

Kentucky:

Kentucky revised vehicle code Link: <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/statutes/chapter.aspx?id=38038>

Kentucky Revised Statutes

KRS Chapter 189

189.010 Definitions for chapter.

As used in this chapter:

(17) "Trailer" means any vehicle designed to be drawn by a motor truck or truck-tractor, but supported wholly upon its own wheels, intended for the carriage of freight or merchandise and having a load capacity of over one thousand (1,000) pounds

186.650 Definitions for KRS 186.650 to 186.700.

As used in KRS 186.650 to 186.700:

(1) A "trailer" means any vehicle designed for carrying persons or property and being drawn by a motor vehicle being so constructed that no part of its weight rests upon the towing vehicle.

(2) "Semitrailer" means any vehicle designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and is so constructed that some part of its weight and some part of its load rests upon or is carried by another vehicle, except that:

(a) "Semitrailer" shall not include any vehicle designed for carrying persons or property and being drawn by a motor vehicle registered according to the provisions of KRS 186.050(4)(a) and used by a farmer only for transporting persons, food, provender, feed, machinery, livestock, material and supplies necessary for his farming operation, and the products grown on his farm.

189.221 Basic height, width, length, and weight limits for trucks, trailers, manufactured homes, or vehicles -- Exception.

A person shall not operate on any highway, except those highways designated by the secretary of transportation under the provisions of KRS 189.222, or those locally maintained highways under

the provisions of KRS 189.222(11) or KRS 189.230(4), any of the following trucks, trailers, manufactured homes, or vehicles:

(1) Any motor truck, semitrailer, trailer, manufactured home, or vehicle which exceeds eleven and one-half (11-1/2) feet in height or ninety-six (96) inches in width, including any part of the body or load;

(2) Any motor truck, except a semitrailer truck, which exceeds twenty-six and one half (26-1/2) feet in length, including any part of the body or load;

(3) Any semitrailer truck which exceeds thirty (30) feet in length, including any part of the body or load;

(4) Any truck, semitrailer truck, or truck and trailer unit which exceeds 36,000 pounds gross weight, including the load;

(5) Any truck, semitrailer truck, or tractor-trailer unit which exceeds a gross weight equal to the sum of six hundred (600) pounds per inch of the combined width of the tires upon which the vehicle may be propelled, but no more than thirty-six thousand (36,000) pounds.

(6) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any truck hauling building materials under KRS 189.2226, or to a road construction project on a highway rated less than the maximum weight provided above, may haul up to eighty thousand (80,000) pounds gross weight, including the load, without a permit.

189.222 Increased height, length, and weight limits on designated highways -- Exceptions -- Cabinet may promulgate administrative regulations to implement 23 C.F.R. Part 658 -- Restriction of cabinet's enforcement powers on locally maintained roads.

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the secretary of the

Transportation Cabinet in respect to highways which are a part of the state maintained system, by official order, may increase on designated highways or portions thereof, the maximum height, length, and gross weight prescribed in KRS 189.221, if in the opinion of the secretary, the increased height, length, and weight designated by him are justified by the strength, safety, and durability of the designated highways, and the highways do not appear susceptible to unreasonable and unusual damage by reason of the increases and the secretary may establish reasonable classification of state maintained roads and fix a different maximum for each classification. Any increase in the height, length, or width of any motor truck or tractor semitrailer combinations or any other vehicle combinations including any part of the body or load or designation of highways to be used by the vehicles, shall not, in any way, exceed the federal law or regulations thereunder or jeopardize the allotment or qualification for federal aid funds of the Commonwealth of Kentucky or exceed the following dimensions and weights:

- (a) Height, thirteen and one-half (13-1/2) feet;
 - (b) Length, semitrailers, fifty-three (53) feet; trailers, twenty-eight (28) feet; motor trucks, forty-five (45) feet, not to exceed two (2) trailers per truck tractor;
 - (c) Weight, twenty thousand (20,000) pounds per single axle, with axles less than forty-two (42) inches apart to be considered as a single axle; thirty-four thousand (34,000) pounds on two (2) axles in tandem arrangement which are spaced forty-two (42) inches or more apart and less than ninety-six (96) inches apart; forty-eight thousand (48,000) pounds on three (3) axles which are spaced forty-two (42) inches or more apart and less than one hundred twenty (120) inches apart. No single axle in any arrangement shall exceed twenty thousand (20,000) pounds or seven hundred (700) pounds per inch of the aggregate width of all the tires on a single axle, whichever is less. The total gross weight of the vehicle and load shall not exceed eighty thousand (80,000) pounds;
 - (d) Except on the interstate highway system, a tolerance of not more than five percent (5%) per axle load shall be permitted before a carrier is deemed to have violated paragraph (c) of this subsection. The gross weight shall not exceed eighty thousand (80,000) pounds;
 - (e) Except as provided for in paragraph (f) of this subsection, truck tractor, semitrailer and trailer combinations, and other vehicle combinations may be operated only on the interstate system and on those parts of the federal aid highway system and the state-maintained system which have been designated by the secretary of the Transportation Cabinet by official order as safely allowing same;
 - (f) A vehicle or combination of vehicles that is one hundred two (102) inches wide or less and has a gross weight of not more than eighty thousand (80,000) pounds may be driven on any state highway, for a distance of up to fifteen (15) miles from an interstate or parkway exit.
- (2) In addition to the provisions of KRS 189.2226, vehicles with a gross weight of up to eighty thousand (80,000) pounds may travel on any state highway in the Commonwealth without obtaining a special permit, if the weight does not exceed any limits mandated by federal law or regulation, any posted bridge weight limit, or the weight limits for the size and type of vehicle established under paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of this section, and if the vehicle is transporting any of the following:
- (a) Meats or agricultural crop products originating from a farm to first market;
 - (b) Livestock or poultry from their point of origin to first market;
 - (c) Primary forest products, including, but not limited to, sawdust, wood chips, bark, slabs, or logs originating from their points of origin to first market; or
 - (d) Supplies, materials, or equipment necessary to carry out a farming operation engaged in the production of agricultural crop products, meats, livestock, or poultry.
- (3) Vehicles registered under KRS 186.050(4)(b) that are engaged exclusively in the transportation of items listed in subsection (2)(a), (b), and (c) of this section may exceed the

gross weight provisions set forth in subsection (1)(c) of this section by a weight tolerance of ten percent (10%), except on the interstate highway system.

(4) Vehicles exclusively engaged in the transportation of motor vehicles, unmanufactured tobacco, or unmanufactured tobacco products may, on those highways which are a part of the state-maintained system and which have been designated by the secretary of the Transportation Cabinet by official order as safely allowing same, attain the maximum lengths as provided by subsection (1)(b) of this section, excluding the usual and ordinary bumper overhang of the transported vehicles.

(5) Vehicles engaged exclusively in the transportation of farm or primary forestry products and registered under KRS 186.050(4) or 186.050(9) and vehicles engaged exclusively in the transportation of ready-mixed concrete shall be excluded from the axle weight provisions, except on interstate highways, and subject only to total gross weight provisions.

(6) Vehicles registered pursuant to KRS 186.050(3)(b) and engaged in the transportation of primary forest products, including, but not limited to, vehicles transporting sawdust, wood chips, bark, slabs, or logs, may exceed the axle, or gross weight provisions as set forth in accordance with subsection (1)(c) of this section by a weight tolerance of ten percent (10%), except on the interstate highway system.

(7) Vehicles designed for and engaged exclusively in the collection and hauling of refuse and registered under KRS 186.050(3)(b) shall be excluded from the axle weight provisions, except when in operation on the federal interstate system, and subject only to total gross weight provisions.

(8) The secretary of the Transportation Cabinet may by order increase the weight and height limits prescribed by this chapter for motor vehicles while being operated exclusively on roads or highways being constructed, reconstructed, or repaired under contract with the Transportation Cabinet by the contractor or subcontractor, agent, or employee thereof.

(9) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the secretary of the Transportation Cabinet shall not authorize the operation of any vehicle or combination of vehicles, upon any part of the federal aid highway system or state parkway system, which exceeds the following dimensions and weights:

(a) Width, one hundred two **Kentucky**:

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(2) "Semitrailer" means any vehicle designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and is so constructed that some part of its weight and some part of its load rests upon or is carried by another vehicle, except that:

(a) "Semitrailer" shall not include any vehicle designed for carrying persons or property and being drawn by a motor vehicle registered according to the provisions of KRS 186.050(4)(a) and used by a farmer only for transporting persons, food, provender, feed, machinery, livestock, material and supplies necessary for his farming operation, and the products grown on his farm.

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A person shall not operate on any highway, except those highways designated by the secretary of transportation under the provisions of KRS 189.222, or those locally maintained highways under the provisions of KRS 189.222(11) or KRS 189.230(4), any of the following trucks, trailers, manufactured homes, or vehicles:

(1) Any motor truck, semitrailer, trailer, manufactured home, or vehicle which exceeds eleven and one-half (11-1/2) feet in height or ninety-six (96) inches in width, including any part of the body or load;

(2) Any motor truck, except a semitrailer truck, which exceeds twenty-six and one half (26-1/2) feet in length, including any part of the body or load;

(3) Any semitrailer truck which exceeds thirty (30) feet in length, including any part of the body or load;

(4) Any truck, semitrailer truck, or truck and trailer unit which exceeds 36,000 pounds gross weight, including the load;

(5) Any truck, semitrailer truck, or tractor-trailer unit which exceeds a gross weight equal to the sum of six hundred (600) pounds per inch of the combined width of the tires upon which the vehicle may be propelled, but no more than thirty-six thousand

(36,000) pounds.

(6) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any truck hauling building materials under KRS 189.2226, or to a road construction project on a highway rated less than the maximum weight provided above, may haul up to eighty thousand (80,000) pounds gross weight, including the load, without a permit.

189.222 Increased height, length, and weight limits on designated highways -- Exceptions -- Cabinet may promulgate administrative regulations to implement 23 C.F.R. Part 658 -- Restriction of cabinet's enforcement powers on locally maintained roads.

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the secretary of the

Transportation Cabinet in respect to highways which are a part of the state maintained system, by official order, may increase on designated highways or portions thereof, the maximum height, length, and gross weight prescribed in KRS 189.221, if in the opinion of the secretary, the increased height, length, and weight designated by him are justified by the strength, safety, and durability of the designated highways, and the highways do not appear susceptible to unreasonable and unusual damage by reason of the increases and the secretary may establish reasonable classification of state maintained roads and fix a different maximum for each classification. Any increase in the height, length, or width of any motor truck or tractor semitrailer combinations or any other vehicle combinations including any part of the body or load or designation of highways to be used by the vehicles, shall not, in any way, exceed the federal law or regulations thereunder or jeopardize the allotment or qualification for federal aid funds of the Commonwealth of Kentucky or exceed the following dimensions and weights:

(a) Height, thirteen and one-half (13-1/2) feet;

(b) Length, semitrailers, fifty-three (53) feet; trailers, twenty-eight (28) feet; motor trucks, forty-five (45) feet, not to exceed two (2) trailers per truck tractor;

(c) Weight, twenty thousand (20,000) pounds per single axle, with axles less than forty-two (42) inches apart to be considered as a single axle; thirty-four thousand (34,000) pounds on two (2) axles in tandem arrangement which are spaced forty-two (42) inches or more apart and less than ninety-six (96) inches apart; forty-eight thousand (48,000) pounds on three (3) axles which are spaced forty-two (42) inches or more apart and less than one hundred twenty (120) inches apart. No single axle in any arrangement shall exceed twenty thousand (20,000) pounds or seven hundred (700) pounds per inch of the aggregate width of all the tires on a single axle, whichever is less. The total gross weight of the vehicle and load shall not exceed eighty thousand (80,000) pounds;

(d) Except on the interstate highway system, a tolerance of not more than five percent (5%) per axle load shall be permitted before a carrier is deemed to have violated paragraph (c) of this subsection. The gross weight shall not exceed eighty thousand (80,000) pounds;

(e) Except as provided for in paragraph (f) of this subsection, truck tractor, semitrailer and trailer combinations, and other vehicle combinations may be operated only on the interstate system and on those parts of the federal aid highway system and the state-maintained system which have been designated by the secretary of the Transportation Cabinet by official order as safely allowing same;

(f) A vehicle or combination of vehicles that is one hundred two (102) inches wide or less and has a gross weight of not more than eighty thousand (80,000) pounds may be driven on any state highway, for a distance of up to fifteen (15) miles from an interstate or parkway exit.

(2) In addition to the provisions of KRS 189.2226, vehicles with a gross weight of up to eighty thousand (80,000) pounds may travel on any state highway in the Commonwealth without obtaining a special permit, if the weight does not exceed any limits mandated by federal law or regulation, any posted bridge weight limit, or the weight limits for the size and type of vehicle established under paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of this section, and if the vehicle is transporting any of the following:

(a) Meats or agricultural crop products originating from a farm to first market;

(b) Livestock or poultry from their point of origin to first market;

(c) Primary forest products, including, but not limited to, sawdust, wood chips, bark, slabs, or logs originating from their points of origin to first market; or

(d) Supplies, materials, or equipment necessary to carry out a farming operation engaged in the production of agricultural crop products, meats, livestock, or poultry.

(3) Vehicles registered under KRS 186.050(4)(b) that are engaged exclusively in the transportation of items listed in subsection (2)(a), (b), and (c) of this section may exceed the gross weight provisions set forth in subsection (1)(c) of this section by a weight tolerance of ten percent (10%), except on the interstate highway system.

(4) Vehicles exclusively engaged in the transportation of motor vehicles, unmanufactured tobacco, or unmanufactured tobacco products may, on those highways which are a part of the state-maintained system and which have been designated by the secretary of the Transportation Cabinet by official order as safely allowing same, attain the maximum lengths as provided by subsection (1)(b) of this section, excluding the usual and ordinary bumper overhang of the transported vehicles.

(5) Vehicles engaged exclusively in the transportation of farm or primary forestry products and registered under KRS 186.050(4) or 186.050(9) and vehicles engaged exclusively in the transportation of ready-mixed concrete shall be excluded from the axle weight provisions, except on interstate highways, and subject only to total gross weight provisions.

(6) Vehicles registered pursuant to KRS 186.050(3)(b) and engaged in the transportation of primary forest products, including, but not limited to, vehicles transporting sawdust, wood chips, bark, slabs, or logs, may exceed the axle, or gross weight provisions as set forth in accordance with subsection (1)(c) of this section by a weight tolerance of ten percent (10%), except on the interstate highway system.

(7) Vehicles designed for and engaged exclusively in the collection and hauling of refuse and registered under KRS 186.050(3)(b) shall be excluded from the axle weight provisions, except when in operation on the federal interstate system, and subject only to total gross weight provisions.

(8) The secretary of the Transportation Cabinet may by order increase the weight and height limits prescribed by this chapter for motor vehicles while being operated exclusively on roads or highways being constructed, reconstructed, or repaired under contract with the Transportation Cabinet by the contractor or subcontractor, agent, or employee thereof.

(9) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the secretary of the Transportation Cabinet shall not authorize the operation of any vehicle or combination of vehicles, upon any part of the federal aid highway system or state parkway system, which exceeds the following dimensions and weights:

(a) Width, one hundred two (102) inches, including any part of the body or load;

(b) Weight, twenty thousand (20,000) pounds per single axle, with axles less than forty-two (42) inches apart to be considered as a single axle; thirty-four thousand (34,000) pounds on two (2) axles in tandem arrangement which are spaced forty-two (42) inches or more apart and less than ninety-six (96) inches apart; forty-eight thousand (48,000) pounds on three (3) axles which are spaced forty-two (42) inches or more apart and less than one hundred twenty (120) inches apart. The total gross weight of the vehicle and load shall not exceed eighty thousand (80,000) pounds. If any federal law or laws or regulations thereunder are hereafter enacted authorizing weights and dimensions in excess of those set out in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection, the secretary of the Transportation Cabinet may by official order increase the maximum weights and dimensions but the increased weights and dimensions shall not exceed those set out in this section.

(10) Except on the interstate highway system, vehicles engaged exclusively in the transportation of crushed stone, fill dirt and rock, soil, bulk sand, coal, phosphate muck, asphalt, concrete, solid waste, tankage or animal residues, livestock, and agricultural products shall be permitted a tolerance of ten percent (10%) of the axle weight provisions before a carrier is deemed to have violated paragraph (1)(c) of this section.

(11) The Transportation Cabinet may promulgate administrative regulations pursuant to KRS Chapter 13A, relating to the implementation of 23 C.F.R. Part 658 as it relates to state-maintained or locally maintained roads. The enforcement of the provisions of KRS 189.221 and this section on locally maintained roads shall not be the responsibility of the law enforcement officers of the Transportation Cabinet, unless the head of the corresponding local government unit has requested, in writing, enforcement assistance from the Transportation Cabinet.

(102) inches, including any part of the body or load;

(b) Weight, twenty thousand (20,000) pounds per single axle, with axles less than forty-two (42) inches apart to be considered as a single axle; thirty-four thousand (34,000) pounds on two (2) axles in tandem arrangement which are spaced forty-two (42) inches or more apart and less than ninety-six (96) inches apart; forty-eight thousand (48,000) pounds on three (3) axles which are spaced forty-two (42) inches or more apart and less than one hundred twenty (120) inches apart. The total gross weight of the vehicle and load shall not exceed eighty thousand (80,000) pounds. If any federal law or laws or regulations thereunder are hereafter enacted authorizing weights and dimensions in excess of those set out in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection, the secretary of the Transportation Cabinet may by official order increase the maximum weights and dimensions but the increased weights and dimensions shall not exceed those set out in this section.

(10) Except on the interstate highway system, vehicles engaged exclusively in the transportation of crushed stone, fill dirt and rock, soil, bulk sand, coal, phosphate muck, asphalt, concrete, solid waste, tankage or animal residues, livestock, and agricultural products shall be permitted a tolerance of ten percent (10%) of the axle weight provisions before a carrier is deemed to have violated paragraph (1)(c) of this section.

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- (1) No owner shall knowingly operate or permit to be operated on a highway a motor vehicle upon which the **brakes** are defective.
- (2) 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 the vehicle. There shall be 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. If the two (2) separate means are connected in any way, they shall be so constructed 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.
- (3)
 - (a) Except for commercial motor vehicles with a declared gross vehicle weight of more the ten thousand (10,000) pounds, the service **brakes** upon any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles shall be adequate to stop the vehicle when traveling twenty (20) miles per hour within a distance of forty (40) feet when

upon dry asphalt or concrete pavement surface free from loose material where the grade does not exceed one percent (1%).

- (b) Under the conditions described in subsection (3)(a), the hand **brake** shall be adequate to stop the vehicle within a distance of fifty-five (55) feet and the hand **brake** shall be adequate to hold the vehicle stationary on any grade upon which it is operated.
 - (c) Under the conditions described in subsection (3)(a), the service **brakes** upon a motor vehicle equipped with two (2)-wheel **brakes** only shall be adequate to stop the vehicle within a distance of forty (40) feet and the hand **brake** adequate to stop the vehicle within a distance of fifty-five (55) feet.
 - (d) All **braking** distances specified in this section shall apply whether or not the vehicles are loaded to the maximum capacity permitted by law.
 - (e) All **brakes** shall be maintained in good working order and shall be so adjusted as to operate with equal effect with respect to the wheels on opposite sides of the vehicle.
- (4) A person shall not operate any commercial motor vehicle with a declared gross weight of over ten thousand (10,000) pounds on any highway in this state unless it is equipped with efficient **brakes** that meet the federal motor carrier safety standards in [49 C.F.R. pt. 393](#) and may be operated by the operator of the vehicle.
 - vehicle which is an implement of husbandry when moving from field to field.

189.060. **Lights** on vehicles in **tow** and projections — Motor vehicle used as **towing** unit.

- (1) Each vehicle **towed** by a towline shall display the **lights** required on vehicles of the class to which it belongs.
- (2) Each vehicle being hauled by another and connected to it in a manner that will keep them uniformly spaced shall carry at least one (1) **light** on the left side in such a manner as to show an amber **light** to the front and a red **light** to the rear visible at least one thousand (1,000) feet away.
- (3) When any part of a load projects more than four (4) feet beyond a vehicle, two (2) red flags by day and two (2) red **lights** during the period provided in [KRS 189.030](#) must be placed upon the extremity of the projection marking the width of the overhang.
- (4) Any motor vehicle used as a **towing** unit where two (2) lamps displaying red **lights** are not obscured by the **towed** unit or its load may be equipped with two (2) lamps displaying red **lights** on the **towed** unit, the **towing** unit, or both.

- (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, every motor vehicle shall be equipped with the following **mirrors** so located and adjusted as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway to the rear of the vehicle:
 - (a) One (1) **mirror** mounted on the left side of the vehicle; and
 - (b) One (1) **mirror** mounted either inside the vehicle approximately in the center or on the right side of the vehicle.
- (2) No person shall, by himself or through his agent or servant, operate a motor vehicle upon the highways without the equipment required by subsection (1). Each day of operation without the equipment shall constitute a separate offense.
- (3) No person shall sell, barter, or otherwise dispose of any motor vehicle described in subsection (1) unless it is equipped with a **mirror** as provided in that subsection.
- (4) A motorcycle shall be required only to have the **mirror** identified a paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section.