

New Mexico:

Vehicle Procedures Manual

Chapter 13 - Trailer

<http://www.mvd.newmexico.gov/vehicle-procedures-manual.aspx?1f7fcb5548ee4e17a47ff4e27e571a01blogPostId=535b06157b6646bf818cfb05eaf08ebf>

Vehicle Procedures Manual

Chapter 1 – Vehicles Definitions

Semitrailer

a vehicle without motive power, other than a pole trailer, designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that some significant part of its weight and that of its load rests upon or is carried by another vehicle

Trailer

any vehicle without motive power, designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle, and so constructed that no significant part of its weight rests upon the towing vehicle

Vehicle Procedures Manual

Chapter 2 – Title and Registration - General Information

<http://mvd.newmexico.gov/vehicle-procedures-manual.aspx?1f7fcb5548ee4e17a47ff4e27e571a01blogPostId=c7ac8fac10c64f9dabe4cf6c1873eab3>

Commercial Vehicle Registration – Vehicles Over 26,000 Pounds DGVW

The Motor Vehicle Division now handles registration of vehicles with a Declared Gross Vehicle Weight (DGVW) over 26,000 pounds. Weight Distance (WD), the International Registration Plan (IRP), International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) and Tax Identification Cards are handled through this program.

WD Plate (Full Base Plate)

A vehicle titled in New Mexico with a Declared Gross Vehicle Weight that exceeds 26,000 pounds is issued a WD plate. This type of registration is generally utilized for intrastate operations of New Mexico based vehicles.

IRP

The International Registration Plan is a program for licensing commercial vehicles (tractors, trucks, trailers and buses) in intrastate and interstate operations among member jurisdictions. A carrier should obtain apportioned registrations for its fleet if the vehicles are titled in New Mexico and if 1) vehicles have two axles and a gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight in excess of 26,000 pounds; 2) a power unit having three or more axles, regardless of weight; or 3) a vehicle used in combination with a trailer and the weight of such combination exceeds 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

IFTA

The International Fuel Tax Agreement is a base state fuel tax agreement. Upon application, the carrier's base state jurisdiction will issue credentials (both a license and decals) which will allow the IFTA licensee to travel in all IFTA member jurisdictions. Any carrier having IFTA is required to file a quarterly tax report.

Tax Identification Cards

The New Mexico Tax Identification Card Application is required for all vehicles that exceed 26,000 pounds regardless of registration type. IFTA is for fuel and does not replace the Tax Identification Card. The Tax Identification Card is to identify the owner and for collection of the New Mexico Weight Distance Tax. Each carrier is required to file a quarterly tax report even if the carrier has not traveled through or into New Mexico.

66-7-402. Width of vehicles.

The total outside width of any vehicle or its load, excepting mirrors, shall not exceed eight feet six inches. Safety devices up to three inches on either side of the vehicle and recreational vehicle appurtenances, including retracting awnings, up to six inches on either side of the vehicle are also excepted.

66-7-404. Height and length of vehicles and loads.

A. A vehicle shall not exceed a height of fourteen feet.

B. A vehicle shall not exceed a length of forty feet extreme overall dimension and no motor home shall exceed a length of forty-five feet extreme overall dimension, exclusive of front and rear bumpers, except when operated in combination with another vehicle as provided in this section. A bus may exceed a length of forty-five feet when operating on national network highways. A combination of vehicles, unless otherwise exempted in this section, shall not exceed an overall length of sixty-five feet, exclusive of front and rear bumpers.

C. A combination of vehicles coupled together shall not consist of more than two units, except:

(1) a truck tractor and semitrailer shall be permitted to pull one trailer;

(2) a vehicle shall be permitted to pull two units, provided that the middle unit is equipped with brakes and has a weight equal to or greater than the last unit and the total combined gross weight of the towed units does not exceed the manufacturer's stated gross weight of the towing units;

(3) a double or triple saddle-mount or fifth wheel mount of vehicles in transit by driveway-towaway methods shall be permitted;

(4) vehicles and trailers operated by or under contract for municipal refuse systems;

(5) farm trailers, implements of husbandry and fertilizer trailers operated by or under contract to a farmer or rancher in farming or ranching operations; and

(6) as provided in Subsections D through G of this section.

D. Exclusive of safety and energy conservation devices, refrigeration units and other devices such as coupling devices, vehicles operating a truck tractor semitrailer or truck tractor semitrailer-trailer combinations on the interstate highway system and those qualifying federal aid primary system highways designated by the secretary of the United States department of transportation, pursuant to the federal Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law 97-424, Section 411, and on those highways designated by the department by rule or regulation with the concurrence of the New Mexico department of transportation may exceed an overall length limitation of sixty-five feet, provided that the length of the semitrailer in a truck tractor semitrailer combination does not exceed fifty-seven feet six inches and the length of the semitrailer or trailer in a truck tractor semitrailer-trailer combination does not exceed twenty-eight feet six inches. The department of public safety shall adopt rules and regulations granting reasonable access to terminals, facilities for food, fuel, repairs and rest and points of loading and unloading for household goods carriers to vehicles operating in combination pursuant to this subsection. As used in this subsection, "truck tractor" means a non-cargo carrying power unit designed to operate in combination with a semitrailer or trailer, except that a truck tractor and semitrailer engaged in the transportation of automobiles may transport motor vehicles on part of the truck tractor.

E. The following combination vehicles are specialized equipment and may exceed an overall length of sixty-five feet pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 658.13:

- (1) automobile transporters;
- (2) boat transporters;
- (3) beverage semitrailers; and
- (4) munitions carriers using dromedary equipment.

F. A saddle-mount vehicle is specialized equipment and may not exceed an overall length of ninety-seven feet pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 658.13.

G. Notwithstanding any other subsection of this section, a trailer or semitrailer combination of such dimensions as those that were in actual and lawful use in this state on December 1, 1982 may be lawfully operated on the highways of this state.

New Jersey Vehicle Statutes:

66-7-408. Trailers and towed vehicles.

A. When one vehicle is towing another the drawbar or other connection shall be of sufficient strength to pull all weight towed thereby. When a combination of vehicles are engaged in transporting poles, pipe, machinery or other objects of structural nature which cannot readily be dismembered, the load shall be distributed so as to equalize the weights on the axle of each vehicle insofar as possible.

B. When one 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 inches square.

Statutes 39:3-79.

66-3-840. **Brakes.**

- **A. Brake** equipment is required as follows:
 - (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 the vehicle, including two separate means of applying the **brakes**, each of which is 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 does not leave the motor vehicle without **brakes** on at least two wheels;
 - (2) every motorcycle when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with at least two **brakes** that may be operated by hand or foot;

- (3) every bus, truck, truck tractor, road tractor, **trailer** and semitrailer and pole **trailer** shall be equipped with **brakes** on all wheels in contact with road surfaces except:
 - (a) **trailers**, semitrailers and pole **trailers** of a gross vehicle weight of less than three thousand pounds;
 - (b) any vehicle being towed in a driveaway-towaway operation; provided, the combination of vehicles is capable of complying with the performance requirements of Subsection B of this section;
 - (c) trucks, truck tractors and road tractors having three or more axles need not have **brakes** on the front wheels except when the vehicles are equipped with at least two steerable axles, the wheels of one axle need not be equipped with **brakes**;
 - (d) house-moving dollies subject to regulations adopted by the secretary of transportation under the Motor Transportation Act [[65-1-1 NMSA](#) 1978]; and
 - (e) motor vehicles of the types named in Paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection manufactured prior to July 1, 1963;
- (4) every house **trailer** of a gross vehicle weight in excess of three thousand pounds registered in this state shall be equipped with **brakes** on at least two wheels in contact with road surfaces. Every house **trailer** of a gross vehicle weight of three thousand pounds or more when operated upon a highway or roadway shall be equipped with **brakes** adequate to control the movement of and to stop and to hold the vehicle and so designed as to be applied by the driver of the towing motor vehicle;
- (5) every bus, truck, road tractor or truck tractor shall be equipped with parking **brakes** capable of locking the rear driving wheels and adequate under any condition of loading to hold, to the limit of traction of the **braked** wheels, the vehicle or combination of vehicles to which the motor vehicle may be attached. The operating controls of the parking **brakes** shall be independent of the operating controls of the service **brakes**;
- (6) in any combination of motor-drawn vehicles, means shall be provided for applying the rearmost **trailer brakes** of any **trailer** equipped with **brakes** in approximate synchronism with the **brakes** on the towing vehicle and developing the required **braking** effort on the rearmost wheels at the fastest rate, or means shall be provided for applying **braking** effort first on the rearmost **trailer** equipped with **brakes**, or both of the above means capable of being used alternatively may be employed; and

- (7) the **brake** shoes operating within or upon the drums on the vehicle wheels of any motor vehicle may be used for both service and hand operation.
- **B.** Every motor vehicle or combination of motor-drawn vehicles shall be capable at all times, and under all conditions of loading, of being stopped on a dry, smooth, level road, free from loose material, upon application of the service **brake** within the distance specified in this subsection or shall be capable of being decelerated at a sustained rate corresponding to these distances:

Feet to stop from	Deceleration	
20 miles per hour	in feet per second	
Vehicles or combinations of vehicles having brakes on all wheels . . .	30	14
Vehicles or combinations of vehicles not having brakes on all wheels . . .	40	10.7.

- **C.** All **brakes** shall be maintained in good working order and shall be so adjusted as to operate as equally as practicable with respect to the wheels on opposite sides of the vehicle.

39:4-54. **Trailers**; number permitted; towing methods; auxiliary axles; converter dolly

- No motor vehicle shall be used on the public highways while drawing more than 2 motor-drawn vehicles. A “double saddle-mount,” herein defined, means mounting the front of a motor vehicle by use of a coupling device, known as a “saddle-mount,” on the rear of a towing vehicle and mounting the front of another motor vehicle by use of another “saddle-mount” on the rear of the towed vehicle. The director by regulation may prescribe standards to insure the sufficiency of the coupling, or “saddle-mount,” devices, the lighting, braking and towing methods in double saddle-mount operations or in any other combination of 2 motor-drawn vehicles. In no event shall the over-all length of a double saddle-mount operation or any other combination of vehicles exceed the over-all length limitation prescribed in Revised Statutes [39:3-84](#) for combinations of vehicles, and any violation thereof shall be subject to the penalty provided in this Title for violations of the over-all length limitation in said section.
- **Trailers** shall, when operated on the highways of this State, be connected to the towing vehicle by at least one chain or cable, in addition to the hitch bar, of sufficient strength to

hold the motor-drawn vehicle on a hill if the hitching bar becomes disconnected, or shall be provided with an adequate device to prevent its rolling backward.

- An attachable auxiliary motor vehicle axle, herein defined, means a single axle mounted on 2 or more wheels, an equal number of wheels on each side, which may be attached, and at times dismantled, to a truck or truck tractor to form a tandem axle.
- When a tandem axle is thus formed, the allowable gross weight thereon shall be the same as set forth in Revised Statutes [39:3-84](#) for tandem axles, if the centers of the axles are on or between 2 parallel transverse vertical planes spaced 40 inches, but less than 96 inches apart. Violations of the allowable gross weight shall be treated in the same manner and be subject to the same penalty as provided in Revised Statutes [39:3-84.3](#).
- An attachable auxiliary axle, upon proof of ownership satisfactory to the director, may be registered on a gross weight basis in the same manner as commercial vehicles under Revised Statutes [39:3-20](#) and shall display one registration plate or tab of a classification to be determined by the director and located on the auxiliary axle in a manner as may be prescribed by the director. Unless so registered and displaying a registration plate or tab no such attachable auxiliary axle owned by a resident of this State shall be operated on the highways of this State, and no such attachable auxiliary axle owned by a non-resident shall be operated on the highways of this State unless registered in accordance with the laws respecting the registration of motor vehicles of the State, Territory, Federal district of the United States or province of the Dominion of Canada, or foreign country, in which the non-resident resides, if such registration is required therein, and which has conspicuously displayed thereon an identification marker if furnished by said jurisdiction.
- When an attachable auxiliary axle registered under this Title is operated on a highway in conjunction with a tractor-semitrailer combination, and one unit of the combination is registered in this State and the other in a foreign jurisdiction, known as a “mixed combination,” the registered weight of the auxiliary axle may be added to the registered weight of the New Jersey registered unit in determining if the over-all registered weight conforms with the “mixed combination” registration requirements of Revised Statutes [39:3-20](#). If the over-all registered weight of the auxiliary axle and the New Jersey registered unit is less than ½ the combined gross weight of the entire combination, then the owner, lessee and bailee shall be subject to the penalty formula set forth in Revised Statutes [39:3-20](#).
- When an auxiliary axle or a converter dolly registered under this Title appears on a highway as part of a tractor-semitrailer combination or a combination of 2 motor-drawn vehicles registered in a foreign jurisdiction or jurisdictions, the entire combination shall be deemed to be of foreign origin and the registration requirements as to “mixed combinations” shall not apply, provided the auxiliary axle or converter dolly is registered with the director for a gross weight of 10,000 pounds.
- A converter dolly, herein defined, means an attachable auxiliary frame with hitch bar and fifth wheel with the axle or axles mounted on 2 or more wheels, an equal number of

wheels on each side, which may be attached, and at times dismantled, to a semitrailer to form a **trailer**.

- A converter dolly, upon proof of ownership satisfactory to the director, may be registered on a gross weight basis in the same manner as commercial vehicles under Revised Statutes [39:3-20](#) and shall display one registration plate or tab of a classification to be determined by the director and located on the dolly in a manner as may be prescribed by the director. Unless so registered and displaying a registration plate or tab no such converter dolly owned by a resident of this State shall be operated on the highways of this State, and no such converter dolly owned by a non-resident shall be operated on the highways of this State unless registered in accordance with the laws respecting the registration of motor vehicles of the State, Territory, Federal district of the United States or province of the Dominion of Canada, or foreign country, in which the non-resident resides if such registration is required therein, and which has conspicuously displayed thereon an identification marker if furnished by said jurisdiction.
- It shall be unlawful for any combination of 2 motor-drawn vehicles registered under this Title having gross weight of load and vehicles in excess of the gross weight provided on the registration certificates to be operated on the highways of this State. In any violation thereof, the owner, lessee and bailee shall be subject to the penalty formula provided in Revised Statutes [39:3-20](#).
- In any combination of 2 motor-drawn vehicles, with or without use of a converter dolly, and part or parts of the combination is registered in New Jersey and part or parts in a foreign jurisdiction or jurisdictions, the registration requirements as to “mixed combinations” and the penalty formula for violations thereof as provided in Revised Statutes [39:3-20](#) shall apply.
- An auxiliary axle or converter dolly, for the purposes of this section shall not be considered a “vehicle” or “motor vehicle” as defined in Revised Statutes [39:1-1](#).
- A person violating this section, except as specifically provided herein, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding \$100.00. In default of the payment thereof, there shall be imposed imprisonment in the county jail for a period not exceeding 10 days.

66-3-812. **Lamps** and reflectors; large semitrailers, full **trailers** and house **trailers**.

- **A.** Every semitrailer, full **trailer** or house **trailer** eighty inches or more in overall width shall be equipped as follows:
 - **(1)** on the front: two amber clearance **lamps**, one at each side;
 - **(2)** on the rear: one red tail **lamp**; one red or amber stop **lamp**; two red clearance **lamps**, one at each side; two red reflectors, one at each side; and
 - **(3)** on each side: one amber side-marker **lamp**, located at or near the front; one red side-marker **lamp**, located at or near the rear; one amber reflector, located at or near the front; one red reflector, located at or near the rear.

- **B.** Side-marker **lamps** may be in combination with clearance **lamps** and may use the same light source.

66-3-845. Mirrors.

Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a mirror so located as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway for a distance of at least two hundred feet to the rear of such vehicle.