

Arizona Revised Statues

Arizona Vehicle Code: <http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ArizonaRevisedStatutes.asp?Title=28>

According to Arizona Revised Statute [28-5201](#) (L08, Ch. 147, sec. 3), this is the definition of a commercial motor vehicle:

1. "Commercial motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles that is designed, used or maintained to transport passengers or property in the furtherance of a commercial enterprise on a highway in this state, that is not exempt from the gross weight fees as prescribed in section 28-5432, subsection B and that includes any of the following:

- (a) A single vehicle or combination of vehicles that has a gross vehicle weight rating of eighteen thousand one or more pounds and that is used for the purposes of intrastate commerce.
- (b) A single vehicle or combination of vehicles that has a gross vehicle weight rating of ten thousand one or more pounds and that is used for the purposes of interstate commerce.
- (c) A school bus.

28-5201. Definitions

In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Commercial motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles that is designed, used or maintained to transport passengers or property in the furtherance of a commercial enterprise on a highway in this state, that is not exempt from the gross weight fees as prescribed in section 28-5432, subsection B and that includes any of the following:

- (a) A single vehicle or combination of vehicles that has a gross vehicle weight rating of eighteen thousand one or more pounds and that is used for the purposes of intrastate commerce.
- (b) A single vehicle or combination of vehicles that has a gross vehicle weight rating of ten thousand one or more pounds and that is used for the purposes of interstate commerce.
- (c) A school bus.
- (d) A bus.
- (e) A vehicle that transports passengers for hire and that has a design capacity for eight or more persons.

(f) A vehicle that is used in the transportation of materials found to be hazardous for the purposes of the hazardous materials transportation authorization act of 1994 (49 United States Code sections 5101 through 5128) and that is required to be placarded under 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 172.504, as adopted by the department pursuant to this chapter.

28-101. Definitions

10. "Combination of vehicles" means a truck or truck tractor and semitrailer and any trailer that it tows but does not include a forklift designed for the purpose of loading or unloading the truck, trailer or semitrailer.

48. "Semitrailer" means a vehicle that is with or without motive power, other than a pole trailer, that is designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and that is constructed so that some part of its weight and that of its load rests on or is carried by another vehicle. For the purposes of this paragraph, "pole trailer" has the same meaning prescribed in section 28-601.

55. "Trailer" means a vehicle that is with or without motive power, other than a pole trailer, that is designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and that is constructed so that no part of its weight rests on the towing vehicle. A semitrailer equipped with an auxiliary front axle commonly known as a dolly is deemed to be a trailer. For the purposes of this paragraph, "pole trailer" has the same meaning prescribed in section 28-601.

59. "Vehicle transporter" means either:

(a) A truck tractor capable of carrying a load and drawing a semitrailer.

(b) A truck tractor with a stinger-steered fifth wheel capable of carrying a load and drawing a semitrailer or a truck tractor with a dolly mounted fifth wheel that is securely fastened to the truck tractor at two or more points and that is capable of carrying a load and drawing a semitrailer.

28-1111. Commercial and noncommercial vehicles and trailers; website publications

A. In cooperation with the department of public safety, the department of transportation shall develop easily understandable publications of the laws, rules and department policies relating to commercial and noncommercial motor vehicles, trailers and vehicle combinations that contain the following:

1. Weight thresholds specifying the differences between commercial and noncommercial vehicles and vehicle combinations.
2. Equipment requirements for different weight classes of commercial and noncommercial vehicles and vehicle combinations.
3. Allowable vehicle combinations.
4. Other information the director deems necessary.

B. The department of transportation and the department of public safety shall jointly develop and publish on the website of each agency the information prescribed by subsection A no later than January 1, 2009.

28-981. Vehicle equipment; safety requirement

A. A person shall not drive or move on a highway a motor vehicle, tow truck, **trailer**, **semitrailer** or pole **trailer** or any combination of a motor vehicle, tow truck, **trailer**, **semitrailer** or pole **trailer** unless:

1. The equipment on the vehicle is in good working order and adjustment as required in this chapter.
2. The vehicle is in a safe mechanical condition that does not endanger the driver or other occupant or a person on the highway.

B. The provisions of this article with respect to equipment on vehicles do not apply to trailers used solely in the operation of a farm for the transportation of unprocessed fiber products on the farm or from a farm to a cotton gin, road machinery, road rollers, farm tractors or implements of husbandry when the implement is being incidentally operated or moved on a highway whether as a **trailer** or self-propelled unit. For the purposes of this subsection, "incidentally operated or moved on a highway" means travel between a farm and another part of the same farm, from one farm to another farm or between a farm and a place of repair, supply or storage.

28-1093. Vehicle width; exceptions

A. Except as otherwise provided in subsections B and C of this section and section 28-627, the total outside width of a vehicle or the load on the vehicle shall not exceed eight feet.

B. If pneumatic tires, in substitution for the same type or other type of tires, are placed on a vehicle in operation on July 1, 1950:

1. The maximum width from the outside of one wheel and tire to the outside of the opposite wheel and tire shall not exceed eight feet six inches.
2. The outside width of the body of the vehicle or the load on the vehicle shall not exceed eight feet.

C. A person may operate a vehicle with a total width of the vehicle or the load on the vehicle of not more than one hundred two inches, exclusive of safety equipment, on:

1. Any segment of the national system of interstate and defense highways.
2. Any other qualifying federal aid highway.
3. Any state highway, as designated by the director.
4. Streets that are designated by a local authority as follows:
 - (a) The local authority may designate the streets by signage of the allowable streets or by maintenance of a map or list of allowable streets as approved by a resolution of the local authority.

(b) In designating the streets, the local authority shall consider any reasonable restriction including such safety restrictions as structural hazards and street width and any other safety factors identified by the local authority as a hazard to the motoring public.

5. A highway that reasonably accesses interstate system highways, federal aid highways or state highways from terminals and facilities that provide food, fuel, repairs and lodging or from emergency medical facilities.

D. Notwithstanding subsections A, B and C of this section, the total outside width of a noncommercial recreational vehicle as defined in section 41-2142 may be more than one hundred two inches if the excess width is attributable to recreational vehicle appurtenances that do not extend beyond the exterior rearview mirrors of the recreational vehicle or tow vehicle and the rearview mirrors only extend the distance necessary to provide the appropriate field of view for the vehicle before the appurtenances are attached. For the purposes of this subsection, "recreational vehicle appurtenance":

1. Includes:

(a) An awning and its support hardware.

(b) Any appendage that is intended to be an integral part of the recreational vehicle and that is installed by the manufacturer or dealer.

2. Does not include an item that is temporarily affixed or attached to the exterior of the recreational vehicle by the vehicle's operator for the purpose of transporting the item from one location to another location.

28-1094. Vehicle height; exceptions; special permits

A. Without a permit issued under section 28-1103 or this section, a vehicle unladen or with a load shall not exceed a height of thirteen feet six inches above the level surface on which the vehicle stands.

B. The department with respect to highways under its jurisdiction and a local authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction shall also designate a system of highways that a vehicle unladen or with a load not exceeding fourteen feet above the level surface on which a vehicle stands may operate without a permit prescribed in subsection C of this section. In designating the streets, the local authority shall consider any reasonable restriction including such safety restrictions as structural hazards, street width and any other safety factors identified by the local authority as a hazard to the motoring public.

C. Notwithstanding section 28-1103, the department with respect to highways under its jurisdiction and a local authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, on application in writing and good cause shown, may issue a special permit in writing that is valid for one year and that authorizes the applicant to operate or move a motor vehicle or combination of vehicles on designated routes in this state if the laden height does not exceed fourteen feet. A fee of forty-five dollars is required for each motor vehicle covered by a permit issued pursuant to this subsection. Except as expressly provided in this subsection, the special permit is governed by sections 28-1103, 28-1104 and 28-1105.

D. Notwithstanding section 28-1103, the department with respect to highways under its jurisdiction and a local authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, on application and good cause shown, may issue a permit pursuant to this chapter that authorizes the applicant to operate or move a motor vehicle on designated routes in this state if the laden height of the vehicle exceeds fourteen feet. A fee of fifteen dollars is required for each motor vehicle covered

by a permit issued pursuant to this subsection. Except as expressly provided in this subsection, the single trip special permit is governed by sections 28-1103, 28-1104 and 28-1105.

28-1095. Vehicle length; exceptions; permits; rules; definitions

A. A vehicle, including any load on the vehicle, shall not exceed a length of forty feet extreme overall dimension, including front and rear bumpers. This subsection does not apply to any of the following:

1. A semitrailer when used in combination with a truck or a truck tractor.
2. A truck that is equipped with a conveyor bed, that is used solely as a fiber and forage module mover and that does not exceed forty-eight feet in length.
3. An articulated bus or articulated trolley coach that does not exceed a length of sixty feet.
4. A bus that is not articulated and that does not exceed a length of forty-five feet.
5. A recreational vehicle, a power unit, a farm vehicle, a horse trailer or wheeled equipment as defined in section 28-2153 if used in combination with two units and if the combination does not exceed sixty-five feet in length.
6. A recreational vehicle as defined in section 41-2142, paragraph 30, subdivision (b) that does not exceed a length of forty-five feet.

B. A vehicle transporter may draw only one semitrailer. A combination of vehicles, excluding a vehicle transporter and the semitrailer it draws, that is coupled together shall not consist of more than two units, except that a truck or a truck tractor and semitrailer may draw either one trailer or a forklift.

C. The following restrictions apply:

1. The length of a semitrailer operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer combination or a truck tractor-semitrailer-forklift combination shall not exceed fifty-seven feet six inches.
2. The length of a semitrailer or trailer operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination shall not exceed twenty-eight feet six inches.
3. The length of a trailer operating in a truck-trailer combination shall not exceed twenty-eight feet six inches.
4. If the length of a semitrailer is more than fifty-three feet, the overall length of a truck tractor-semitrailer combination shall not exceed sixty-five feet on all highways, except for the national intercity truck route network designated by the United States secretary of transportation as required by the surface transportation assistance act of 1982 or on a system of highways that is designated by a local authority. In designating the streets, the local authority shall consider any reasonable restriction including such safety restrictions as structural hazards and street width and any other safety factors identified by the local authority as a hazard to the motoring public.
5. A vehicle transporter and the semitrailer it draws shall not exceed a length of seventy-five feet.
6. A truck-semitrailer combination shall not exceed an overall length of sixty-five feet.

D. Subsection B and subsection C, paragraphs 1 through 6 of this section do not apply to damaged, disabled or abandoned vehicles or combinations of vehicles while being towed by a tow truck in compliance with section 28-1108.

E. Notwithstanding subsections B and C of this section, extensions of not more than three feet beyond the foremost part and six feet beyond the rear bed or body of a vehicle or combination of vehicles used to transport manufactured vehicles or fiber and forage shall not be included in measuring the length of the vehicle or combination of vehicles when loaded.

F. Pursuant to a permit issued pursuant to section 28-1103, a truck or a truck tractor-semitrailer may draw not more than two additional trailers or semitrailers. The department shall adopt rules governing the movement and safety of a combination of vehicles under this subsection and authorizing the issuance in advance of prepaid permits. The rules shall include the adoption of minimum speeds on grades, lighting, signing, identification and braking requirements and any other rules the department deems necessary. The permit issued pursuant to this subsection is limited to the following highways:

1. An interstate highway that connects with two states if both states allow such combinations of trailers or semitrailers and if the interstate highway does not exceed forty miles between the connecting states.
2. A state route or highway that is located within four miles of and extends to the border of this state and an adjacent state that allows such combinations of trailers or semitrailers.
3. A state route or highway that extends at least ten miles through an Indian reservation, that does not cross the Colorado river and that is located within twenty miles of and extends to the border of this state and an adjacent state that allows such combinations of trailers or semitrailers.

G. Notwithstanding subsections B and C of this section:

1. A motor vehicle may draw one single axle tow dolly on which a motor vehicle may be transported. A person shall secure the raised end of any motor vehicle being transported pursuant to this paragraph to the tow dolly by two separate chains, cables or equivalent devices adequate to prevent shifting or separation of the drawn vehicle and the tow dolly. For the purposes of this paragraph, "single axle tow dolly" means a vehicle drawn by a motor vehicle and designed and used exclusively to transport another motor vehicle by which the front or rear wheels of the drawn motor vehicle are mounted on the tow dolly while the other wheels of the drawn motor vehicle remain in contact with the ground.
2. A truck or a truck tractor may draw a trailer or semitrailer that does not exceed a length of fifty-seven feet only on an interstate highway or on a highway that is within ten miles of an interstate highway if the trailer or semitrailer is manufactured in this state and is traveling with or without a load from its place of manufacture to be delivered for use outside this state.
3. A recreational vehicle may pull two units if all of the following conditions are met:
 - (a) The middle unit is equipped with a fifth wheel and brakes. The middle unit may be a farm vehicle or a horse trailer and shall have a weight equal to or greater than the rear unit.
 - (b) If the rear unit has a gross weight of three thousand pounds or more, it is equipped with brakes.
 - (c) The total combined gross weight of the towed units does not exceed the manufacturer's stated gross vehicle weight of the towing unit.

H. For the purposes of this section:

1. "Farm vehicle" has the same meaning prescribed in section 28-2514.
2. "Recreational vehicle" means a motor vehicle that is designed and customarily used for private pleasure, including vehicles commonly called motor homes, pickup trucks with campers and pickup trucks with a fifth wheel trailing device.

28-709. Maximum speed limit for large vehicles and vehicles with trailers

A. Unless a lower maximum speed limit is posted or the department designates a greater maximum speed limit pursuant to subsection B of this section, a person shall not drive either of the following on a highway in this state at a speed that is greater than sixty-five miles per hour:

1. A motor vehicle or vehicle combination with a declared gross weight of more than twenty-six thousand pounds, excluding a motor vehicle designed for carrying sixteen or more passengers, including the driver. For the purposes of this paragraph, "declared gross weight" and "vehicle combination" have the same meaning prescribed in section 28-5431.

2. A vehicle that is drawing a pole trailer that weighs six thousand or more pounds.

B. If the department determines on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation of a highway under its jurisdiction that the designation of a maximum speed limit for vehicles prescribed in subsection A of this section that is greater than sixty-five miles per hour would facilitate the safe and orderly movement of traffic, the department may designate such a maximum speed for travel of those vehicles and shall erect signs at reasonable intervals giving notice of the speed limitation.

28-925. Tail lamps

A. A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer and pole trailer and any other vehicle that is being drawn at the end of a train of vehicles shall be equipped with at least one tail lamp mounted on the rear. When lighted as required by this article, the tail lamp shall emit a red light plainly visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear, except that in the case of a train of vehicles, only the tail lamp on the rearmost vehicle need actually be seen from the distance specified.

B. A tail lamp on a vehicle shall be located at a height of not more than seventy-two inches nor less than fifteen inches to be measured as provided in [section 28-923](#), subsection B.

C. Either a tail lamp or a separate lamp shall be constructed and placed in a manner that illuminates with a white light the rear license plate and renders it clearly legible from a distance of fifty feet to the rear. A tail lamp or tail lamps together with any separate lamp for illuminating the rear license plate shall be wired to provide that the tail lamp or lamps are lighted whenever the head lamps or auxiliary driving lamps are lighted.

28-926. New motor vehicles; reflectors

A. Except as provided in subsection B of this section, a new motor vehicle sold and operated on a highway, other than a truck tractor, shall carry on the rear, either as a part of the tail lamps or separately, either:

1. Two red reflectors that comply with this section.

2. If it is a motorcycle or a motor driven cycle, at least one reflector that complies with this section.

B. A vehicle of the type provided in section 28-929 shall be equipped with reflectors as required in that section.

C. A reflector shall be mounted on the vehicle at a height of not less than twenty inches nor more than sixty inches measured as provided in section 28-923, subsection B and shall be of such size and characteristics and so mounted as to be visible at night from all distances within three hundred feet to fifty feet from the vehicle when directly in front of lawful upper beams of head lamps, except that visibility from a greater distance is required of reflectors on certain types of vehicles.

28-929. Additional lighting equipment required on certain vehicles

In addition to other equipment required in this article, the following vehicles shall be equipped with the following equipment under the conditions stated in section 28-928:

1. On a bus or truck regardless of size, on the rear, two reflectors, one at each side, and two stoplights.

2. On a bus or truck eighty inches or more in overall width, in addition to the requirements in paragraph 1 of this section:

(a) On the front, two clearance lamps, one at each side.

(b) On the rear, two clearance lamps, one at each side.

(c) On each side, two side marker lamps, one at or near the front and one at or near the rear. Vehicles that exceed thirty feet in length shall have a third side marker lamp at the midpoint between the front and rear marker lamps.

(d) On each side, two reflectors, one at or near the front and one at or near the rear. Vehicles that exceed thirty feet in length shall have a third reflector at the midpoint between the front and rear reflectors.

3. On a truck tractor:

(a) On the front, two clearance lamps, one at each side.

(b) On the rear, two stoplights.

4. On a trailer or semitrailer with a gross weight of more than three thousand pounds:

(a) On the front, two clearance lamps, one at each side.

(b) On each side, two side marker lamps, one at or near the front and one at or near the rear. Vehicles that exceed thirty feet in length shall have a third side marker lamp at the midpoint between the front and rear marker lamps.

(c) On each side, two reflectors, one at or near the front and one at or near the rear. Vehicles that exceed thirty feet in length shall have a third reflector at the midpoint between the front and rear reflectors.

(d) On the rear, two clearance lamps, one at each side, and two reflectors, one at each side, and two stoplights.

5. On a pole trailer with a gross weight of more than three thousand pounds:

(a) On each side, one side marker lamp and one clearance lamp that may be in combination, to show to the front, side and rear.

(b) On the rear of the pole trailer or load, two reflectors, one at each side.

6. On a trailer, semitrailer or pole trailer with a gross weight of three thousand pounds or less:

(a) On the rear, two reflectors, one on each side.

(b) Two stoplights on a trailer or semitrailer if it is loaded in such a manner or is of such dimensions as to obscure the stoplight on the towing vehicle.

28-2003. Fees; vehicle title and registration; identification plate; definition

A. The following fees are required:

1. For each certificate of title, salvage certificate of title, restored salvage certificate of title or nonrepairable vehicle certificate of title, four dollars.

2. For each certificate of title for a mobile home, seven dollars. The director shall deposit three dollars of each fee imposed by this paragraph in the state highway fund established by section 28-6991.

3. Except as provided in section 28-1177, for the registration of a motor vehicle, eight dollars, except that the fee for motorcycles is nine dollars.

4. For a duplicate registration card or any duplicate permit, four dollars.

5. For each special ninety day nonresident registration issued under section 28-2154, fifteen dollars.

6. For the registration of a trailer or semitrailer that is not a travel trailer and that is ten thousand pounds or less gross vehicle weight and that is used in the furtherance of a commercial enterprise, eight dollars.

7. For the registration of a trailer or semitrailer that is not a travel trailer and that exceeds ten thousand pounds gross vehicle weight:

(a) On initial registration, a one-time fee of two hundred forty-five dollars.

(b) On renewal of registration or if previously registered in another state, a one-time fee of:

(i) If the trailer's or semitrailer's model year is less than six years old, one hundred forty-five dollars.

(ii) If the trailer's or semitrailer's model year is at least six years old, ninety-five dollars.

8. For the registration of a noncommercial trailer that is not a travel trailer and that is ten thousand pounds or less gross vehicle weight:

(a) On initial registration, a one-time fee of twenty dollars.

(b) On renewal of registration, a one-time fee of five dollars.

9. For a transfer of a noncommercial trailer that is not a travel trailer and that is ten thousand pounds or less gross vehicle weight, twelve dollars.

10. For each special ninety day resident registration issued under section 28-2154, fifteen dollars.

11. For each one trip registration permit issued under section 28-2155, one dollar.

12. For each temporary general use registration issued under section 28-2156, fifteen dollars.

13. For each identification plate bearing a serial or identification number to be affixed to any vehicle, five dollars.

B. For the purposes of this section, "travel trailer" means a trailer that is:

1. Mounted on wheels.

2. Designed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping or travel use.

3. Less than eight feet in width and less than forty feet in length.

HISTORY: Last legislative year: 2009.; Recent legislative history: [Laws 2009, Ch. 187, § 19. 41-1830.51. Vehicle towing; rules; contractual agreement for towing services; weight exemption](#)

A. If a vehicle is towing another vehicle, the drawbar or other connection shall be of sufficient strength to pull all weight towed by the vehicle and the 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 that cannot readily be dismembered. For the purposes of this subsection, "drawbar" means a rigid structure that

connects a trailer and a towing vehicle and that articulates at the point of connection with the trailer and articulates at the point of connection with the towing vehicle.

B. If a vehicle is towing another vehicle and the connection consists of a chain, rope or cable, a white flag or cloth at least twelve inches square shall be displayed on the connection.

C. The director shall:

1. Adopt and enforce rules that are not inconsistent with this article to govern the design and operation of all tow trucks.

2. Adopt guidelines to protect consumers against being overcharged for towing services. The guidelines shall specify that a larger class of tow vehicle used for lighter tows must be billed at the lighter duty towing service rates.

D. A person may not operate a tow truck for the purpose of towing vehicles without first registering with the director, and obtaining a permit pursuant to the rules that govern tow trucks and that are adopted by the department.

E. The director or a county, city or town may enter into a contractual agreement with a towing firm or firms for towing or storage services, or both. At the time of application for a contractual agreement, a towing firm must disclose in writing the owners of the towing firm and, if the owners own other towing firms that are also applying for the same contractual agreement, the names of those towing firms. The contractual agreement shall comply with this section and all rules adopted under this section. Contracts shall be awarded on the basis of competitive bidding. The director or a county, city or town shall reserve the right to reject all bids. If only one bid is received, the director or a county, city or town may reject the bid and negotiate a contract without bidding if the negotiated contract is at a price lower than the bid price under the terms and conditions specified in the call for bids.

F. Except as provided in subsection G of this section, a towing firm may only have one contractual agreement per geographic towing area with the department or a county, city or town for towing or storage services, or both. If an owner of a towing firm has a common ownership interest in another towing firm or the assets of another towing firm, the owner may not participate in any other application for a contractual agreement within the same geographic towing area.

G. If a towing firm that has a contractual agreement pursuant to this section acquires another towing firm that has a contractual agreement pursuant to this section, both contractual agreements remain valid for one year after the date of the acquisition or until the end of the contractual agreement, whichever is shorter.

H. Notwithstanding subsection F of this section, an agency may allow a towing firm to use resources from another towing firm if an agency deems the use of those resources is necessary for traffic incident management.

I. The total weight of a tow truck and the towed vehicle is exempt from the maximum total gross weight load allowed under section 28-1100 if a damaged, disabled or abandoned vehicle or vehicle combination is towed.