

New York:

Trailer Summary:

Dimensions: Dimensions shall not exceed: A total length of 65 feet, a trailer length of 48 feet, a total width of 96 inches, and a total height of 13 feet 6 inches.

Brakes: Every trailer having a registered maximum gross weight or an actual gross weight of more than 3,000 lbs. shall be equipped with adequate brakes in good working order.

Lighting/Reflectors: See chart below.

Hitch/Signals: Every trailer must be attached to the towing vehicle by a device, including safety chains, of a type approved by a Commissioner.

Mirrors: Every motor vehicle, when driven or operated upon a public highway, shall be equipped with a mirror or other reflecting device so adjusted that the operator of such vehicle shall have a clear and full view of the road and condition of traffic behind the vehicle.

Every motor vehicle when driven or operated on a public highway, that has a model year after 1968, shall be equipped with a side mirror which shall be affixed to the left outside of such vehicle and which shall be adjustable.

Speed Limits: As posted.

Towing: No vehicle or mobile equipment shall be towed with the use of a dolly unless the dolly, vehicle or mobile equipment is secured to the towing vehicle by safety chains or cables which will prevent the dolly, vehicle or mobile equipment from separating from the towing vehicle and the towed vehicle or mobile equipment is securely fastened to the dolly.

Other: N/A

Equipment Required for Trailers

<http://dmv.ny.gov/forms/mv529c.pdf>



New York State Department of Motor Vehicles
Division of Vehicle Safety Services

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR TRAILERS

www.dmv.ny.gov

REQUIRED LIGHTING DEVICES & REFLECTORS. **All devices must be of a type approved by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.**
..... A combination lighting unit may be used to satisfy more than one purpose.

ITEM	NUMBER REQUIRED	LOCATION (Heights specified are measured in inches from road surface to center of item).
Red Tail Lamps	2	Rear - One each side, at the same height (not less than 15" nor more than 72"), and as far apart as practicable.
Red Stop Lamps	2	Rear - Same as tail lamp above.
White Number Plate Lamp	1	Rear - Located to illuminate registration number plate from top or side.
Red Reflex Reflectors*	2	Rear - One each side of the vertical centerline, as far apart as practicable.
	2	Sides- As far to the rear as practicable.
Amber Reflex Reflectors*	2	Sides- As far to the front as practicable.
	2	Sides- At or near the center, only on vehicles 30 feet or more in length.
Red Side Marker Lamps**	2	Sides- As far to the rear as practicable.
Amber Side Marker Lamps**	2	Sides- As far to the front as practicable.
	2	Sides- At or near the midpoint, only on vehicles 30 feet or more in length.
Red or Amber Turn Signal Lamps	2	Rear- As far apart as possible, not less than 15" or more than 83" high.
Identification Lamp (3 lamp cluster) for vehicles 80" or more in width (including wheels)	1	Rear- As close as practicable to the top of vehicle at vertical centerline. Lamp centers should be spaced not less than 6" or more than 12" apart.
Red Clearance Lamps for vehicles 80" or more in width (including wheels)	2	Rear- As near to top and as far apart as practicable.
Amber Clearance Lamps for vehicles 80" or more in width (including wheels)	2	Front- As near to top and as far apart as practicable.

* Note: Red and amber reflex reflectors should be mounted at same height, not less than 15" nor more than 60" high.
**Note: Red and amber side marker lamps should be mounted at same height, not less than 15" nor more than 60" high.

HAZARD WARNING..... 1966 and newer trailers must have two rear turn signal lamps that operate in conjunction with the towing vehicle hazard warning system.

SPLASH GUARDS..... Trailers towed by commercial vehicles must be constructed or equipped with splash guards to prevent water or other road surface substances from being thrown by the rearmost wheels beyond the extreme rear of the trailer, and to minimize side spray.

TRAILER ATTACHMENT..... Every trailer must be attached to prevent its wheels from being deflected more than six inches from the path of the towing vehicle's wheels.

Every trailer, except semi-trailers, must be attached to the towing vehicle by a device, including safety chains, of a type approved by the Commissioner.

TIRES Trailers must be equipped with tires in safe operating condition. A tire is deemed to be in unsafe operating condition if there is a visual break, a cut in excess of one inch, a bump, a bulge, ply or cord exposure, tread design completely worn or tread depth (when measured with a tire gauge) is less than 2/32 of an inch.

BRAKES Trailers weighing over 1,000 pounds unladen, and trailers having a maximum gross weight in excess of 3,000 pounds, must be equipped with brakes.

Brakes must be adequate to control the vehicle at all times, be in good working order and must comply with the standards set by the Commissioner for brake efficiency.

Commercially used trailers must have an emergency breakaway system, which will hold the trailer stationary for at least 15 minutes.

NY Code - Vehicle and Traffic:

§ 143. Semitrailer. Any trailer which is so designed that when operated the forward end of its body or chassis rests upon the body or chassis of the towing vehicle.

§ 156. Trailer. Any vehicle not propelled by its own power drawn on the public highways by a motor vehicle as defined in section one hundred twenty-five operated thereon, except motorcycle side cars, vehicles being towed by a non-rigid support and vehicles designed and primarily used for other purposes and only occasionally drawn by such a motor vehicle.

Vehicle and Traffic

§ 385. Dimensions and weights of vehicles.

No person shall operate or move, or cause or knowingly permit to be operated or moved on any highway or bridge thereon, in any county not wholly included within a city, any vehicle or combination of vehicles of a size or weight exceeding the limitations provided for in this section. Except as otherwise specifically provided in subdivision fifteen of this section, no person shall operate or move, or cause or knowingly permit to be operated or moved on any highway or bridge thereon, in any city not wholly included within one county, any vehicle or combination of vehicles of a size or weight exceeding the limitations provided for in the rules and regulations of the city department of transportation of such city adopted pursuant to section sixteen hundred forty-two of this chapter.

1. (a)(i) The width of a vehicle, inclusive of load, shall be not more than ninety-six inches plus safety devices, except that the maximum width of a vehicle, inclusive of load, shall be one hundred two inches, plus safety devices, on any qualifying or access highway. Except in a city not wholly included within one county, the maximum width of a vehicle, inclusive of load shall not be more than one hundred two inches plus safety devices on any other highway with traffic lanes designed to be a width of ten feet or more.

(ii) If the legislative body of a county not wholly contained within a city determines that any specific segment of the state highway system is not capable of safely accommodating motor vehicles with a width of one hundred two inches, plus safety devices, such body may notify the commissioner of transportation of such determination and request that the commissioner designate such segment as one where the width of motor vehicles may not exceed ninety-six inches, plus safety devices.

Before making such notification, such county legislative body shall consult with units of local government within the county in which the specific segment of such system is located, as well as the county legislative body of any county adjacent to the requesting county that might be directly affected by such exemption. As part of such consultations, consideration shall be given to any potential alternative route that:

- (A) can safely accommodate motor vehicles having the widths set forth in this paragraph; and
- (B) serves the area in which such segment is located.

The county legislative body shall transmit with such notification specific evidence of safety problems that supports such determination and the results of consultations regarding any alternative route.

If the commissioner of transportation determines, upon request by a county legislative body or on the commissioner's own initiative, that any segment of the state highway system is not capable of safely accommodating motor vehicles having the widths set forth in this paragraph, the commissioner shall exempt such segment from the provisions of this paragraph.

(b) The provisions of paragraph (a) of this subdivision shall not apply to vehicles and implements or combinations thereof, not over twelve feet in width and used solely for farm purposes, except upon any highway at any time on which operation is prohibited by order of the department of transportation.

(c) The provisions of paragraph (a) of this subdivision shall not apply to vehicles and implements or combinations thereof, between twelve and up to seventeen feet in width, used solely for farm purposes when the following requirements are met:

(i) the vehicle and implement or combination thereof is operated during the period from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset;

(ii) red or orange fluorescent flags not smaller than eighteen inches square, and reflectors are placed on the extreme corners of the load;

(iii) two flashing amber lights in compliance with regulations prescribed by the commissioner of transportation are attached to the rear of the load or, if the vehicle hauling such implement is equipped with hazard lights which are visible from the rear of the load, such lights are flashing; and

(iv) if the vehicle or load extends beyond the center line of a highway or if the vehicle is being operated during any time when, due to rain, sleet, snow, hail, fog, insufficient light, or for any other reason, visibility for a distance of one thousand feet ahead is not clear, the vehicle is preceded by an escort vehicle which is equipped with a warning sign and flashing lights in compliance with regulations prescribed by the commissioner of transportation.

(d) The provisions of paragraph (a) of this subdivision shall not apply to vehicles and implements or combinations thereof, not over thirteen feet in width and designed and intended for use solely for farm purposes when owned or in the possession of a dealer in farm implements and equipment, during the same period and under the same conditions and restrictions as set forth in paragraph (b) of this subdivision; nor shall paragraph (a) of this subdivision apply to the transportation of such vehicles, implements and combinations thereof as a load on another vehicle, such vehicle and load not to exceed thirteen feet in width, during the same period and under the same conditions and restrictions as set forth in paragraph (b) of this subdivision.

(e) The provisions of paragraph (a) of this subdivision shall not apply to omnibuses or buses used solely for the transportation of children to and from school, but the width of such omnibuses shall not exceed ninety-eight inches.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subdivision, the maximum width for omnibuses or buses having a carrying capacity of more than seven passengers shall not exceed one hundred two inches, provided, however, that when omnibuses or buses are operated wholly within a city, such city may, by local law or ordinance but subject to paragraph (h) of this subdivision, limit the width of omnibuses or buses to not more than ninety-eight inches.

(g) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subdivision, racks for carrying hay, straw or unthreshed grain may have a width of ten feet at the top of the rack. In no case shall the

width at the base of the rack exceed one hundred two inches, nor shall the width of a rack exceed one hundred two inches at any portion thereof while on any qualifying highway.

(h) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subdivision, a house coach used for non-commercial purposes may exceed the maximum width applicable on the highway upon which such house coach is traveling if such excess width is wholly attributable to an awning and its support hardware that is no less than seven and one-half feet off the ground and extends no more than six inches beyond the body of the vehicle on the passenger side and four inches beyond the body of the vehicle on the driver's side. A fifth wheel trailer designed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use not to exceed four hundred square feet in the set-up mode and used for non-commercial purposes may exceed the maximum width applicable on the highway upon which such fifth wheel trailer is traveling if such excess width is wholly attributable to an awning and its support hardware that is no less than seven and one-half feet off the ground and extends no more than six inches beyond the body of the vehicle on the passenger side. This provision shall not apply to any city not wholly included within one county except such house coaches and fifth wheel trailers used for non-commercial purposes may be operated on that portion of interstate ninety-five which connects interstate two hundred eighty-seven with interstate two hundred ninety-five, that portion of interstate two hundred ninety-five which connects interstate ninety-five with interstate four hundred ninety-five and that portion of interstate four hundred ninety-five between interstate ninety-five and the Nassau-Queens county line.

(i) The commissioner of transportation may promulgate such rules and regulations as shall be necessary or desirable to effectuate the provisions of this subdivision.

2. The height of a vehicle from under side of tire to top of vehicle, inclusive of load, shall be not more than thirteen and one-half feet. Any damage to highways, bridges or highway structures resulting from the use of a vehicle exceeding thirteen feet in height where such excess height is the proximate cause of the accident shall be compensated for by the owner and operator of such vehicle.

3. (a) The length of a single vehicle, inclusive of load and bumpers, shall be not more than forty feet unless otherwise provided in this subdivision.

(b) The length of a semitrailer or trailer shall not exceed forty-eight feet provided, however, that the length of any trailer or semitrailer being operated in combination with another trailer or semitrailer shall not exceed twenty-eight and one-half feet. A B-train assembly shall be excluded from the measurement of the length of a semitrailer when such semitrailer is in use between the tractor and the second semitrailer in a tractor-semitrailer-semitrailer combination of vehicles.

(c) The length of buses having a carrying capacity of more than seven passengers shall not exceed forty-five feet, except that the length of articulated buses shall not exceed sixty-two feet. A house coach shall not exceed forty-five feet in length, provided however, that if a house coach exceeds forty feet in length, its wall-to-wall turning diameter shall not exceed ninety feet three inches and moreover, such house coach shall have permanently affixed to its body on the front passenger side door jamb, a data-plate on which the house coach manufacturer indicates the vehicle identification number and wall-to-wall turning diameter and attests to the fact that the wall-to-wall turning diameter is calculated in accordance with the Society of Automotive Engineers J-695 Standard as such standard existed on June first, two thousand three, regarding turning capability. In the event such a house coach exceeds either twenty six thousand pounds gross vehicle weight rating, is greater than forty feet in length or exceeds both, the operator of such house coach must have a driver's license with a personal use vehicle endorsement as set

forth in subparagraph (vii) of paragraph (b) of subdivision two of section five hundred one of the¹ this chapter. This provision shall not apply to any city not wholly included within one county except such house coaches and fifth wheel trailers used for non-commercial purposes may be operated on that portion of interstate ninety-five which connects interstate two hundred eighty-seven with interstate two hundred ninety-five, that portion of interstate two hundred ninety-five which connects interstate ninety-five with interstate four hundred ninety-five and that portion of interstate four hundred ninety-five between interstate ninety-five and the Nassau-Queens county line.

(d) The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to fire vehicles.

(e) Except in any city not wholly included within one county, any semitrailer with a length in excess of forty-eight feet, but not exceeding fifty-three feet, may be operated on any qualifying highway or specifically designated access highway if the distance between the kingpin of the semitrailer and the centerline of the rear axle does not exceed forty-three feet and if the semitrailer is equipped with a rear-end protective device of substantial construction consisting of a continuous lateral beam extending to within four inches of the lateral extremities of the semitrailer and located not more than twenty-two inches from the surface as measured with the vehicle empty and on a level surface. In addition, such vehicles may be operated on that portion of interstate ninety-five which connects interstate two hundred eighty-seven with interstate two hundred ninety-five, that portion of interstate two hundred ninety-five which connects interstate ninety-five with interstate four hundred ninety-five and that portion of interstate four hundred ninety-five between interstate ninety-five and the Nassau-Queens county line.

(f) The length of any center panel of an altered livery shall not exceed one hundred inches unless the owner of such vehicle can demonstrate that the livery conforms to all applicable federal and state motor vehicle safety standards at the time of registration in accordance with section four hundred one of this chapter.

(g) [Added L.2014, c. 252, § 1. See, also, (g) below.] The length of a specialized material delivery vehicle, inclusive of load and bumpers, shall not be more than forty feet provided, however, that the portion of an attached boom or forklift that extends beyond the rear bumper by not more than five feet shall be excluded from the measurement of the length of a specialized material delivery vehicle. For the purposes of this paragraph, "specialized material delivery vehicle" shall mean a single unit truck having an attached boom or forklift for the purpose of hoisting, swinging, loading or unloading material from such truck. The provisions of this paragraph authorizing the exclusion from the measurement of the length of a specialized material delivery vehicle shall not apply unless the operator of such vehicle holds a valid commercial driver's license as defined by subdivision one of section five hundred one-a of this chapter.

(g) [Added L.2014, c. 303, § 1. See, also, (g) above.] The length of a tow truck or car carrier, inclusive of load and bumpers, shall be not more than forty feet, except that a car carrier may have an overhang that extends beyond the rear bumper of such car carrier by not more than three feet and except, further, that a wheel lift that is less than fifteen feet in length shall not be included as part of the length of a tow truck or car carrier when such wheel lift is in use by such tow truck or car carrier to tow another motor vehicle.

(h) The commissioner of motor vehicles in consultation with the commissioner of transportation may promulgate such rules and regulations as shall be necessary or desirable to effectuate the provisions of this subdivision.

4. (a) The total length of a combination of vehicles, inclusive of load and bumpers, shall not be more than sixty-five feet.

(b) The provisions of paragraph (a) of this subdivision shall not apply to:

1. A combination of vehicles being operated on any qualifying highway or access highway;

2. Vehicles of a corporation which is subject to the jurisdiction of the interstate commerce commission, the public service commission or other regulatory body and which are used in the construction, reconstruction, repair or maintenance of its property or facilities, provided that any such vehicle complies with the safety requirements of the laws and regulations of the United States and of this state pertaining to overlength vehicles;

3. Vehicles hauling poles, girders, columns, or other similar objects of great length provided that any such vehicle complies with the safety requirements of the laws and regulations of the United States and of this state pertaining to such overlength vehicles;

4. Fire vehicles;

5. A vehicle or combination of vehicles which is disabled and unable to proceed under its own power and is being towed for a distance not in excess of ten miles for the purpose of repairs or removal from the highway, except that the distance to the nearest exit of a controlled-access highway shall not be considered in determining such ten mile distance;

6. Stinger-steered automobile transporters or stinger-steered boat transporters, while operating on qualifying and access highways. Stinger-steered boat transporters shall not, however, exceed seventy-five feet exclusive of an overhang of not more than three feet on the front and four feet on the rear of the vehicle and stinger-steered automobile transporters shall not exceed eighty feet exclusive of an overhang of not more than four feet on the front and six feet on the rear of the vehicle; and

7. A combination of vehicles operating on any qualifying or access highways consisting of a power unit and two trailers or semitrailers with a total weight that shall not exceed twenty-six thousand pounds when the overall length is greater than sixty-five feet but shall not exceed eighty-two feet in which the trailers or semitrailers carry no property and constitute inventory property of a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of such trailers or semitrailers.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subdivision, an overhang of not more than three feet on the front and four feet on the rear of an automobile transporter or an overhang of not more than four feet on the front and six feet on the rear of a stinger-steered automobile transporter or an overhang of not more than three feet on the front and four feet on the rear of a boat transporter or stinger-steered boat transporter shall be permitted.

5. In determining the number of wheels and axles on any vehicle or combination of vehicles within the meaning of this section, only two wheels shall be counted for each axle, and axles which are less than forty-six inches apart, from center to center, shall be counted as one axle. However, in the case of multiple tires or multiple wheels, the sum of the widths of all the tires on a wheel or combination of wheels shall be taken in determining tire width.

6. The weight per inch width of tire on any one wheel of a single vehicle or a combination of vehicles equipped with pneumatic tires, when loaded, shall be not more than eight hundred pounds.

7. The weight on any one wheel of a single vehicle or a combination of vehicles, equipped with pneumatic tires, when loaded, shall be not more than eleven thousand two hundred pounds.

8. The weight on any one axle of a single vehicle or a combination of vehicles, equipped with pneumatic tires, when loaded, shall be not more than twenty-two thousand four hundred pounds.

9. The weight on any two consecutive axles of a single vehicle or a combination of vehicles, equipped with pneumatic tires, when loaded, and when such axles are spaced less than eight feet from center to center, shall be not more than thirty-six thousand pounds, except where axles are spaced eight feet or greater, but less than ten feet, the weight on those two axles shall not exceed that permitted by paragraph (b) of subdivision ten of this section and, in addition, shall not exceed forty thousand pounds. Axles to be counted as provided in subdivision five of this section.