupling device break or become otherwise disengaged; or
 - **2.** **Chains**, cables or a safety device which provides strength, security of attachment and directional stability equal to or greater than that provided by safety **chains** and which prevent parting from the drawing vehicle should the regular coupling device break or otherwise become disengaged. The safety device shall be designed, constructed, and installed so that if the coupling device fails or becomes disconnected the coupling device will not drop to the ground.
- **B.** Nothing in this section shall be construed as excepting commercial vehicles subject to the provisions of 49 C.F.R., Subpart F, Coupling Devices and Towing Methods, from complying with the provisions thereof.
- **C.** No person shall tow any vehicle by sole use of a **chain**, cable, ropes, or any combination thereof.

§ 12-208. Vehicles of certain width--Clearance **lamps**--Side marker **lamps**--Reflectors

- **A.** In addition to other equipment required in this chapter, every vehicle, except truck-tractors and pole **trailers**, which is eighty (80) inches or more in overall width shall be equipped:
 - **1.** On the front, with two amber clearance **lamps**, one at each side located at the same level and as widely spaced laterally and as near the top as practicable;
 - **2.** On the rear, with two red clearance **lamps**, one at each side located at the same level and as widely spaced laterally and as near the top as practicable; provided, **trailers** or semitrailers are not required to comply with this paragraph;

- **3.** On each side, with two side marker **lamps**, one at the front amber in color and one at the rear red in color. The marker **lamps** shall be located at the same level and as widely spaced laterally and as near the top as practicable, but not less than fifteen (15) inches above the surface of the road;
- **4.** On each side, with one intermediate amber side marker **lamp**, at or near the midpoint between the front and rear side marker **lamps**, but not less than fifteen (15) inches above the surface of the road. Provided, any vehicle less than thirty (30) feet in overall length is not required to comply with this paragraph;
- **5.** On each side, with two reflex reflectors, one at the front amber in color and one at the rear red in color. The reflex reflectors shall be located at the same level and as widely spaced laterally and as near the top as practicable, but not less than fifteen (15) inches above the surface of the road; and
- **6.** On each side, with one intermediate amber side reflex reflector, at or near the midpoint between the front and rear side reflex reflectors, but not less than fifteen (15) inches nor more than (60) inches above the surface of the road. Provided, any vehicle less than thirty (30) feet in overall length is not required to comply with this paragraph.
- **B.** In addition to other equipment required in this chapter, every truck-tractor shall be equipped on the front, with two amber clearance **lamps**, one at each side located at the same level and as widely spaced laterally and as near the top as practicable.
- **C.** In addition to other equipment required in this chapter, every pole **trailer** shall be equipped:
 - **1.** On each side, with one red or amber side marker **lamp** and one amber clearance **lamp**, which may be in combination, to show to the front, side and rear; and
 - **2.** On the rear of the pole **trailer** or load, with two red reflex reflectors, one at each side located at the same level and as widely spaced laterally and as near the top as practicable, but not less than fifteen (15) inches above the surface of the road; provided, any load overhang of four (4) feet or more shall be lighted in compliance with Section 12-213 of this title.
- **D.** 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 chapter.
- **E.** In addition to other equipment required in this chapter, any motor vehicle eighty (80) inches or more in overall width shall be equipped with:
 - **1.** Three identification **lamps** showing to the front which shall emit an amber light; and
 - **2.** Three identification **lamps** showing to the rear which shall emit a red light.

Such **lamps** shall be placed horizontally in a row between the clearance **lamps** on the vertical center line of the vehicle.

§ 12-403. **Mirrors**

- **A.** Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a **mirror** mounted on the left side of the vehicle and so positioned and located as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway to the rear of the motor vehicle.
- **B.** Every motor vehicle 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 positioned and located as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway to the rear of the vehicle.
- **C.** Every school bus and church bus shall be equipped with a **mirror** system so positioned and located as to reflect to the driver, when seated in the bus driver's position, the presence of a pedestrian directly in front of the bus and beneath the driver's direct line of sight.