

Missouri Revised Statutes

August 28, 2008

Chapter 304

Traffic Regulations

Section 304.170

Regulations as to width, height and length of vehicles.

304.170. 1. No vehicle operated upon the highways of this state shall have a width, including load, in excess of one hundred two inches, except clearance lights, rearview mirrors or other accessories required by federal, state or city law or regulation. Provided however, a recreational vehicle as defined in section 700.010, RSMo, may exceed the foregoing width limits if the appurtenances on such recreational vehicle extend no further than the rearview mirrors.

Such mirrors may only extend the distance necessary to provide the required field of view before the appurtenances were attached.

2. No vehicle operated upon the interstate highway system or upon any route designated by the chief engineer of the state transportation department shall have a height, including load, in excess of fourteen feet. On all other highways, no vehicle shall have a height, including load, in excess of thirteen and one-half feet, except that any vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting automobiles or other motor vehicles may have a height, including load, of not more than fourteen feet.

3. No single motor vehicle operated upon the highways of this state shall have a length, including load, in excess of forty-five feet, except as otherwise provided in this section.

4. No bus, recreational motor vehicle or trackless trolley coach operated upon the highways of this state shall have a length in excess of forty-five feet, except that such vehicles may exceed the forty-five foot length when such excess length is caused by the projection of a front safety bumper or a rear safety bumper or both. Such safety bumper shall not cause the length of the bus or recreational motor vehicle to exceed the forty-five foot length limit by more than one foot in the front and one foot in the rear. The term "safety bumper" means any device which may be fitted on an existing bumper or which replaces the bumper and is so constructed, treated, or manufactured that it absorbs energy upon impact.

5. No combination of truck-tractor and semitrailer or truck-tractor equipped with dromedary and semitrailer operated upon the highways of this state shall have a length, including load, in excess of sixty feet; except that in order to comply with the provisions of Title 23 of the United States Code (Public Law 97-424), no combination of truck-tractor and semitrailer or truck-tractor equipped with drom-

edary and semitrailer operated upon the interstate highway system of this state shall have an overall length, including load, in excess of the length of the truck-tractor plus the semitrailer or truck-tractor equipped with dromedary and semitrailer. The length of such semitrailer shall not exceed fifty-three feet.

6. In order to comply with the provisions of Title 23 of the United States Code (Public Law 97-424), no combination of truck-tractor, semitrailer and trailer operated upon the interstate highway system of this state shall have an overall length, including load, in excess of the length of the truck-tractor plus the semitrailer and trailer, neither of which semitrailer or trailer shall exceed twenty-eight feet in length, except that any existing semitrailer or trailer up to twenty-eight and one-half feet in length actually and lawfully operated on December 1, 1982, within a sixty-five foot overall length limit in any state, may continue to be operated upon the interstate highways of this state. On those primary highways not designated by the state highways and transportation commission as provided in subsection 10 of this section, no combination of truck-tractor, semitrailer and trailer shall have an overall length, including load, in excess of sixty-five feet; provided, however, the state highways and transportation commission may designate additional routes for such sixty-five foot combinations.

7. Automobile transporters, boat transporters, truck-trailer boat transporter combinations, stinger-steered combination automobile transporters and stinger-steered combination boat transporters having a length not in excess of seventy-five feet may be operated on the interstate highways of this state and such other highways as may be designated by the highways and transportation commission for the operation of such vehicles plus a distance not to exceed ten miles from such interstate or designated highway. All length provisions regarding automobile or boat transporters, truck-trailer boat transporter combinations and stinger-steered combinations shall include a semitrailer length not to exceed fifty-three feet and are exclusive of front and rear overhang, which shall be no greater than a three-foot front overhang and no greater than a four-foot rear overhang.

8. Driveaway saddlemount combinations having a length not in excess of ninety-seven feet may be operated on the interstate highways of this state and such other highways as may be designated by the highways and transportation commission for the operation of such vehicles plus a distance not to exceed ten miles from such interstate or designated highway. Saddlemount combinations must comply with the safety requirements of Section 393.71 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations and may contain no more than three saddlemounted vehicles and one fullmount.

9. No truck-tractor semitrailer-semitrailer combination vehicles operated upon the interstate and designated primary highway system of this state shall have a semitrailer length in excess of twenty-eight feet or twenty-eight and one-half feet if the semitrailer was in actual and lawful operation in any state on December 1, 1982, operating in a truck-tractor semitrailer-semitrailer combination. The B-train assembly is excluded from the measurement of semitrailer length when used between the first and second semitrailer of a truck-tractor semitrailer-semitrailer combination, except that when there is no semitrailer mounted to the B-train assembly, it shall be included in the length measurement of the semitrailer.

10. The highways and transportation commission is authorized to designate routes on the state highway system other than the interstate system over which those combinations of vehicles of the lengths specified in subsections 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of this section may be operated. Combinations of vehicles operated under the provisions of subsections 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of this section may be operated at a distance not to exceed ten miles from the interstate system and such routes as designated under the provisions of this subsection.

11. Except as provided in subsections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of this section, no other combination of vehicles operated upon the primary or interstate highways of this state plus a distance of ten miles from a primary or interstate highway shall have an overall length, unladen or with load, in excess of sixty-five feet or in excess of fifty-five feet on any other highway, except the state highways and transportation commission may designate additional routes for use by sixty-five foot combinations, seventy-five foot stinger-steered combinations or seventy-five foot saddle mount combinations. Any vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting automobiles, boats or other motor vehicles may carry a load which extends no more than three feet beyond the front and four feet beyond the rear of the transporting vehicle or combination of vehicles.

12. (1) Except as hereinafter provided, these restrictions shall not apply to agricultural implements operating occasionally on the highways for short distances, or to self-propelled hay-hauling equipment or to implements of husbandry, or to the movement of farm products as defined in section 400.9-109, RSMo, or to vehicles temporarily transporting agricultural implements or implements of husbandry or roadmaking machinery, or road materials or towing for repair purposes vehicles that have become disabled upon the highways; or to implement dealers delivering or moving farm machinery for repairs on any state highway other than the interstate system.

(2) Implements of husbandry and vehicles transporting such machinery or equipment and the movement of farm products as defined

in section 400.9.109, RSMo, may be operated occasionally for short distances on state highways when operated between the hours of sunrise and sunset by a driver licensed as an operator or chauffeur.

13. As used in this chapter the term “implements of husbandry” means all self-propelled machinery operated at speeds of less than thirty miles per hour, specifically designed for, or especially adapted to be capable of, incidental over-the-road and primary offroad usage and used exclusively for the application of commercial plant food materials or agricultural chemicals, and not specifically designed or intended for transportation of such chemicals and materials.

14. Sludge disposal units may be operated on all state highways other than the interstate system. Such units shall not exceed one hundred thirty-eight inches in width and may be equipped with over-width tires. Such units shall observe all axle weight limits. The chief engineer of the state transportation department shall issue special permits for the movement of such disposal units and may by such permits restrict the movements to specified routes, days and hours.

(RSMo 1939 § 8405, A.L. 1943 p. 663, A. 1949 S.B. 1113, A.L. 1953 p. 568, A.L. 1957 p. 624, A.L. 1965 p. 488, A.L. 1967 p. 412, A.L. 1971 S.B. 317, A.L. 1972 H.B. 1112, A.L. 1974 S.B. 552, A.L. 1979 S.B. 44, A.L. 1980 S.B. 508, A.L. 1983 H.B. 539, A.L. 1985 S.B. 416, A.L. 1986 S.B. 784, A.L. 1988 S.B. 686, A.L. 1992 H.B. 1794, A.L. 1999 S.B. 17 merged with S.B. 19, A.L. 2000 H.B. 1142 merged with H.B. 1948, A.L. 2004 S.B. 1233, et al., A.L. 2007 S.B. 82)

Prior revision: 1929 § 7787

Section 304.180

Regulations as to weight--axle load, tandem axle defined--idle reduction technology, increase in maximum gross weight permitted, amount--hauling livestock, total gross weight permitted.

304.180. 1. No vehicle or combination of vehicles shall be moved or operated on any highway in this state having a greater weight than twenty thousand pounds on one axle, no combination of vehicles operated by transporters of general freight over regular routes as defined in section 390.020, RSMo, shall be moved or operated on any highway of this state having a greater weight than the vehicle manufacturer’s rating on a steering axle with the maximum weight not to exceed twelve thousand pounds on a steering axle, and no vehicle shall be moved or operated on any state highway of this state having a greater weight than thirty-four thousand pounds on any tandem axle; the term “tandem axle” shall mean a group of two or more axles, arranged one behind another, the distance between the extremes of which is more than forty inches and not more than ninety-six inches apart.

2. An "axle load" is defined as the total load transmitted to the road by all wheels whose centers are included between two parallel transverse vertical planes forty inches apart, extending across the full width of the vehicle.
3. Subject to the limit upon the weight imposed upon a highway of this state through any one axle or on any tandem axle, the total gross weight with load imposed by any group of two or more consecutive axles of any vehicle or combination of vehicles shall not exceed the maximum load in pounds as set forth in the following table: Distance in feet between the extremes of any group of two or more consecutive axles, measured to the nearest foot, except where indicated otherwise Maximum load in pounds as set forth in Legal Weight Limit Chart, p.57.
Notwithstanding the above table, two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of thirty-four thousand pounds each if the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is thirty-six feet or more.
4. Whenever the state highways and transportation commission finds that any state highway bridge in the state is in such a condition that use of such bridge by vehicles of the weights specified in subsection 3 of this section will endanger the bridge, or the users of the bridge, the commission may establish maximum weight limits and speed limits for vehicles using such bridge. The governing body of any city or county may grant authority by act or ordinance to the state highways and transportation commission to enact the limitations established in this section on those roadways within the purview of such city or county. Notice of the weight limits and speed limits established by the commission shall be given by posting signs at a conspicuous place at each end of any such bridge.
5. Nothing in this section shall be construed as permitting lawful axle loads, tandem axle loads or gross loads in excess of those permitted under the provisions of Section 127 of Title 23 of the United States Code.
6. Notwithstanding the weight limitations contained in this section, any vehicle or combination of vehicles operating on highways other than the interstate highway system may exceed single axle, tandem axle and gross weight limitations in an amount not to exceed two thousand pounds. However, total gross weight shall not exceed eighty thousand pounds, except as provided in subsection 9 of this section.

7. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, the department of transportation shall issue a single-use special permit, or upon request of the owner of the truck or equipment, shall issue an annual permit, for the transporting of any concrete pump truck or well-drillers' equipment. The department of transportation shall set fees for the issuance of permits pursuant to this subsection. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 301.133, RSMo, concrete pump trucks or well-drillers' equipment may be operated on state-maintained roads and highways at any time on any day.

8. Notwithstanding the provision of this section to the contrary, the maximum gross vehicle limit and axle weight limit for any vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with an idle reduction technology may be increased by a quantity necessary to compensate for the additional weight of the idle reduction system as provided for in 23 U.S.C. Section 127, as amended. In no case shall the additional weight increase allowed by this subsection be greater than four hundred pounds. Upon request by an appropriate law enforcement officer, the vehicle operator shall provide proof that the idle reduction technology is fully functional at all times and that the gross weight increase is not used for any purpose other than for the use of idle reduction technology.

9. Notwithstanding subsection 3 of this section or any other provision of law to the contrary, the total gross weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles hauling livestock may be as much as, but shall not exceed, eighty-five thousand five hundred pounds while operating on U.S. Highway 36 from St. Joseph to U.S. Highway 65, and on U.S. Highway 65 from the Iowa state line to U.S. Highway 36. (RSMo 1939 § 8406, A.L. 1943 p. 663, A. 1949 S.B. 1113, A.L. 1951 p. 695, A.L. 1957 p. 624, A.L. 1963 p. 417, A.L. 1965 p. 489, A.L. 1967 p. 412, A.L. 1983 H.B. 539, A.L. 1985 H.B. 157 merged with H.B. 330, A.L. 2000 H.B. 1948, A.L. 2001 S.B. 244, A.L. 2008 S.B. 930 & 947)
Prior revision: 1929 § 7787

Legal Weight Limit Chart

(except in Commercial Zones in Accordance to RSMo.304.180)

| Feet | 2 Axles | 3 Axles | 4 Axles | 5 Axles | 6 Axles |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 4 | 34,000 | | | | |
| 5 | 34,000 | | | | |
| 6 | 34,000 | | | | |
| 7 | 34,000 | | | | |
| 8 | 34,000 | 34,000 | | | |
| More than 8 | 38,000 | 42,000 | | | |
| 9 | 39,000 | 42,500 | | | |
| 10 | 40,000 | 43,500 | | | |
| 11 | | 44,000 | | | |
| 12 | | 45,000 | 50,000 | | |
| 13 | | 45,500 | 50,500 | | |
| 14 | | 46,500 | 51,500 | | |
| 15 | | 47,000 | 52,000 | | |
| 16 | | 48,000 | 52,500 | 58,000 | |
| 17 | | 48,500 | 53,500 | 58,500 | |
| 18 | | 49,500 | 54,000 | 59,000 | |
| 19 | | 50,000 | 54,500 | 60,000 | |
| 20 | | 51,000 | 55,500 | 60,500 | 66,000 |
| 21 | | 51,500 | 56,000 | 61,000 | 66,500 |
| 22 | | 52,500 | 56,500 | 61,500 | 67,000 |
| 23 | | 53,000 | 57,500 | 62,500 | 68,000 |
| 24 | | 54,000 | 58,000 | 63,000 | 68,500 |
| 25 | | 54,500 | 58,500 | 63,500 | 69,000 |
| 26 | | 55,500 | 59,500 | 64,000 | 69,500 |
| 27 | | 56,000 | 60,000 | 65,000 | 70,000 |
| 28 | | 57,000 | 60,500 | 65,500 | 71,000 |
| 29 | | 57,500 | 61,500 | 66,000 | 71,500 |
| 30 | | 58,500 | 62,000 | 66,500 | 72,000 |
| 31 | | 59,000 | 62,500 | 67,500 | 72,500 |
| 32 | | 60,000 | 63,500 | 68,000 | 73,000 |
| 33 | | | 64,000 | 68,500 | 74,000 |
| 34 | | | 64,500 | 69,000 | 74,500 |
| 35 | | | 65,500 | 70,000 | 75,000 |
| 36 | | | 66,000 | 70,500 | 75,500 |
| 37 | | | 66,500 | 71,000 | 76,000 |
| 38 | | | 67,500 | 72,000 | 77,000 |
| 39 | | | 68,000 | 72,500 | 77,500 |
| 40 | | | 68,500 | 73,000 | 78,000 |
| 41 | | | 69,500 | 73,500 | 78,500 |
| 42 | | | 70,000 | 74,000 | 79,000 |
| 43 | | | 70,500 | 75,000 | 80,000 |
| 44 | | | 71,500 | 75,500 | |
| 45 | | | 72,000 | 76,000 | |
| 46 | | | 72,500 | 76,500 | |
| 47 | | | 73,500 | 77,500 | |
| 48 | | | 74,000 | 78,000 | |
| 49 | | | 74,500 | 78,500 | |
| 50 | | | 75,500 | 79,000 | |
| 51 | | | 76,000 | 80,000 | |
| 52 | | | 76,500 | | |
| 53 | | | 77,500 | | |
| 54 | | | 78,000 | | |
| 55 | | | 78,500 | | |
| 56 | | | 79,500 | | |
| 57 | | | 80,000 | | |

Distance in feet between the extremes of a group of 2 or more consecutive axles measured to the nearest foot except where indicated.

Maximum Load in Pounds carried on Any Group of 2 or more Consecutive Axles.

The maximum gross vehicle limit and axle weight limit for any vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with an idle reduction technology may be increased by a quantity necessary to compensate for the additional weight of the idle reduction system as provided for in 23 U.S.C. Section 127, as amended.

In no case shall the additional weight increase allowed be greater than four hundred (400) pounds.

Upon request by an appropriate law enforcement officer, the vehicle operator shall provide proof that the idle reduction technology is fully functional at all times and that the gross weight increase is not used for any purpose other than for the use of idle reduction technology.

* Except that two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a load of 34,000 pounds each, providing the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more.

Section 304.190

Height and weight regulations (cities of 75,000 or more)--commercial zone defined.

304.190. 1. No motor vehicle, unladen or with load, operating exclusively within the corporate limits of cities containing seventy-five thousand inhabitants or more or within two miles of the corporate limits of the city or within the commercial zone of the city shall exceed fifteen feet in height.

2. No motor vehicle operating exclusively within any said area shall have a greater weight than twenty-two thousand four hundred pounds on one axle.

3. The "commercial zone" of the city is defined to mean that area within the city together with the territory extending one mile beyond the corporate limits of the city and one mile additional for each fifty thousand population or portion thereof provided, however, the commercial zone surrounding a city not within a county shall extend twenty-five miles beyond the corporate limits of any such city not located within a county and shall also extend throughout any county with a charter form of government which adjoins that city and throughout any county with a charter form of government and with more than two hundred fifty thousand but fewer than three hundred fifty thousand inhabitants that is adjacent to such county adjoining such city; further, provided, however, the commercial zone of a city with a population of at least four hundred thousand inhabitants but not more than four hundred fifty thousand inhabitants shall extend twelve miles beyond the corporate limits of any such city; except that this zone shall extend from the southern border of such city's limits, beginning with the western-most freeway, following said freeway south to the first intersection with a multilane undivided highway, where the zone shall extend south along said freeway to include a city of the fourth classification with more than eight thousand nine hundred but less than nine thousand inhabitants, and shall extend north from the intersection of said freeway and multilane undivided highway along the multilane undivided highway to the city limits of a city with a population of at least four hundred thousand inhabitants but not more than four hundred fifty thousand inhabitants, and shall extend east from the city limits of a special charter city with more than two hundred seventy-five but fewer than three hundred seventy-five inhabitants along state route 210 and northwest from the intersection of state route 210 and state route 10 to include the boundaries of any city of the third classifica-

tion with more than ten thousand eight hundred but fewer than ten thousand nine hundred inhabitants and located in more than one county; further provided, however, the commercial zone of a city of the third classification with more than nine thousand six hundred fifty but fewer than nine thousand eight hundred inhabitants shall extend south from the city limits along U.S. Highway 61 to the intersection of state route OO in a county of the third classification without a township form of government and with more than seventeen thousand eight hundred but fewer than seventeen thousand nine hundred inhabitants. In no case shall the commercial zone of a city be reduced due to a loss of population. The provisions of this section shall not apply to motor vehicles operating on the interstate highways in the area beyond two miles of a corporate limit of the city unless the United States Department of Transportation increases the allowable weight limits on the interstate highway system within commercial zones. In such case, the mileage limits established in this section shall be automatically increased only in the commercial zones to conform with those authorized by the United States Department of Transportation.

4. Nothing in this section shall prevent a city, county, or municipality, by ordinance, from designating the routes over which such vehicles may be operated.

5. No motor vehicle engaged in interstate commerce, whether unladen or with load, whose operations in the state of Missouri are limited exclusively to the commercial zone of a first class home rule municipality located in a county with a population between eighty thousand and ninety-five thousand inhabitants which has a portion of its corporate limits contiguous with a portion of the boundary between the states of Missouri and Kansas, shall have a greater weight than twenty-two thousand four hundred pounds on one axle, nor shall exceed fifteen feet in height.

(RSMo 1939 § 8384, 8409, A. 1949 S.B. 1113, A.L. 1951 p. 695, A.L. 1957 p. 624, A.L. 1965 p. 492, A.L. 1967 p. 415, A.L. 1971 S.B. 317, A.L. 1983 H.B. 539, A.L. 1988 S.B. 663, A.L. 2004 S.B. 1233, et al., A.L. 2007 S.B. 322)

Prior revision: 1929 §§ 7776, 7791

(1958) This section and § 304.180 are in pari materia and must be construed together. General gross weight limitations of § 304.180 applicable in cities of 75,000 inhabitants or more. *State v. Chadeayne* (A.), 313 S.W.2d 757. Reversed: (Mo.), 323 S.W.2d 680 where it was held that the 1951 reenactment of §304.190 applicable to the cities and area covered by this section.

Section 304.200

Special permits for oversize or overweight loads--rules for issuing--when valid.

304.200. 1. The chief engineer of the state department of transportation, for good cause shown and when the public safety or public interest so justifies, shall issue special permits for vehicles or equipment exceeding the limitations on width, length, height and weight herein specified, or which are unable to maintain minimum speed limits. Such permits shall be issued only for a single trip or for a definite period, not beyond the date of expiration of the vehicle registration, and shall designate the highways and bridges which may be used pursuant to the authority of such permit.

2. The chief engineer of the state department of transportation shall upon proper application and at no charge issue a special permit to any person allowing the movement on state and federal highways of farm products between sunset and sunrise not in excess of fourteen feet in width. Special permits allowing movement of oversize loads of farm products shall allow for movement between sunset and sunrise, subject to appropriate requirements for safety lighting on the load, appropriate limits on load dimensions and appropriate consideration of high traffic density between sunset and sunrise on the route to be traveled. The chief engineer may also issue upon proper application a special permit to any person allowing the movement on the state and federal highways of concrete pump trucks or well-drillers equipment. For the purposes of this section, "farm products" shall have the same meaning as provided in section 400.9-109, RSMo.

3. Rules and regulations for the issuance of special permits shall be prescribed by the state highways and transportation commission and filed with the secretary of state. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated pursuant to the authority of section 304.010 and this section shall become effective unless it has been promulgated pursuant to the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo.

4. The officer in charge of the maintenance of the streets of any municipality may issue such permits for the use of the streets by such vehicles within the limits of such municipalities.

5. In order to transport manufactured homes, as defined in section 700.010, RSMo, on the roads, highways, bridges and other thoroughfares within this state, only the applicable permits required by this section shall be obtained.

(RSMo 1939 §§ 8384, 8405, 8406, A.L. 1943 p. 663, A. 1949 S.B. 1113, A.L. 1972 S.B. 546, A.L. 1979 S.B. 44, A.L. 1983 H.B. 539, A.L. 1985

S.B. 221 merged with S.B. 152, A.L. 1988 S.B. 686, A.L. 1989 S.B. 278, A.L. 1995 S.B. 3, A.L. 1996 S.B. 677, A.L. 2000 H.B. 1142 merged with H.B. 1948, A.L. 2002 H.B. 1270 and H.B. 2032 merged with S.B. 974)
Prior revision: 1929 §§ 7776, 7787, 7788

CROSS REFERENCE:

Over-dimension and overweight motor vehicles or loads, authority of highways and transportation commission, RSMo 226.008