304.170. Regulations as to width, height and length of vehicles — inapplicability, when — implements of husbandry defined — sludge disposal units. — 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 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 state highways and transportation commission 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 feet 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 feet length limit by more than one foot in the front and one foot in the rear. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, an articulated bus, comprised of two or more sections connected by a flexible joint or other mechanism, may be up to sixty feet in length, not including safety bumpers which may extend one foot in front and one foot in the rear, and not including bicycle storage racks which may extend over the safety bumper by up to five feet when in the down position transporting a bicycle. 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 P.L. 97-424 codified in Title 23 of the United States Code, 23 U.S.C. Section 101, et al., as amended, no combination of truck-tractor and semitrailer or truck-tractor equipped with dromedary 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 P.L. 97-424 codified in Title 23 of the United States Code, 23 U.S.C. Section 101, et al., as amended, 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 11 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 commission may designate additional routes for such sixty-five foot combinations.

7. (1) Automobile transporters, boat transporters, truck-trailer boat transporter combinations, 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 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 combination boat transporters 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.

(2) Stinger-steered combination automobile transporters having a length not in excess of eighty feet may be operated on the interstate highways of this state and such other highways as may be designated by the 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 stinger-steered automobile combination transporters are exclusive of front and rear overhang, which shall be no greater than a four-foot front overhang and no greater than a six-foot rear overhang.
(3) Automobile transporters may transport cargo or general freight on a backhaul, as long as in compliance with weight limitations for a truck-tractor and semitrailer combination as outlined in section 304.180.

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 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. No towaway trailer transporter combination vehicles operated upon the interstate and designated primary highway system of this state shall have an overall length of more than eighty-two feet.

11. The 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, 9, and 10 of this section may be operated. Combinations of vehicles operated under the provisions of subsections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 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.

12. Except as provided in subsections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 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.

13. (1) Except as hereinafter provided, these restrictions shall not apply to:

(a) Agricultural implements operating occasionally on the highways for short distances including tractor parades for fund-raising activities or special events, provided the tractors are driven by licensed drivers during daylight hours only and with the approval of the superintendent of the Missouri state highway patrol;
(b) Self-propelled hay-hauling equipment or to implements of husbandry, or to the movement of farm products as defined in section 400.9-102 or to vehicles temporarily transporting agricultural implements or implements of husbandry or road-making machinery, or road materials or towing for repair purposes vehicles that have become disabled upon the highways;

(c) Vehicles towing trailers specifically designed to carry harvested cotton, either as a single trailer or in tandem, with a total length, including the trailer or trailers, of not more than ninety-three feet; such vehicles shall only be used to haul harvested cotton, except when hauling hay within the state to areas affected by drought as determined by the National Drought Mitigation Center; or

(d) 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 400.9-102 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.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, agricultural machinery and implements may be operated on state highways between the hours of sunset and sunrise for agricultural purposes provided such vehicles are equipped with lighting meeting the requirements of section 307.115.

14. 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.

15. 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 commission 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.


Prior revision: 1929 § 7787
Section 304.180

304.180. Regulations as to weight — axle load, tandem axle defined — transport of specific items, total gross weight permitted — requirements during disasters — emergency vehicles, maximum gross weight — natural gas fueled vehicles, increase in maximum gross weight, when. — 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 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.
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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 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.


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 subsections 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14 of this section.

7. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, the commission 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 crane or concrete pump truck or well-drillers’ equipment. The commission shall set fees for the issuance of permits and parameters for the transport of cranes pursuant to this subsection. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 301.133, cranes, 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 five hundred fifty 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 any provision of this section or any other law to the contrary, the total gross weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles hauling milk from a farm to a processing facility or livestock may be as much as, but shall not exceed, eighty-five thousand five hundred pounds while operating on highways other than the interstate highway system. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to vehicles operated and operating on the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

10. Notwithstanding any provision of this section or any other law to the contrary, any vehicle or combination of vehicles hauling grain or grain coproducts during times of harvest may be as much as, but not exceeding, ten percent over the maximum weight limitation allowable under subsection 3 of this section while operating on highways other than the interstate highway system. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to vehicles operated and operating on the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

11. Notwithstanding any provision of this section or any other law to the contrary, the commission shall issue emergency utility response permits for the transporting of utility wires or cables, poles, and equipment needed for repair work immediately following a disaster where utility service has been disrupted. Under exigent circumstances, verbal approval of such operation may be made either by the department of transportation motor carrier compliance supervisor or other designated motor carrier services representative. Utility vehicles and equipment used to assist utility companies granted special permits under this subsection may be operated and transported on state-maintained roads and highways at any time on any day. The commission shall promulgate all necessary rules and regulations for the administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2014, shall be invalid and void.

12. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, emergency vehicles designed to be used under emergency conditions to transport personnel and equipment and to support the suppression of fires and mitigate hazardous situations may have a maximum gross vehicle weight of eighty-six thousand pounds inclusive of twenty-four thousand pounds on a single steering axle; thirty-three thousand five hundred pounds on a single drive axle; sixty-two thousand pounds on a tandem axle; or fifty-two thousand pounds on a tandem rear-drive.
steer axle; except that, such emergency vehicles shall only operate on
the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense
Highways.

13. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary,
a vehicle operated by an engine fueled primarily by natural gas may
operate upon the public highways of this state in excess of the vehicle
weight limits set forth in this section by an amount that is equal to the
difference between the weight of the vehicle attributable to the natural
gas tank and fueling system carried by that vehicle and the weight of
a comparable diesel tank and fueling system. In no event shall the
maximum gross vehicle weight of the vehicle operating with a natural gas
engine exceed eighty-two thousand pounds.

14. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, local log
trucks and local log truck tractors, as defined in section 301.010, may be
operated with a weight not exceeding twenty-two thousand four hundred
pounds on one axle or a weight not exceeding forty-four thousand eight
hundred pounds on any tandem axle, except the front steering axle shall
not exceed fifteen thousand pounds or the gross vehicle weight rating set
by the manufacturer, and may have a total weight of up to one hundred
five thousand pounds. Provided however, when operating on the national
system of interstate and defense highways described in 23 U.S.C. Section
103, as amended, or outside the radius from the forested site specified
in section 301.010 with an extended distance local log truck permit, the
vehicle shall not exceed the weight limits otherwise specified in this
section.

(RSMo 1939 § 8406, A.L. 1943 p. 663, A. 1949 S.B. 1113, A.L. 1951 p. 695,

Prior revision: 1929 § 7787

(1971) The single axle, tandem axle and gross weight limits specified in §
304.180 are cumulative and each must be complied with. The state is not
required to establish either intent to violate the limits or guilty knowledge
of such violation to make a case. State v. Boze (A.), 472 S.W.2d 35.
Section 304.190
Height and weight regulations (cities of 75,000 or more) — commercial zone defined. — 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:

(1) 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;

(2) 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 classification with more than ten thousand eight hundred but fewer than ten thousand nine hundred inhabitants and located in more than one county. The commercial zone shall continue east along State Route 10 from the intersection of State Route 10 and State Route 210 to
the eastern city limit of a city of the fourth classification with more than
five hundred fifty but fewer than six hundred twenty-five inhabitants and
located in any county of the third classification without a township form
of government and with more than twenty-three thousand but fewer than
twenty-six thousand inhabitants and with a city of the third classification
with more than five thousand but fewer than six thousand inhabitants
as the county seat. The commercial zone described in this subdivision
shall be extended to also include the stretch of State Route 45 from its
intersection with Interstate 29 extending northwest to the city limits of any
village with more than forty but fewer than fifty inhabitants and located in
any county of the first classification with more than eighty-three thousand
but fewer than ninety-two thousand inhabitants and with a city of the
fourth classification with more than four thousand five hundred but fewer
than five thousand inhabitants as the county seat. The commercial zone
described in this subdivision shall be extended east from the intersection
of State Route 7 and U.S. Highway 50 to include the city limits of a city of
the fourth classification with more than one thousand fifty but fewer than
one thousand two hundred inhabitants and located in any county with a
charter form of government and with more than six hundred thousand but
fewer than seven hundred thousand inhabitants, and from the eastern
limits of said city east along U.S. Highway 50 up to and including the
intersection of U.S. Highway 50 and State Route AA, then south along
State Route AA up to and including the intersection of State Route AA and
State Route 58, then west along State Route 58 to include the city limits
of a city of the fourth classification with more than one hundred forty but
fewer than one hundred sixty inhabitants and located in any county of the
first classification with more than ninety-two thousand but fewer than one
hundred one thousand inhabitants, and from the western limits of said city
along State Route 58 to where State Route 58 intersects with State Route
7;

(3) 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;

(4) The commercial zone of a home rule city with more than one
hundred eight thousand but fewer than one hundred sixteen thousand
inhabitants and located in a county of the first classification with more
than one hundred fifty thousand but fewer than two hundred thousand
inhabitants shall extend north from the city limits along U.S. Highway 63,
a state highway, to the intersection of State Route NN, and shall continue
west and south along State Route NN to the intersection of State Route
and shall extend east from the intersection along State Route 124 to U.S. Highway 63. The commercial zone described in this subdivision shall also extend east from the city limits along State Route WW to the intersection of State Route J and continue south on State Route J for four miles.

4. 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.

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

6. 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.

Section 304.200

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

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.

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, on the roads, highways, bridges and other thoroughfares within this state, only the applicable permits required by this section shall be obtained.
Prior revision: 1929 §§ 7776, 7787, 7788

CROSS REFERENCE:

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