

State Laws Impacting Altered-Height Vehicles

The following document is a collection of available state-specific vehicle height statutes and regulations. A standard system for regulating vehicle and frame height does not exist among the states, so bumper height and/or headlight height specifications are also included. The information has been organized by state and is in alphabetical order starting with Alabama. To quickly navigate through the document, use the 'Find' (Ctrl+F) function.

Information contained herein is current as of October 2014, but these state laws and regulations are subject to change. Consult the current statutes and regulations in a particular state before raising or lowering a vehicle to be operated in that state.

These materials have been prepared by SEMA to provide guidance on various state laws regarding altered height vehicles and are intended solely as an informational aid. SEMA disclaims responsibility and liability for any damages or claims arising out of the use of or reliance on the content of this informational resource.

State Laws Impacting Altered-Height Vehicles

State	Bumpers	Headlights	Tail Lamps / Reflectors	Tires / Wheels	Frame / Body Modifications	Other
Alabama		Height of head lamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 20" but no higher than 60". Height of reflectors must be at least 24" but no higher than 60".			Max. loaded vehicle height not to exceed 13' 6".
Alaska		Height of headlights must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of taillights must be at least 20".		Body floor may not be raised more than 4" above top of frame. Max. frame and body floor height for a vehicle with a GVWR of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,500 lbs or less - 24"; • 4,501 to 7,500 lbs - 26"; • 7,501 to 10,000 lbs - 28". 	
Arizona		Height of head lamps must be at least 22" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 15" but no higher than 72".			Rear fender splashguards required on vehicles and pickup trucks with a GVWR of 10,000 lbs or less if the pickup has been modified from the original bumper height design to raise the center of gravity. Max. loaded vehicle height not to exceed 13' 6".

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Arkansas		Height of headlamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 20" but no higher than 72".			Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".
California		Height of headlamps must be at least 22" but no higher than 54".	Height of taillamps must be at least 15" but no higher than 72".		Body floor may not be raised more than 5" above top of frame. Max. frame height for passenger vehicles - 23". Max. frame height for all other vehicles with a GVWR of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,500 lbs or less - 27"; • 4,501 to 7,500 lbs - 30"; • 7,501 to 10,000 lbs - 31". 	Max. loaded vehicle height not to exceed 14'.
Colorado		Height of head lamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 20" but no higher than 72".			Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13'.

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Connecticut		Height of head lamps must be at least 22" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 15" but no higher than 72".		No modifications permitted that raise the sprung portion of the vehicle in excess of 4" above vehicle's unladen height as established by the vehicle manufacturer.	Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".
Delaware	Max. bumper height for passenger vehicles - 22". Max. bumper height for all other vehicles - 30".	Height of head lamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 20" but no higher than 72".		Body may not be raised more than 3" above top of vehicle frame rail. Vehicle frame rail may not be higher than the attached bumper.	Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".
D.C.		Height of head lamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 15" but no higher than 72".			Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".

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Florida	<p>Max. bumper height for automobiles with a GVWR of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less than 2,500 lbs - 22"; • 2,500 to 3,499 lbs - 24" front and 26" rear; • 3,500 lbs or more - 27" front and 29" rear. <p>Max. bumper height for trucks with a GVWR of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less than 2,000 lbs - 24" front and 26" rear; • 2,000 to 3,000 lbs - 27" front and 29" rear; • 3,000 to 5,000 lbs - 28" front and 30" rear. 	Height of headlamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".				Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".
Georgia		Height of headlights must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of taillights must be at least 20" but no higher than 60".		<p>Max. frame height for trucks with a GVWR of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,500 lbs or less - 27"; • 4,501 to 7,500 lbs - 30"; • 7,501 to 14,000 lbs - 31". 	<p>Private passenger vehicle suspension may not be modified to increase height more than 2" above factory recommendation.</p> <p>Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".</p>

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Hawaii	<p>Max. bumper height for passenger vehicles - 22".</p> <p>Max. bumper height for all other vehicles with a GVWR of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,500 lbs or less - 29"; • 4,501 to 7,500 lbs - 33"; • 7,501 to 10,000 lbs - 35". 	<p>Height of headlights must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".</p>			<p>Body mount seat may not be more than 3" above vehicle frame rail mount seat.</p>	<p>Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 14'.</p>
Idaho	<p>Max. bumper height for passenger cars - 22".</p> <p>Max. bumper height for trucks and multipurpose vehicles with a GVWR of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,500 lbs or less - 24" front and 26" rear; • 4,501 to 7,500 lbs - 27" front and 29" rear; • 7,501 to 10,000 lbs - 28" front and 30" rear. <p>Max. bumper height for 4WD and dual wheel vehicles - 30" front and 31" rear.</p>	<p>Height of headlamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".</p>	<p>Height of tail lamps must be at least 20" but no higher than 72".</p>			<p>Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 14'.</p>

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Illinois	<p>Max. bumper height for First Division vehicles - 22".</p> <p>Max. bumper height for multipurpose passenger vehicles and all other vehicles with a GVWR of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,500 lbs or less - 24" front and 26" rear; • 4,501 to 7,500 lbs - 27" front and 29" rear; • 7,501 to 9,000 lbs - 28" front and 30" rear. <p>Suspension may not be modified to cause front bumper height to vary more than 3" from rear bumper height.</p>				<p>Max. frame height for First Division vehicles - 22" and lowest portion of body floor may not be raised more than 4" above top of frame.</p> <p>Second Division vehicles may not have body floor raised above frame and may have a max. frame height of no more than:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,500 lbs or less - 24"; • 4,501 to 7,500 lbs - 26"; • 7,501 to 10,000 lbs - 28". <p>Suspension may not be modified to lift body from chassis by more than 3".</p>	Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".
Indiana	<p>Bumper height on passenger cars may not vary from original manufactured bumper height by more than 3".</p> <p>Max. bumper height for trucks with a declared gross weight of 11,000 lbs or less - 30".</p>	Height of head lamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	<p>Height of tail lamps must be at least 20" but no higher than 72".</p> <p>Height of reflectors must be at least 20" but no higher than 60".</p>			Max. vehicle height not to exceed 13' 6".

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Iowa			Height of reflectors must be at least 20" but no higher than 42".			Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".
Kansas		Height of head lamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 15" but no higher than 72". Height of reflectors must be at least 15" but no higher than 60".			Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 14'.
Kentucky		Height of headlamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".				Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 11' 6".
Louisiana		Height of headlamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54". Height of fog lamps must be at least 12" but no higher than 30".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 15" but no higher than 72".			Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6", except vehicle operating exclusively on interstates may not exceed 14' if certain conditions met.

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Maine		Height of headlamps must be at least 22" but no higher than 54".			Max. frame end height for vehicles with a GVWR of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,500 lbs or less - 24" front and 26" rear; • 4,501 to 7,500 lbs - 27" front and 29" rear; • 7,501 to 10,000 lbs - 28" front and 30" rear. 	Original suspension system may not be disconnected except to install heavy duty equipment, including shock absorbers and overload springs. Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".
Maryland	Max. bumper height for passenger vehicles - 20". Max. bumper height for multipurpose vehicles - 28". Max. bumper height for Class E truck with GVWR of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,000 lbs or less - 28"; • 10,001 to 18,000 lbs - 30". 	Height of headlamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must at least 20" but no higher than 72".		Max. frame side rails height for passenger vehicles - 20". Max. frame side rails height for multipurpose vehicles - 28". Max. frame side rails height for Class E truck with GVWR of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,000 lbs or less - 28"; • 10,001 to 18,000 lbs - 30". 	Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".

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Massachusetts				Wheel track may be increased by use of tires and rims for a max. total increase of 4" beyond manufacturer's specifications, but use of spacers to increase wheel track is prohibited.		<p>May not raise vehicle with a GVWR of 10,000 lbs or less more than 2" above original manufacturers specified height.</p> <p>Max. lift for 4WD vehicles formula = (wheel base x wheel track) ÷ 2,200</p> <p>Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".</p>
Michigan	<p>Max. bumper height for passenger vehicles - 22".</p> <p>Max. bumper height for all other vehicles with a GVWR of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,500 lbs or less - 26"; • 4,501 to 7,500 lbs - 28"; • 7,501 to 10,000 lbs - 30". 	Height of head lamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".			<p>Max. frame height for passenger vehicles - 12".</p> <p>Max. frame height for all other vehicles with a GVWR of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,500 lbs or less - 24"; • 4,501 to 7,500 lbs - 24"; • 7,501 to 10,000 lbs - 26". <p>Modification of original frame resulting in an increase in height of vehicle is prohibited.</p>	<p>Front lift blocks prohibited. Rear lift blocks must be of single piece construction, not use more than a 3" spacer, and not exceed 4" in height between the rear axle and springs in addition to those provided by the original manufacturer. Spring shackle replacements may not exceed original length by more than 2" and coil spring spacers prohibited. Welded pitman arms, drag links, and tie rods are prohibited.</p> <p>Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".</p>

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Minnesota	<p>Max. bumper height for passenger vehicles and station wagons - 20".</p> <p>Max. bumper height for 4WD multipurpose vehicles and pickup trucks - 25".</p> <p>May not modify suspension system or body of passenger vehicles to cause bumper to be more than 6" from the original manufactured height.</p>		<p>Height of reflectors must be at least 20" but no higher than 60".</p>			<p>Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".</p>
Mississippi			<p>Height of reflectors must be at least 24" but no higher than 60".</p>			<p>Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".</p>
Missouri	<p>Max. bumper height for all vehicles except commercial vehicles - 22".</p>		<p>Height of taillamps must be at least 15" but no higher than 72".</p>			<p>Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 14' if operated on interstate or designated highway and 13' 6" if operated on any other highway.</p>

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Montana		Height of headlamps must be at least 22" but no higher than 54".	Height of taillamps must be at least 15" but no higher than 72". Height of reflectors must be at least 24" but no higher than 60".			Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 14'.
Nebraska						Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 14' 6".
Nevada		Height of headlamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 15" but no higher than 72". Height of reflectors must be at least 15" but no higher than 60".		Max. body height for passenger vehicles - 24". Max. body height for all other vehicles with a GVWR of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,500 lbs or less - 28"; • 4,501 to 7,500 lbs - 30"; • 7,501 to 10,000 lbs - 32". Body height measured from lowest portion of body.	Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 14'.
New Hampshire	Max. bumper height for passenger vehicles - 20". Max. bumper height for all other vehicles - 30".	Height of headlamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 20" but no higher than 72".			Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".

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New Jersey	Bottom of the bumper must be no lower than 16" from the ground.	Height of headlights must be at least 22" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail-lights must be at least 15" but no higher than 72".	Max. tire diameter for vehicles with a GVWR of 10,000 lbs or less is 38" or 6" more than max. tire diameter available as standard or optional equipment from the original manufacturer, whichever is less.	Max. lift for vehicles with a GVWR of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,500 lbs or less - 7" above original vehicle height; • 4,501 to 7,500 lbs - 9" above original vehicle height; • 7,501 to 10,000 lbs - 11" above original vehicle height. 	Lift modifications not permitted without an elevated vehicle approval certificate; exception for elevation exclusively from an increase in tire diameter that does not exceed 4". Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".
New Mexico		Height of headlamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 20" but no higher than 72".			Max.vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 14'.
New York	Max. bumper height for passenger vehicles - 20". Max. bumper height for all other vehicles - 30".	Height of headlamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 15" but no higher than 72".			Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".
North Carolina					Must obtain written approval from Commissioner of Motor Vehicles if modification causes an increase in height of more than 6".	Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".

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North Dakota	Max. bumper height - 27".	Height of headlamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of taillamps must be at least 15" but no higher than 72".	Maximum outside diameter for tires is 44".	Max. body height is 42" measured from ground to floor of cargo area.	<p>No modifications to OEM suspension, steering, or braking system permitted on vehicles weighing 7,000 lbs or less.</p> <p>Max. lift for suspension system is 4".</p> <p>Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 14'.</p>
Ohio	<p>Max. bumper height for passenger vehicles - 22".</p> <p>Max. bumper height for all other vehicles with a GVWR of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,500 lbs or less - 24" front and 26" rear; • 4,501 to 7,500 lbs - 27" front and 29" rear; • 7,501 to 10,000 lbs - 28" front and 31" rear. 	Height of headlamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 15" but not more than 72".		<p>Body or truck bed floor cannot be raised more than 4" above top of the frame rail.</p> <p>Max. frame rail height for passenger vehicles - 22".</p> <p>Max. frame rail height for all other vehicles with a GVWR of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,500 lbs or less - 24" front and 26" rear; • 4,501 to 7,500 lbs - 27" front and 29" rear; • 7,501 to 10,000 lbs - 28" front and 31" rear. 	Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".

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State	Bumpers	Headlights	Tail Lamps / Reflectors	Tires / Wheels	Frame / Body Modifications	Other
Oklahoma		Height of head lamps must be at least 22" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 15" but no higher than 72".			Maximum vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".
Oregon		Height of headlights must be at least 22" but no higher than 54". If used, height of auxiliary lights may be mounted no higher than 54".	Height of reflectors must be at least 15" but no higher than 60".			Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 14'.
Pennsylvania	Max. bumper height for passenger vehicles - 20". Max. bumper height for multipurpose passenger vehicles and light trucks - 30".	Height of headlamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 15" but no higher than 72".			Spring shackle kits that are 2" over original equipment are prohibited. Blocks may not be used on front axle. Blocks may not be used on rear axle to exceed 5" over original equipment. Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".

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Rhode Island		Height of head lamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 20" but no higher than 72".		Chassis or body of a vehicle with a GVWR of up to 10,000 lbs may not be raised or lowered more than 4" from original manufacturer specifications.	Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".
South Carolina		Height of head lamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 20" but no higher than 60".		Physical structure of a passenger motor vehicle may not be modified, altered or changed to raise or lower the vehicle more than 6". This limit does not apply to pickup trucks.	Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".
South Dakota			Height of tail lamps must be at least 15" but no higher than 72".			Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 14'.

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Tennessee	<p>Max. bumper height for passenger vehicles - 22".</p> <p>Max. bumper height for 4WD recreational vehicles - 31".</p>				<p>Body floor cannot be raised more than 4" above top of the frame.</p> <p>Max. frame height for passenger cars - 22".</p> <p>Max. frame height for trucks and recreational vehicles with a GVWR of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,500 lbs or less - 22"; • 4,501 to 7,500 lbs - 26"; • 7,501 to 10,000 lbs - 28". 	<p>Installation of heavy duty equipment, including shock absorbers and overload springs, is permitted.</p> <p>Modifications to front end using lift blocks is prohibited.</p> <p>Modification of original steering mechanism, including welding, and the front spindle where the brake pads mount, is prohibited.</p> <p>Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".</p>
Texas		<p>Height of headlamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".</p>	<p>Height of taillamps must be at least 15" but no higher than 72".</p>			<p>Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 14'.</p>

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Utah		Height of headlamps must be at least 22" but no higher than 54".		<p>If wheel track is increased beyond OEM specifications, top 50% of tires must be covered by original fenders, by rubber, or other flexible fender extenders.</p> <p>May not use spacers to increase wheel track width.</p>	<p>Body floor cannot be raised more than 3" above top of the frame.</p> <p>Max. frame height for vehicles with a GVWR of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less than 4,500 lbs - 24" • at least 4,500 and less than 7,500 lbs - 26" • 7,500 lbs or more - 28" <p>Vehicle frames may not be stacked.</p>	<p>Mud flaps required if frame height has been altered or vehicle has a GVWR of 10,500 lbs or more unless specific exemption met.</p> <p>Axle blocks may not be used on front axle, and axle blocks used on rear axle may not be stacked.</p> <p>Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 14'.</p>
Vermont	<p>Max. bumper height for passenger vehicles - 22".</p> <p>Max. bumper height for all other vehicles with a GVWR of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,500 lbs or less - 24" front and 26" rear; • 4,501 to 7,500 lbs - 27" front and 29" rear; • 7,501 to 10,000 lbs - 28" front and 30" rear. <p>Max. bumper height for 4WD and dual wheel trucks - 28" front and 31" rear.</p>	Height of headlamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	<p>Height of tail lamps must be at least 15" but no higher than 72".</p> <p>Height of reflectors must be at least 15" but no higher than 72".</p>		Body floor cannot be raised more than 4" above top of the frame.	Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".

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Virginia	<p>Max. bumper height for passenger vehicles - 22".</p> <p>Max. bumper height for trucks with a GVWR of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •4,500 lbs or less - 28"; •4,501 to 7,500 lbs - 29" front and 30" rear; •7,501 to 15,000 lbs - 30" front and 31" rear. 				<p>Body may not be raised more than 3" above frame rails or attachment points on frame rails.</p>	<p>Lift blocks may not be used to modify front-end suspension.</p> <p>Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".</p>
Washington	<p>Max. bumper height passenger vehicles - 22".</p> <p>Max. bumper height for all other vehicles with a GVWR of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •4,500 lbs or less - 24" front and 26" rear; •4,501 to 7,500 lbs - 27" front and 29" rear; •7,501 lbs or more - 28" front and 30" rear. 	<p>Height of head lamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".</p>	<p>Height of tail lamps must be at least 15" but no higher than 72".</p>		<p>Structural strength of custom frames must be certified by builder as meeting applicable standards under 49 C.F.R. 571 Parts 201, 214, 216, and 220 through 224, and SAE Standards.</p> <p>Maximum allowable space between body and frame is 4". Body lift kits may not use more than a 3" spacer.</p>	<p>Body lifts are permitted provided that they are manufactured by an aftermarket manufacturer, designed for the make and model vehicle on which they are installed, and installed according to the manufacturer's recommendations.</p> <p>Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 14'.</p>

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West Virginia	Max. bumper height for vehicles with a GVWR of 10,000 lbs or less - 31".	Height of head lamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 20" but no higher than 60".	Vehicles may be modified by the installation of tires up to two sizes above the maximum size specified by the manufacturer.	Max. allowable space between the body and frame is 3". Body lift kits may not add more than 3" to the manufacturer's original spacer between the body and the frame.	Modification of the front end suspension by use of lift blocks is prohibited. Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".
Wisconsin	Height of bumpers on cars must be within 2" of manufacturer specifications. Height of bumpers on pickup trucks must be within 9" of manufacturers specifications, with up to 4" inches added for wheel/tire modifications and up to 5" added for suspension modifications.	Height of headlamps must be at least 24" but no higher than 54".	Height of tail lamps must be at least 20" but no higher than 72".	Trucks with a GVWR of 8,000 lbs or less may use a tires and wheels that exceed wheel and tire size by up to 4" in radius above manufacturer specifications.	May not modify suspension, axles, or chassis to increase height more than 4" from manufacturer specifications unless modification is for the purpose of strengthening or improving handling of a truck with a GVWR of 8,000 lbs or less, in which case may increase height up to 5" above manufacturer specifications.	Max. vehicle height loaded or unloaded not to exceed 13' 6".
Wyoming						Vehicles must be in "safe" working condition.