

Arkansas Vehicle Code

Trailer Summary:

Dimensions: Dimensions shall not exceed: a total length of 40 feet; a width of 102 inches; a total height of 13 feet 6 inches.

Brakes: Every trailer or semitrailer with a gross weight of 3,000 lbs. or more shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and to hold such vehicle. The brakes should automatically apply in the event of an accidental break-away.

Lighting/Reflectors: On every trailer or semitrailer having a gross weight in excess of 3,000 lbs.:

- On the front, two clearance lamps, one at each side;
- On each side, two side marker lamps, one at or near the front and one at or near the rear; On each side, two reflectors, one at or near the front and one at or near the rear; and
- On the rear, two clearance lamps, one at each side, also two reflectors, one at each side, and one stop light;

Hitch/Signals: When one (1) vehicle is towing another, the drawbar or other connection shall be of sufficient strength to pull all weight towed. The drawbar or other connection shall not exceed fifteen feet (15') from one (1) vehicle to the other, except the connection between any two (2) vehicles transporting poles, pipe, machinery, or other objects of structural nature which cannot readily be diminished.

Mirrors: Every motor vehicle which is so constructed or loaded as to obstruct the driver's view to the rear thereof from the driver's position shall be equipped with a mirror located so as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway for a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of the vehicle

Speed Limits: N/A

Towing: N/A

Other: N/A

27-35-111. Trailers and towed vehicles.

(a) (1) When one (1) vehicle is towing another, the drawbar or other connection shall be of sufficient strength to pull all weight towed. The drawbar or other connection shall not exceed fifteen feet (15') from one (1) vehicle to the other, except the connection between any two (2) vehicles transporting poles, pipe, machinery, or other objects of structural nature which cannot readily be diminished.

(2) When one (1) vehicle is towing another, there shall be an additional connection between the vehicles sufficient to hold the vehicle being towed in the event the drawbar or other regular connection should break or become disconnected.

(3) When one (1) vehicle is towing another and the connection consists of a chain, rope, or cable, there shall be displayed upon the connection a white flag or cloth not less than twelve inches (12") square.

(4) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to the drawbar or other connection between a motor vehicle and a pole or pipe dolly.

(b) (1) No person shall operate a vehicle towing another when the towed vehicle swerves from side to side dangerously or unreasonably or fails to follow substantially in the path of the towing vehicle.

(2) No person shall occupy any house trailer while it is being moved upon the highway.

27-35-206. Width of vehicles.

(a)(1) Except as provided in § 27-35-210(p), a vehicle operated upon the highways of this state shall not have a total outside width, unladen or with load, in excess of one hundred two inches (102"), excluding certain safety devices as designated by the state, unless a greater width is authorized by special permit issued by competent authority as provided in § 27-35-210.

(2)(A) Provided, vehicles as defined in § 27-14-104 utilized to transport compacted seed cotton from the farm to the first point at which such seed cotton shall first undergo any processing, preparation for processing, or transformation from its compacted state may operate upon all highways of this state, with the exception of federal interstate highways, with widths not exceeding one hundred eight inches (108") without the special permit.

(B) However, the vehicles must be equipped and operated in compliance with the traffic laws of this state as well as all safety rules and regulations of the United States Department of Transportation and the State Highway Commission.

(C) The vehicles utilized to transport compacted seed cotton with widths exceeding one hundred two inches (102"), but not exceeding one hundred eight inches (108"), shall be equipped and operated with both front and rear bumpers if operated individually, or, if operated in combination with other vehicles, shall be equipped with a front bumper on the vehicle furnishing the motive power and with a rear bumper on the rear vehicle operated in that combination.

(D)(i) The vehicles, when operated individually or in combination with other vehicles on the roads, highways, or streets of this state shall be equipped with a sign or placard on the front and on the rear of the vehicle when operated individually, or on the front of the vehicle furnishing the motive power and on the rear of the vehicle operated in combination with the vehicle furnishing the motive power, when operated in combination, indicating that vehicle or combination of vehicles is slow-moving.

(ii) The signs or placards shall be of such a size, dimension, and color that it is readily apparent to the traveling public that the vehicle or combination is slow-moving and shall be in accordance with rules to be made and promulgated by the commission.

(b) Any person owning such a vehicle or combination of vehicles found operating the vehicle or combination on the highways, roads, or streets of this state without the required bumpers or without the required signs or placards shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined a sum of not less than three hundred dollars (\$300) and not more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000).

27-35-207. Height of vehicles.

No vehicle operated upon the highways of this state, unladen or with load, shall exceed a height of thirteen feet, six inches (13' 6"), unless a greater height is authorized by a special permit issued by competent authority as provided in § 27-35-210.

27-35-208. Length of vehicles.

(a)(1) No single truck operated on the highways of this state, unladen or with load, shall have an overall length in excess of forty feet (40').

(2) Provided, any single truck, unladen or with load, utilized to transport compacted seed cotton from the farm to the first point at which the seed cotton shall first undergo any processing, preparation for processing, or transformation from its compacted state may be operated on the highways of this state with the exception of federal interstate highways with an overall length in excess of forty feet (40') but no more than fifty-five feet (55').

(b) No bus operated on the highways of this state shall have an overall length in excess of forty-five feet (45').

(c)(1)(A) No semitrailer or trailer operated on the highways of this state in a truck tractor-semitrailer combination or a truck tractor-trailer combination shall have an overall length, unladen or with load, greater than those lengths that were in actual and lawful use in this state on December 1, 1982.

(B) The state shall not establish or enforce any rule which imposes a semitrailer or trailer length limitation of less than fifty-three feet six inches (53' 6") on a semitrailer or trailer unit operating in combination with a truck tractor unit.

(2)(A) No semitrailer or trailer operated on the highways of this state in a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination shall have an overall length, unladen or with load, in excess of twenty-eight feet (28').

(B) Existing semitrailers or trailers of twenty-eight feet six inches (28' 6") that were in actual and lawful use on December 1, 1982, shall not be prohibited.

(3) The length limitations described in this subsection shall be exclusive of coupling devices, energy conservation devices, and safety devices as provided by federal regulations.

(d)(1) These length limitations shall not apply to:

(A) Vehicles operated in the daytime when transporting poles, pipes, machinery, or other objects of a structural nature which cannot readily be dismembered; or

(B) Vehicles transporting objects operated at nighttime by a public utility or its agents or by electric or telephone cooperatives or their agents when required for emergency repair of public facilities or properties or when operated under special permit as provided by law.

(2) In respect to night transportation, every 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 the load.

(e)(1)(A) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subchapter, a combination of vehicles engaged in the transportation of automobiles or other motor vehicles shall be permitted a load extension of four feet (4') beyond the front and six feet (6') beyond the rear of the combination.

(B) This extension shall not be considered in determining the overall length of the combination of vehicles.

- (C) The total length of a motor vehicle authorized under subdivision (e)(1)(A) of this section shall not exceed eighty feet (80').
- (2) Clearance lights or reflectors on the transported vehicles shall be used to delineate the extension of the load when applicable.
- (f) No motor vehicle shall be operated on the highways, roads, or streets of this state with more than two (2) trailing vehicles.
- (g) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply to vehicles collecting garbage, rubbish, refuse, or recyclable materials which are equipped with front-end loading attachments and containers provided that the vehicle is actively engaged in the collection of garbage, rubbish, refuse, or recyclable materials. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "actively engaged" shall mean during the actual process of collecting garbage, rubbish, refuse, or recyclable materials with the front-end loading attachment or attachments in the downward position.
- (h)(1) The total length of a towaway trailer transporter combination shall not exceed eighty-two feet (82').
- (2) As used in this subsection:
- (A) "Towaway trailer transporter combination" means a combination of motor vehicles consisting of a trailer transporter towing unit and two (2) trailers or semitrailers that:
- (i) Have a total weight that does not exceed twenty-six thousand pounds (26,000 lbs.); and
 - (ii) Carry no property and constitute inventory property of a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of such trailers or semitrailers; and
- (B) "Trailer transporter towing unit" means a power unit that is not used to carry property when operating in a towaway trailer transporter combination.

§ 27-36-218. Buses, trucks, trailers, semitrailers

- (4) On every trailer or semitrailer having a gross weight in excess of three thousand pounds (3,000 lbs):
- (A) On the front, two (2) clearance lamps, one (1) at each side;
 - (B) On each side, two (2) side marker lamps, one (1) at or near the front and one (1) at or near the rear;
 - (C) On each side, two (2) reflectors, one (1) at or near the front and one (1) at or near the rear; and
 - (D) On the rear, two (2) clearance lamps, one (1) at each side, also two (2) reflectors, one (1) at each side, and one (1) stop light;
- (5) On every pole trailer in excess of three thousand pounds (3,000 lbs.) gross weight:
- (A) On each side, one (1) side marker lamp and one (1) clearance lamp, which may be in combination, to show to the front, side, and rear; and
 - (B) On the rear of the pole trailer or load, two (2) reflectors, one (1) at each side; and
- (6) On every trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer weighing three thousand pounds (3,000 lbs.) gross or less:
- (A) On the rear, two (2) reflectors, one (1) on each side; and

(B) If any trailer or semitrailer is so loaded or is of dimensions as to obscure the stop light on the towing vehicle, then the vehicle shall also be equipped with one (1) stop light.

§ 27-36-215. Drawn vehicles--Tail lights

(a)(1) Every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer, and any other vehicle which is being drawn at the end of a train of vehicles, shall be equipped with at least one (1) tail lamp mounted on the rear, which, when lighted as required, shall emit a red light plainly visible from a distance of five hundred feet (500') to the rear.

(2) In the case of a train of vehicles, only the tail lamp on the rearmost vehicle need actually be seen from the distance specified.

(3) Every mentioned vehicle, other than a truck tractor, registered in this state and manufactured or assembled after June 11, 1959, shall be equipped with at least two (2) tail lamps mounted on the rear, on the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, which, when lighted as required, shall comply with the provisions of this section.

(b) Every tail lamp upon every vehicle shall be located at a height of not more than seventy-two inches (72") nor less than twenty inches (20").

(c)(1)(A) 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 and render it clearly legible for a distance of fifty feet (50') to the rear.

(B) It shall be a violation of this subsection for any other color of light to be displayed around the registration plate or for white light to be excessively¹ used so as to render the registration plate illegible from a distance of less than fifty feet (50').

(2) Any tail lamp or tail lamps, together with any separate lamp for illuminating the rear registration plate, shall be so wired as to be lighted whenever the headlamps or auxiliary driving lamps are lighted.

(d)(1) Every new motor vehicle sold and operated upon a highway, other than a truck tractor, shall carry on the rear, either as a part of the tail lamps or separately, two (2) red reflectors.

(2) Every motorcycle and every motor-driven cycle shall carry at least one (1) reflector, meeting the requirements of this section.

(3) Vehicles of the type mentioned in § 27-36-219 shall be equipped with reflectors as required in those sections applicable thereto.

(e)(1) Every reflector shall be mounted on the vehicle at a height not less than twenty inches (20") nor more than sixty inches (60") measured as set forth in § 27-36-204 and shall be of such size and characteristics and so mounted as to be visible at night from all distances within three hundred fifty feet (350') to one hundred feet (100') from the vehicle when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps.

(2) Visibility from a greater distance will be required of reflectors on certain types of vehicles.

§ 27-37-501. Brakes generally

(a)(1) Every motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle, when operated upon a highway, shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of, and to stop and hold, the vehicle, including two (2) separate means of applying the brakes, each of which means shall be effective to apply the brakes to at least two (2) wheels.

(2) If these two (2) separate means of applying the brakes are connected in any way, they shall be constructed so that failure of any one (1) part of the operating mechanism shall not leave the motor vehicle without brakes on at least two (2) wheels.

(b) Every motorcycle and every motor-driven cycle, when operated upon a highway, shall be equipped with at least one (1) brake, which may be operated by hand or foot.

(c)(1) Every trailer or semitrailer of a gross weight of three thousand pounds (3,000 lbs.) or more when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of, and to stop and to hold, the vehicle and so designed as to be applied by the driver of the towing motor vehicle from its cab.

(2) The brakes shall be so designed and connected that in case of an accidental break-away of the towed vehicle, the brakes shall be automatically applied.

§ 27-37-305. Mirrors and reflectors

(a) Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a rearview mirror.

(b) Every motor vehicle which is so constructed or loaded as to obstruct the driver's view to the rear thereof from the driver's position shall be equipped with a mirror located so as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway for a distance of at least two hundred feet (200') to the rear of the vehicle.