

Chapter Trans 276

SIZE AND WEIGHT OF VEHICLES AND VEHICLE
COMBINATIONS

Trans 276.01	General	Trans 276.07	Designated highways
Trans 276.02	Definitions	Trans 276.075	Designated access routes
Trans 276.03	Safety devices-width exclusion	Trans 276.08	Detours
Trans 276.04	Width, metric equivalent	Trans 276.09	Applicability
Trans 276.05	Automobile haulways	Trans 276.10	Tire load carrying capacity in excess of 13,000 pounds.
Trans 276.06	Permits for vehicles operating in saddle-mount combination or motor buses		

Note: Chapter Trans 276 was created by emergency rule effective June 5, 1984.

Trans 276.01 General. (1) **SCOPE.** This chapter identifies and designates a list of qualifying highways for the operation of vehicles and combinations of vehicles the overall lengths of which cannot be limited. In addition, this chapter clarifies other statutory provisions or federal rules affecting the weight, width and length of vehicles and combinations of vehicles and the number of vehicles in combination.

(2) **POLICY.** This policy is intended to permit Wisconsin to comply with federal law, to provide guidance to vehicle users and law enforcement authorities for safe and lawful operations, and to continue the reasonable enforcement of Wisconsin vehicle size and combination laws.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85; am. (1), Register, July, 1991, No. 427, eff. 8-1-91.

Trans 276.02 Definitions. In this chapter words and phrases have the meanings designated in chs. 340 and 343, Stats., and ch. Trans 250, unless a different meaning is expressly provided in this chapter.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85; am. Register, July, 1991, No. 427, eff. 8-1-91.

Trans 276.03 Safety devices-width exclusion. (1) The devices in this subsection are designated as safety devices as required under 23 CFR 658.5 (g) and 23 CFR 658.15 and are not included in the calculation of width:

- (a) Rear-view mirrors;
- (b) Turn-signal lamps;
- (c) Hand-holds for cab entry and egress;
- (d) Splash and spray suppressant devices;
- (e) Load induced tire bulge.

(2) The devices in this subsection are determined to be safety devices and are not to be included in the calculation of width provided such devices do not extend beyond 3 inches on each side of a vehicle.

- (a) Door hardware, including door handles and locking devices.
- (b) Load tie down devices.
- (c) Toe holds or retractable steps.

Note: The 3-inch limit is imposed by 23 CFR 658.15. The secretary is authorized to designate additional devices in s. 348.05 (2m), Stats.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85.

Trans 276.04 Width, metric equivalent. For purposes of enforcement of ch. 348, Stats., 23 CFR 658, and this chapter, the approximate metric equivalent of 102 inches is deemed to be within the 102 limit of s. 348.05, Stats. The approximate metric equivalent of 102 inches is 2.6 meters, which equals approximately 102.36 inches.

Note: The use of the metric equivalent of 102 inches is authorized in 23 CFR 658.15.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85.

Trans 276.05 Automobile haulways. For enforcement purposes:

(1) The provision of s. 348.07 (2) (g), Stats., which limits the length of a trailer or semitrailer in a 2-vehicle combination to 48 feet does not apply to an automobile haulaway provided the automobile haulaway does not exceed 66 feet in length plus the authorized front and rear overhangs. This subsection applies to both designated and non-designated highways.

(2) An automobile haulaway exceeding 66 feet in length may operate on designated highways and 5-mile access routes provided the trailer or semitrailer portion of the combination does not exceed 48 feet plus authorized rear overhang.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85.

Trans 276.06 Permits for vehicles operating in saddlemount combination or motor buses. For enforcement purposes, no permit is required for vehicles operating in double saddlemount combination provided the overall length of the combination is 65 feet or less in length, or for the operation of any motor bus provided the overall length of the motor bus is 45 feet or less. This section applies to designated highways and 5-mile access routes.

Note: The provision of Wisconsin law requiring a permit for these combinations (s. 348.27 (13), Stats.), was preempted by the federal rule (23 CFR 658.13 (d) (1) iii.) when these vehicles operate on the designated system and access routes.

Note: The provision of Wisconsin law requiring a permit for the operation of motor buses in excess of 40 feet in length (s. 348.07 (1), Stats.) was preempted by federal law (49 USC Appx. § 2311 (a) as amended by s. 4006 (b) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991) when these vehicles operate on the federally designated system and access routes.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85; am. Register, July, 1992, No. 439, eff. 8-1-92.

Trans 276.07 Designated highways. The following highways are designated for purposes of the operation of the specified vehicles and combinations with lengths as stated in s. 348.07 (4), Stats.:

Route	From	To
(1) USH 2	MN Line at Superior	MI Line at Hurley
USH 2	MI Line W. of Florence	MI Line E. of Florence
(2) USH 8	MN Line at St. Croix Falls	MI Line at Norway, MI
(3) USH 10	MN Line at Prescott	IH 43 N. of Manitowoc
STH 11	USH 61-151 E. of Dubuque, Iowa	USH 51 in Janesville

Register, July, 1992, No. 439