

Utah Vehicle Code

41-1a-102. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(10) "Commercial vehicle" means a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer used or maintained for the transportation of persons or property that operates:

- (a) as a carrier for hire, compensation, or profit; or
- (b) as a carrier to transport the vehicle owner's goods or property in furtherance of the owner's commercial enterprise.

(56) "Semitrailer" means every vehicle without motive power designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and constructed so that some part of its weight and its load rests or is carried by another vehicle.

(63) "Trailer" means a vehicle without motive power designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and constructed so that no part of its weight rests upon the towing vehicle.

72-7-401. Application of size, weight, and load limitations for vehicles -- Exceptions.

(1) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (2), the maximum size, weight, and load limitations on vehicles under this part apply to all highways throughout the state.

(b) Local authorities may not alter the limitations except as expressly provided under Sections 41-6a-204 and 72-7-408.

(2) Except as specifically made applicable, the size, weight, and load limitations in this chapter do not apply to:

- (a) fire-fighting apparatus;
- (b) highway construction and maintenance equipment being operated at the site of maintenance or at a construction project as authorized by a highway authority;
- (c) highway construction and maintenance equipment temporarily being operated between a material site and a highway maintenance site or a highway construction project if:

- (i) the section of any highway being used is not located within a county of the first or second class;
- (ii) authorized for a specific highway project by the highway authority having jurisdiction over each highway being used;
- (iii) the distance between the material site and maintenance site or highway construction project does not exceed 10 miles; and
- (iv) the operator carries in the vehicle written verification of the authorization from the highway authority having jurisdiction over each highway being used;

(d) implements of husbandry incidentally moved on a highway while engaged in an agricultural operation or incidentally moved for repair or servicing, subject to the provisions of Section 72-7-407;

(e) vehicles transporting logs or poles from forest to sawmill:

- (i) when required to move upon a highway other than the national system of interstate and defense highways;
- (ii) if the gross vehicle weight does not exceed 80,000 pounds; and
- (iii) the vehicle or combination of vehicles are in compliance with Subsections 72-7-404(1) and (2)(a); and

(f) tow trucks or towing vehicles under emergency conditions when:

- (i) it becomes necessary to move a vehicle, combination of vehicles, special mobile equipment, or objects to the nearest safe area for parking or temporary storage;
- (ii) no other alternative is available; and
- (iii) the movement is for the safety of the traveling public.

(3) (a) Except when operating on the national system of interstate and defense highways, a motor vehicle carrying livestock as defined in Section 4-1-8, or a motor vehicle carrying raw grain if the grain is being transported by the farmer from his farm to market prior to bagging, weighing, or processing, may exceed by up to 2,000 pounds the tandem axle weight limitations specified under Section 72-7-404 without obtaining an overweight permit under Section 72-7-

406.

(b) Subsection (3)(a) is an exception to Sections 72-7-404 and 72-7-406.

72-7-402. Limitations as to vehicle width, height, length, and load extensions.

(1) (a) Except as provided by statute, all state or federally approved safety devices and any other lawful appurtenant devices, including refrigeration units, hitches, air line connections, and load securing devices related to the safe operation of a vehicle are excluded for purposes of measuring the width and length of a vehicle under the provisions of this part, if the devices are not designed or used for carrying cargo.

(b) Load-induced tire bulge is excluded for purposes of measuring the width of vehicles under the provisions of this part.

(c) Appurtenances attached to the sides or rear of a recreational vehicle that is not a commercial motor vehicle are excluded for purposes of measuring the width and length of the recreational vehicle if the additional width or length of the appurtenances does not exceed six inches.

(2) A vehicle unladen or with a load may not exceed a width of 8-1/2 feet.

(3) A vehicle unladen or with a load may not exceed a height of 14 feet.

(4) (a) (i) A single-unit vehicle, unladen or with a load, may not exceed a length of 45 feet including front and rear bumpers.

(ii) In this section, a truck tractor coupled to one or more semitrailers or trailers is not considered a single-unit vehicle.

(b) (i) Except as provided under Subsection (4)(b)(iii), a semitrailer, unladen or with a load, may not exceed a length of 48 feet excluding refrigeration units, hitches, air line connections, and safety appurtenances.

(ii) There is no overall length limitation on a truck tractor and semitrailer combination when the semitrailer length is 48 feet or less.

(iii) A semitrailer that exceeds a length of 48 feet but does not exceed a length of 53 feet may operate on a route designated by the department or within one mile of that route.

(c) (i) Two trailers coupled together, unladen or with a load, may not exceed an overall length of 61 feet, measured from the front of the first trailer to the rear of the second trailer.

(ii) There is no overall length limitation on a truck tractor and double trailer combination when the trailers coupled together measure 61 feet or less.

(d) All other combinations of vehicles, unladen or with a load, when coupled together, may not exceed a total length of 65 feet, except the length limitations do not apply to combinations of vehicles operated at night by a public utility when required for emergency repair of public service facilities or properties, or when operated under a permit under Section 72-7-406.

(5) (a) Subject to Subsection (4), a vehicle or combination of vehicles may not carry any load extending more than three feet beyond the front of the body of the vehicle or more than six feet beyond the rear of the bed or body of the vehicle.

(b) A passenger vehicle may not carry any load extending beyond the line of the fenders on the left side of the vehicle nor extending more than six inches beyond the line of the fenders on the right side of the vehicle.

(6) Any exception to this section must be authorized by a permit as provided under Section 72-7-406.

(7) Any person who violates this section is guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

72-7-403. Towing requirements and limitations on towing.

(1) (a) The draw-bar or other connection between any two vehicles, one of which is towing or drawing the other on a highway, may not exceed 15 feet in length from one vehicle to the other except:

(i) in the case of a connection between any two vehicles transporting poles, pipe, machinery, or structural material that cannot be dismembered when transported upon a pole trailer as defined in Section 41-6a-102; or

(ii) when operated under a permit under Section 72-7-406.

(b) When the connection between the two vehicles is a chain, rope, or cable, a red flag or other signal or cloth not less than 12 inches both in length and width shall be displayed on or near the midpoint of the connection.

(2) A person may not operate a combination of vehicles when any trailer, semitrailer, or other vehicle being towed:

(a) whips or swerves from side to side dangerously or unreasonably; or

(b) fails to follow substantially in the path of the towing vehicle.

(3) A person who violates this section is guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

72-7-405. Measuring vehicles for size and weight compliance -- Summary powers of peace officers -- Penalty for violations.

(1) Any peace officer having reason to believe that the height, width, length, or weight of a vehicle and load is unlawful may require the operator to stop the vehicle and submit to a measurement or weighing of the vehicle and load.

(2) A peace officer may require that the vehicle be driven to the nearest scales or port-of-entry if the scales or port-of-entry is within three miles.

(3) (a) A peace officer, special function officer, or port-of-entry agent may measure or weigh a vehicle and vehicle load for compliance with this chapter.

(b) If, upon measuring or weighing a vehicle and load, it is determined that the height, width, length, or weight is unlawful, the measuring or weighing peace officer, special function officer, or port-of-entry agent may require the operator to park the vehicle in a suitable place. The vehicle shall remain parked until the vehicle or its load is adjusted or a portion of the load is removed to conform to legal limits. All materials unloaded shall be cared for by the owner or operator of the vehicle at his risk.

(4) An operator who fails or refuses to stop and submit the vehicle and load to a measurement or weighing, or who fails or refuses when directed by a peace officer, special function officer, or port-of-entry agent to comply with this section is guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

(5) Any driver or owner of a vehicle who violates Section 72-7-404 or 72-7-406 is guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

41-6a-1623. **Braking** systems required — Adoption of performance requirements by department.

- (1) A motor vehicle and a combination of vehicles shall have a service **braking** system which will stop the motor vehicle or combination of vehicles within:
 - (a) 40 feet from an initial speed of 20 miles per hour on a level, dry, smooth, hard surface; or
 - (b) a shorter distance as may be specified by the department in accordance with federal standards.
- (2) A motor vehicle and a combination of vehicles shall have a parking **brake** system:
 - (a) adequate to hold the motor vehicle or combination of vehicles on any grade on which it is operated under all conditions of loading on a surface free from snow, ice or loose material; or
 - (b) which complies with performance standards issued by the department in accordance with federal standards.
- (3) In addition to the requirements of Subsections (1) and (2), if necessary for safe operation, the department may by rule require additional **braking** systems in accordance with federal standards.
- (4) A violation of this section is an infraction.

41-6a-1634. Safety **chains** on towed vehicles required — Exceptions.

- (1) A towed vehicle shall be coupled by means of a safety **chain**, cable or equivalent device, in addition to the regular **trailer** hitch or coupling.
- (2) Except as provided under Subsection (3), a safety **chain**, cable or equivalent device shall be:
 - (a) securely connected with the chassis of the towing vehicle, the towed vehicle, and the drawbar;
 - (b) of sufficient material and strength to prevent the two vehicles from becoming separated; and
 - (c) attached to:
 - (i) have no more slack than is necessary for proper turning;
 - (ii) the **trailer** drawbar to prevent it from dropping to the ground; and

- **(iii)** assure the towed vehicle follows substantially in the course of the towing vehicle in case the vehicles become separated.
- **(3)** A violation of Subsection (1) or (2) is an infraction.
- **(4)** The provisions of Subsection (2) do not apply to a:
 - **(a)** semitrailer having a connecting device composed of a fifth wheel and king pin assembly;
 - **(b)** pole **trailer**; or
 - **(c)** **trailer** being towed by a bicycle.

41-6a-1604. Motor vehicle head **lamps**, tail **lamps**, stop **lamps**, and other **lamps** — Requirements — Penalty.

- **(1)** A motor vehicle shall be equipped with at least two head **lamps** with at least one on each side of the front of the motor vehicle.
- **(2)**
 - **(a)** A motor vehicle, **trailer**, semitrailer, pole **trailer**, and any other vehicle which is being drawn at the end of a combination of vehicles, shall be equipped with at least two tail **lamps** and two or more red reflectors mounted on the rear.
 - **(b)**
 - **(i)** Except as provided under Subsections (2)(b)(ii), (2)(c), and [Section 41-6a-1612](#), all stop **lamps** or other **lamps** and reflectors mounted on the rear of a vehicle shall display or reflect a red color.
 - **(ii)** A turn signal or hazard warning light may be red or yellow.
 - **(c)** Either a tail **lamp** or a separate **lamp** shall be so constructed and placed as to illuminate with a white light the rear registration plate.
- **(3)**
 - **(a)** A motor vehicle, **trailer**, semitrailer, and pole **trailer** shall be equipped with two or more stop **lamps** and flashing turn signals.
 - **(b)** A supplemental stop **lamp** may be mounted on the rear of a vehicle, if the supplemental stop **lamp**:
 - **(i)** emits a red light;
 - **(ii)** is mounted:
 - **(A)** and constructed so that no light emitted from the device, either direct or reflected, is visible to the driver;

- (B) not lower than 15 inches above the roadway; and
 - (C) on the vertical center line of the vehicle; and
 - (iii) is the size, design, and candle power that conforms to federal standards regulating stop **lamps**.
- (4)
 - (a) Each head **lamp**, tail **lamp**, supplemental stop **lamp**, flashing turn **lamp**, other **lamp**, or reflector required under this part shall comply with the requirements and limitations established under [Section 41-6a-1601](#).
 - (b) The department, by rules made under [Section 41-6a-1601](#), may require trucks, buses, motor homes, motor vehicles with truck-campers, **trailers**, semitrailers, and pole **trailers** to have additional **lamps** and reflectors.
- (5) The department, by rules made under [Section 41-6a-1601](#), may allow:
 - (a) one tail **lamp** on any vehicle equipped with only one when it was made;
 - (b) one stop **lamp** on any vehicle equipped with only one when it was made; and
 - (c) passenger cars and trucks with a width less than 80 inches and manufactured or assembled prior to January 1, 1953, need not be equipped with electric turn signal **lamps**.
- (6)
 - (a) As used in this section, “continuously flashing light system” means a light system for a supplemental stop **lamp** described in Subsection (3)(b) in which:
 - (i) the stop **lamp** or reflector pulses rapidly for no more than five seconds when the brake is applied and then converts to a continuous light as a normal stop **lamp** or reflector until the time that the brake is released; and
 - (ii) the rapid pulsing described in Subsection (6)(a)(i) may not be repeated upon a subsequent application of the brakes for a lock-out time period of at least five seconds after the release of the brakes under Subsection (6)(a)(i).
 - (b) A motor vehicle, **trailer**, semitrailer, and pole **trailer** may be equipped with a continuously flashing light system.
- (7) A violation of this section is an infraction.

41-6a-1627. **Mirrors.**

- (1)

- (a) A motor vehicle shall be equipped with a **mirror** mounted on the left side of the vehicle.
 - (b) A **mirror** under Subsection (1)(a) shall be located to reflect to the driver a view of the highway to the rear of the vehicle.
- (2)
 - (a) Except for a motorcycle, in addition to the **mirror** required under Subsection (1), a motor vehicle shall be equipped with a **mirror** mounted either inside the vehicle approximately in the center or outside the vehicle on the right side.
 - (b) The **mirror** under Subsection (2)(a) shall be located to reflect to the driver a view of the highway to the rear of the vehicle.
- (3) A violation of this section is an infraction.