

Mississippi

Mississippi Code

TITLE 63 - MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

§ 63-5-17. Height of vehicles

No vehicle unladen or with load shall exceed a height of thirteen feet, six inches. However, no person, firm or corporation, or the State of Mississippi or any subdivision thereof, shall be required to raise, alter, construct or reconstruct any underpass, wire, pole, trestle, or other structure to permit the passage of any vehicle having a height, unladen or with load, in excess of twelve feet, six inches. Full liability for damage to any structure caused by any vehicle having a height in excess of twelve feet, six inches, shall be borne entirely by the motor carrier or operator of the vehicle.

§ 63-5-19. Vehicle length limitations; generally

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, no single vehicle, unladen or with load, shall have an overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of forty (40) feet.

(2) No semitrailer operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer combination and no trailer drawn by a motor vehicle shall exceed a length of fifty-three (53) feet.

(3) No semitrailer or trailer operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination and no trailer operating in a double trailer combination drawn by a motor vehicle shall exceed a length of thirty (30) feet.

(4) No semitrailer or trailer combinations in excess of two (2) units, excluding the towing motor vehicle, shall be allowed to operate on the highways of this state.

(5) No motor home shall have an overall length exclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of forty-five (45) feet.

(6) The load upon the rear vehicle of a combination of vehicles transporting forest or agricultural products in their natural state shall not project more than twenty-eight (28) feet beyond the rear axle of the vehicle except in the special circumstance hereinafter prescribed. If such products project more than twenty-eight (28) feet beyond the rear axle and, due to the end use for which they are intended (such as tall utility poles or light poles or the like), such products cannot be shortened without rendering them useless for the finished product for which they have been cut, then such special circumstance may be considered good cause for the obtaining of a permit which shall be procured pursuant to Section 63-5-51 before vehicles transporting such products

may operate. Except as otherwise provided in Section 63-5-21, any vehicle transporting projecting loads as described in this subsection that extend four (4) feet or more beyond the rear or body of the vehicle shall operate only during daylight hours, and the load on vehicles designed to transport forestry products shall be secured by at least two (2) chains, two (2) wire ropes, or two (2) nylon straps, one (1) positioned behind the front bolster and one (1) in front of the back bolster.

(7) Except as otherwise provided in Section 63-5-21, the rear projecting load of any vehicle operating during the period described under Section 63-7-11 may not extend four (4) feet or more beyond the rear or body of the vehicle.

(8) The length limitations on projecting loads prescribed in this section do not apply to a single vehicle or the rear vehicle of a combination of vehicles designed for on-farm delivery and unloading of any agricultural product, in its natural or manufactured form, which is fitted with an auger or similar unloading device permanently affixed to the vehicle that extends no more than eight (8) feet horizontally beyond the rear or body of the vehicle provided that no portion of such device which extends four (4) feet or more beyond the rear or body of the vehicle is less than seven (7) feet above the roadway surface. However, any such vehicle may not be operated on the public highways, roads or streets of this state during the period described under Section 63-7-11.

(9) A vehicle designed and especially constructed to transport raw cotton from harvest to the cotton gin may have a total overall length not to exceed fifty (50) feet whenever any such vehicle is being operated within a radius of fifty (50) miles of the vehicle's home base or its contractual customer.

§ 63-5-25. Connections for trailers and towed vehicles

(1) Every trailer which shall be towed on the public highways at a speed in excess of twenty (20) miles per hour shall be coupled to the towing vehicle by means of a safety chain, chains, cables, or equivalent devices in addition to the regular trailer hitch or coupling. This requirement does not apply to a semitrailer having a connecting device composed of a fifth wheel and kingpin assembly meeting the requirements of the Interstate Commerce Commission, nor to a pole, pipe, casing, long or piling dolly. No more slack shall be left in any such safety chains, cables or equivalent devices than shall be necessary to permit proper turning. The safety chains, cables or equivalent device shall be so connected to the towed and towing vehicles and to the drawbar to prevent the drawbar from dropping to the ground if the drawbar fails, and shall be of sufficient strength to control the trailer in event of failure of the regular trailer hitch or coupling.

(2) When one (1) vehicle is towing another the drawbar or other connection shall be of sufficient strength to pull all weight towed thereby. Said drawbar or other connection shall not exceed

fifteen (15) feet from one (1) vehicle to the other except the connection between any two (2) vehicles transporting poles, pipe, machinery or other objects of structural nature which cannot readily be dismembered.

(3) When one (1) vehicle is towing another and the connection consists of a chain, rope, or cable, there shall be displayed upon such connection a white flag or cloth not less than twelve (12) inches square.

(4) No more than three (3) vehicles in combination shall be towed by saddle-mounts, provided the overall length of the towing and towed vehicles shall not exceed seventy-five (75) feet in length. No more than one (1) motor vehicle shall be towed by tow bar.

§ 63-7-51. General vehicle **brake** equipment requirements

- (1) Every motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with **brakes** adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold such vehicle, including two separate means of applying the **brakes**, each of which means shall be effective to apply the **brakes** to at least two wheels. If these two separate means of applying the **brakes** are connected in any way, they shall be so constructed that failure of any one part of the operating mechanism shall not leave the motor vehicle without **brakes** on at least two wheels.
- (2) Every motorcycle, and bicycle with motor attached, when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with at least one **brake**, which may be operated by hand or foot.
- (3) Every **trailer** carrying over one ton, when operated upon a highway, shall be equipped with **brakes** adequate to control the movement thereof and to stop and to hold such vehicle, and so designed to be applied by the driver of the towing motor vehicle from its cab; said **brakes** shall be so designed and connected that in case of an accidental breakaway of the towed vehicle, the **brakes** shall be automatically applied.
- (4) Every new motor vehicle, except a motorcycle, hereafter sold in this state and operated upon the highways, and every new **trailer**, except a **trailer** of two axles of less than 2,000 pounds gross towed by an automobile, hereafter sold in this state and operated upon the highways, shall be equipped with service **brakes** upon all wheels of every such vehicle.

169.82 **TRAILER** EQUIPMENT

- **Subdivision 1. Connection to towing vehicle.**
 - (a) When one vehicle is towing another the drawbar or other connection must be of sufficient strength to pull the weight being towed.
 - (b) The drawbar or other connection may not exceed 15 feet from one vehicle to the other. This paragraph does not apply to the connection between any two

vehicles transporting poles, pipe, machinery or other objects of structural nature which cannot readily be dismembered.

- **Subd. 2. *Marking.*** — When one vehicle is towing another and the connection consists of a **chain**, rope, or cable, the connection must display a white, red, yellow, or orange flag or cloth not less than 12 inches square.
- **Subd. 3. *Hitch, chain, or cable.***
 - (a) Every **trailer** or semitrailer must be hitched to the towing motor vehicle by a device approved by the commissioner of public **safety**.
 - (b) Every **trailer** and semitrailer must be equipped with **safety chains** or cables permanently attached to the **trailer** except in cases where the coupling device is a regulation fifth wheel and kingpin assembly approved by the commissioner of public **safety**. In towing, the **chains** or cables must be attached to the vehicles near the points of bumper attachments to the chassis of each vehicle, and must be of sufficient strength to control the **trailer** in the event of failure of the towing device. The length of **chain** or cable must be no more than necessary to permit free turning of the vehicles. A minimum fine of \$ 25 must be imposed for a violation of this paragraph.
 - (c) This subdivision does not apply to towed implements of husbandry.
 - (d) No person may be charged with a violation of this section solely by reason of violating a maximum speed prescribed in section 169.67 or 169.801.

§ 63-7-11. Requirements as to use of lights

Every vehicle upon a highway within this state during the period from sunset to sunrise and at any other time when there is not sufficient light to render clearly discernible any person on the highway at a distance of five hundred feet ahead shall be equipped with lighted front and rear lamps as respectively required in Section 63-7-13 for different classes of vehicles and subject to exemption with reference to lights on parked vehicles as hereinafter stated in this chapter.

3-3-501. Maximum **speed** limits on state, interstate and controlled access highways;
maximum **speed** limit on toll roads

Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person shall operate a vehicle on the highways of the state at a **speed** greater than sixty-five (65) miles per hour.

The Mississippi Transportation Commission may, in its discretion, by order duly entered on its minutes, increase the **speed** restrictions on any portion of the Interstate Highway System provided such **speed** restrictions are not increased to more than seventy (70) miles per hour. The

commission may likewise increase the **speed** limit to seventy (70) miles per hour on controlled access highways with four (4) or more lanes.

A governmental entity that operates and maintains a toll road as authorized under Section 65-43-1, or that contracts with some person or business to operate and maintain a toll road as authorized under Section 65-43-3, may establish the maximum **speed** for motor vehicles operated on any such toll road; however, the maximum **speed** so established may not exceed eighty (80) miles per hour.

§ 63-3-511. Modification of **speed** limits by local authorities; establishment of **speed** limits upon roads of correctional facilities; modification of local limits to conform to lower limits established by state highway commission

Whenever local authorities, including boards of supervisors, within their respective jurisdictions, determine upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that the **speed** permitted under this article on any street, or any county road or any portion thereof, or at any intersection is greater than is reasonable or safe under conditions found to exist upon such street, or any county road or any portion thereof, or at such intersection, such local authorities shall determine and declare, by ordinance, a reasonable and safe **speed** limit, which shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected on such street, or any county road or any portion thereof, or at such intersection, or upon the approaches thereto. However, no **speed** limit shall be fixed by any such local authorities at less than fifteen (15) miles per hour.

The Commissioner of Corrections is authorized to establish by regulation reasonable and safe **speed** limits upon the roads of the correctional facilities under his jurisdiction which shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected. **Speed** limits may be based upon road or traffic conditions or upon security considerations.

Provided, however, that whenever the State Highway Commission shall, pursuant to Section 63-3-503, lower the maximum **speed** limit in response to federal laws, regulations or guidelines for purposes of energy conservation, local authorities, including boards of supervisors, shall immediately lower maximum **speed** limits on local highways, not to exceed a maximum **speed** of fifty-five (55) miles per hour.