

## Utah Vehicle Code

### Trailer Summary:

**Dimensions:** Dimensions shall not exceed: A total length of 65 feet; a trailer length of 45 feet, a width of 102 inches, and a total height of 13 feet six inches.

**Brakes:** A motor vehicle shall have a service braking system which will stop the motor vehicle within 40 feet from an initial speed of 20 miles per hour, and a parking brake system adequate to hold the motor vehicle or combination of vehicles on any grade.

**Lighting/Reflectors:** A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer shall be equipped with two or more stop lamps, flashing turn signals, two tail lamps, and two or more red reflectors mounted on the rear.

**Hitch/Signals:** Safety chains on towed vehicles required. A safety chain, cable or equivalent device shall be: securely connected with the chassis of the towing vehicle, the towed vehicle, and the drawbar; of sufficient material and strength to prevent the two vehicles from becoming separated; and 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.

**Mirrors:** A motor vehicle shall be equipped with a mirror mounted on the left side of the vehicle.

**Speed Limits:** As posted.

**Towing:** A person may not operate a vehicle in the left most general purpose lane if the person's vehicle or combination of vehicles has a gross vehicle weight rating of 18,001 or more pounds.

**Other:** N/A

### 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 a 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 4-1-109, 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- ½ 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) A semitrailer, unladen or with a load, may not exceed a length of 53 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 53 feet or less.

(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

**72-7-405. 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 an infraction.

**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 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.

(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.

#### **§ 41-6a-702. Left lane restrictions--Exceptions--Other lane restrictions--Penalties**

(1) As used in this section and Section 41-6a-704, “**general purpose lane**” means a highway lane open to vehicular traffic but does not include a designated:

(a) high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane; or

(b) auxiliary lane that begins as a freeway on-ramp and ends as part of the next freeway off-ramp.

(2) On a freeway or section of a freeway which has three or more **general purpose** lanes in the same direction, a person may not operate a vehicle in the **left most general purpose** lane if the person's vehicle or combination of vehicles has a gross vehicle weight rating of 18,001 or more pounds.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply to a person operating a vehicle who is:

(a) preparing to turn left or taking a different highway split or an exit on the left;

(b) responding to emergency conditions;

(c) avoiding actual or potential traffic moving onto the highway from an acceleration or merging lane; or

(d) following direction signs that direct use of a designated lane.

(4)(a) A highway authority may designate a specific lane or lanes of travel for any type of vehicle on a highway or portion of a highway under its jurisdiction for the:

(i) safety of the public;

(ii) efficient maintenance of a highway; or

(iii) use of high occupancy vehicles.

(b) The lane designation under Subsection (4)(a) is effective when appropriate signs or roadway markings giving notice are erected on the highway or portion of the highway.

(5)(a) Subject to Subsection (5)(b), the lane designation under Subsection (4)(a)(iii) shall allow a vehicle with a clean fuel vehicle decal issued in accordance with Section 72-6-121 to travel in lanes designated for the use of high occupancy vehicles regardless of the number of occupants as permitted by federal law or federal regulation.

(b)(i) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the Department of Transportation may make rules to allow a vehicle with a clean fuel vehicle decal to travel in lanes designated for the use of high occupancy vehicles regardless of the number of occupants as permitted by federal law or federal regulation.

(ii) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(b)(iii), the Department of Transportation may not issue more than 6,000 clean fuel vehicle decals under Section 72-6-121.

(iii) The Department of Transportation may, through rules made under Subsection (5)(b)(i), increase the number of clean fuel vehicle decals issued in accordance with Section 72-6-121 beyond the minimum described in Subsection (5)(b)(ii) if the increased issuance will allow the Department of Transportation to continue to meet its goals for operational management of the lane designated under Subsection (4)(a)(iii).



(6) A public transportation vehicle may operate in a lane designated under Subsection (4)(a)(iii) regardless of the number of occupants as permitted by federal law and regulation.

(7) A person who operates a vehicle in violation of Subsection (2) or in violation of the restrictions made under Subsection (4) is guilty of an infraction.