

Colorado

Trailer Summary:

Dimensions: Dimensions shall not exceed: A total length of 70 feet including bumpers; A total width of 102 inches; a total height of 14 feet 6 inches.

Brakes: Every trailer or semitrailer of a gross weight of 3,000 lbs. or more shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold such vehicle and said brakes shall also be designed and connected that in case of an accidental breakaway of the towed vehicle, the brakes shall automatically apply.

Lighting/Reflectors: Trailers must display a stop lamp or lamps on the rear of the vehicle visible for 100 feet to the rear.

Hitch/Signals: 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.

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 amberlight, 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.

Mirrors: 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

Speed Limits: N/A

Towing: N/A

Other: N/A

COLORADO REVISED STATUTES - Title 42, Vehicles and Traffic

42-4-504. Height and length of vehicles

(1) A driver shall not drive a vehicle either unladen or with load that exceeds a height of fourteen feet six inches. The department of transportation shall designate highways with overhead highway structures that have less than fourteen feet six inches of vertical clearance. A driver shall not drive a vehicle under a structure if the vehicle's height exceeds the department's designated vertical clearance for the structure.

(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 subsection (4) of this section, drivers shall not drive the following combinations of vehicles:

(a) Saddlemount combinations consisting of more than four units or saddlemount combinations exceeding ninety-seven feet in overall length;

(b) Laden truck tractor-semitrailer combinations exceeding seventy-five feet in overall length;

(c) Stinger-steered vehicle combinations for transporting automobiles or boats and whose total overall length exceeds eighty feet; except that the overall length of these combinations excludes:

(I) Safety devices that are not 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, must not extend more than four feet beyond the extreme front of the grille of the vehicle and the load or extension device must not extend more than six feet beyond the extreme rear of the vehicle; and

(d) Towaway trailer transporter combinations that:

- (I) Exceed eighty-two feet in overall length;
 - (II) Carry property;
 - (III) Exceed an overall weight of twenty-six thousand pounds;
 - (IV) Consist of more than a single towing unit and two trailers or semitrailers; or
 - (V) Do not constitute inventory property of a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of the trailer or semitrailer.
- (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 grille of such vehicle; but a load may project not more than four feet beyond the front most point of the grille 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.

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 servicebrakes 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-wheelbrakes 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 amberlight, 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 warninglights 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 lightwithout 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.