# SIZE AND WEIGHT OF VEHICLES AND VEHICLE COMBINATIONS 

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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 clatifies 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) Poulcy 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. (1) In this chapter words and phrases have the meanings designated in chs. 340 and 348, Stats., and ch. Trans 250 , unless a different meaning is expressly provided in this chapter.
(2) In this chapter:
(a) "Boat haulaway" means any vehicle combination designed and used specifically to transport assembled boats and boat hulls. Boats may be partially disassembled to facilitate transporting.
(b) "Double saddlemount combination" means a saddlemount combination consisting of a towing vehicle and 2 towed vehicles. It may include a fullmount in addition to the towing and 2 towed vehicles.
(c) "Fullmount" means a smaller vehicle mounted completely on the frame of either the first or last vehicle in a saddlemount combination
(d) "National network" means all portions of the national system of interstate and defense highways in Wisconsin and all other highways in Wisconsin listed in appendix A to 23 CFR 658.
(e) "Saddle" means a mechanism that connects the front axle of a towed vehicle in a saddlemount combination to the frame or fifth wheel of the vehicle in front of it and functions like a fifth wheel kingpin connection.
(f) "Saddlemount combination" means a combination of vehicles in which a truck or truck-tractor tows one or more trucks or truck-tractors, each connected by a saddle to the vehicle in front of it
(g) "Stinger-steered automobile haulaway" means a trucktractor semitrailer combination, used to transport operational automobiles, wherein the fifth wheel is located on a drop frame behind and below the rearmost axle of the power unit.
(h) "Stinger-steered boat haulaway" means a truck-tractor semitrailer combination used to transport assembled or partially assembled boats and boat hulls, wherein the fifth wheel is located on a drop frame behind and below the rearmost axle of the power unit
(i) "Triple saddlemount combination" means a saddlemount combination consisting of a towing vehicle and 3 towed vehicles. It may include a fullmount in addition to the towing and 3 towed vehicles.
History: Cr Register, December, 1984, No 348, eff. 1-1-85; am Register, July, 1991, No. 427, eff 8-1-91; renum to be (1), cr (2), Register, January, 1993, No. 445, eff 2-1-93.

Trans 276.03 Safety devices-width exclusion. (1) The devices in this subsection are designated as safety devices as required under 23 CFR $658.5(\mathrm{~g})$ 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 $\mathrm{s} .348 .05(2 \mathrm{~m})$, 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 haulaways. 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 or boat haulaway provided the automobile or boat 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 or boat 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.
(3) A stinger-steered automobile or boat haulaway exceeding 66 feet in length may operate on the national network and 5-mile access routes providing its overall length does not exceed 75 feet
plus overhangs of not more than 3 feet to the front and 4 feet to the rear:
History: Cr Register, December, 1984, No 348, eff 1-1-85; am Register, January, 1993, No. 445, eff. 2-1-93.

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 or triple saddlemount combination provided the overall length of the combination is 75 feet or less, 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 the national network and $5-$ mile access routes.

Note: The provision of Wisconsin law requixing 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. section 2311 (a) as amended by section 4006 (b) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991) when these vehicles operate on the federaliy 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; am Register, January, 1993, No 445, eff. 2-1-93.

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) <br> (3) | USH 8 | MN Line at St. Croix Falls | MI Line at Norway, MI |
|  | USH 10 | MN Line at Prescott | IH 43 N of Manitowoc |
|  | STH 11 | USH 61-151 E. of Dubuque, Iowa | USH 51 in Janesville |
|  | STH 11 | IH 90 E of Janesville | USH 14-STH 89, 5 miles W of Delavan |
|  | STH 11 | IH 43 E. of Elkhorn | STH 31 in Racine |
|  | USH 12 | STH 79 NW. of Menomonie | STH 25 in Menomonie |
|  | USH 12 | IH 94-CTH "EE" W. of Eau Claire | USH 10 at Fairchild |
|  | USH 12 | IH 90-94 at Lake Delton | IL Line at Genoa City |
|  | STH 13 | STH 82 S . of Adams | Bayfield |
|  | USH 14 | MN Line at LaCrosse | IL Line |
| (4) | STH 16 | CTH J N of Rockland | IH 90 E. of Sparta |
|  | STH 16 | STH 78 at Portage | IH 94 N of Waukesha |
|  | STH 17 | USH 8 in Rhinelander | Phelps |
|  | USH 18 | IA Line at Prairie du Chien | STH 134 N of Cambridge |
|  | USH 18 | STH 164 E of Waukesha | IH 94 E of Waukesha |
|  | STH 19 | USH 12 S . of Springfield | STH 16 E. of Watertown |
|  |  | Corners |  |
| (5) | STH 20 | IH 94 W. of Racine | STH 31 in Racine |
|  | STH 21 | STH 27 in Sparta | USH 41 at Oshkosh |
|  | STH 22 | USH 51 at North Leeds | STH 54 S. of Manawa |
|  | STH 22 | STH 76 W. of Bear Creek | USH 45 in Clintonville |
|  | STH 22 | STH 29 E. of Shawano | USH 41 in Oconto |
|  | STH 23 | STH 11 E of Shullsburg | IH 90-94 W. of Lake Delton |
|  | STH 23 | USH 51 in Endeavor | Taylor Drive in Sheboygan |
| (5m) | STH 22 | USH 45 in Clintonville | STH 29 in Shawano |
| (6) | STH 25 | Minnesota Line | USH 8 in Barron |
|  | STH 26 | IH 90 at Janesville | USH 151 S E of Waupun |
|  | STH 26 | USH 151 N.E. of Waupun | USH 41 S W of Oshkosh |
|  | STH 27 | USH 18 in Prairie du Chien | STH 171 at Mt. Sterling |
|  | STH 27 | USH 14 S.E of Viroqua | USH 8 in Ladysmith |
|  | STH 28 | STH 33 in Horicon | USH 45 in Kewaskum |
|  | STH 28 | STH 144 S of Boltonville | STH 57 at Waldo |
|  | STH 29 | USH 10 in Prescott | STH 35 in River Falls |
|  | STH 29 | IH 94 W of Elk Mound | USH 53 at Chippewa Falls |
|  | STH 29 | STH 124 S of Chippewa Falls | USH 41 in Green Bay |
|  | STH 29 | USH 141 at Bellevue | STH 42 in Kewaunee |
| (7) | STH 30 | USH 151 in Madison | IH 90-94 E. of Madison |
|  | STH 31 | Illinois Line | STH 20 in Racine |
|  | STH 32 | IH 43 in River Hills | IH 43 E. of Grafton |
|  | STH 32 | IH 43 N of Port Washington | STH 57 in De Pere |
|  | STH 32 | USH 41 N. of De Pere | STH 64 S of Mountain |






Note: The county trunk highways and other local roads or streets designated by s . Trans 276.07 (27) through (45) may be subject to weight restrictions imposed by local authorities and not known to the department. Seasonal weight restrictions may be imposed by local authorities under s. 349.16, Stats., but must be posted. Under $s$ 349.15 , Stats., county trunk highways may be designated as Class " $B$ " highways by the county highway committee. Similarly, other local authorities may designate highways they maintain as Class "B". Wheel, axle, axle group and gross weights are limited on Class "B" highways as provided by s. 348.16, Stats Neither posting of Class "B" designations nor notification to the department is required. Therefore, the department recommends that motor carriers avoid overweight violations by verifying the applicable weight limits on these highways with the local authorities, before use.
Note: See s Trans 276.09 (1) regarding applicability of s. Trans 276.07 (11m), $(17 \mathrm{~m}),(26 \mathrm{~m})$ and ( 40 m )

History: Cr. Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85; emerg am. eff 6-6-86; am. Register, December, 1986, No 372, eff 1-1-87; am. (3) to (8), (12) (15), (17), (18), (21) to (24), (28) and (39), cr. (31m) and (38m), (42), Register, February, 1988, No. 386, eff 3-1-88; am. (3), (4), (9), (12), (14), (15), (17) and (36), ci (38r), Register, May, 1989, No. 401, eff. 6-1-89; cr (11m), (17m), ( 26 m ) and ( 40 m ), Register, July, 1990, No. 415, eff. 8-1-90; am. (4), (6), (7), (13), (14), (15), (26) and (31), cr. (31r), Register, October, 1990, No 418, eff 11-1-90; am (11), (13), (14) and (15), cr. (44m), Register, April, 1991, No. 424, eff 5-1-91; am. (8), (11), (14), (17) and (18), cr (8m), (17s) and (26s), Register, May, 1991, No 425, eff. 6-1-91; am. (12), Register, September, 1991, No 429, eff 10-1-91; emerg. am. (8), eff 10-11-91; am. (3), (6), (9), (13), (15), (16), (18), (21) and (24), Register, November, 1991, No 431, eff. 12-1-91; am. (3), Register, December, 1991, No. 432, eff 1-1-92; am (8), (11), (17), (20) and (24), Register, March, 1992, No 435, eff 4-1-92; am (1) to (8), (9) to (14), (17), (17m), (18), (21) to (24), (26) and (39), r. ( 8 m ), (17s) and (26s), cr (15m), Register, July, 1992, No. 439, eff. 8-1-92; am. (6) and (13), Register, May, 1993, No, 449, eff 6-1-93; am (5), (10) and (36), 1. (381), Register, July, 1994, No. 463, eff 8-1-94; am (8), (10), (13), (14), (19), (24), (31), (39), cr. (38r), Register, December, 1994, No. 468, eff. 1-1-95; am (15), (18), (22) and (24), Register, March, 1995, No 471, eff. 4-1-95; cr (5m), Register, January, 1996, No 481, eff 2-1-96; am (4), (7), Register, November, 1996, No. 491, eff 12-1-96; $\mathrm{r} .(8 \mathrm{~m})$, $\mathrm{mm}_{.}$(17) and (17m), Register, April, 1997, No 496, eff. 5-1-97; am. (8), (11), (16) and (17), Register, September, 1997, No. 501, eff. 10-1-97; am. (8), (10), (13), (15) and (16), Register, December, 1997, No. 504, eff. 1-1-98; am. (15) and (31), Register, March, 1998, No. 507, eff. 4-1-98.

Trans 276.075 Designated access routes. The following highway is designated for the purpose of the operation of the specified vehicles and combinations with lengths as provided in s. 348.07 (4), Stats., to gain access to locations within the 5 mile limit as provided in s. 348.07 (4), Stats.:

| Route | From | To |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| USH 12 | STH 128 E of Hersey | STH 79 N.W. of <br>  |
|  |  | Menomonie |

History: Cr Register, July, 1992, No 439, eff 8-1-92
Trans 276.08 Detours, bypasses and alternate routes. When a highway designated in s. Trans 276.07 or 276.075 is closed and detoured as authorized by s. 84.02 (10) (b), Stats., vehicles being operated under ss. $348: 07(2)(\mathrm{f})$, (fm), (gm), (gr), (4) and 348.08 (1) (e), Stats., may be operated on the detour until the regular route of the highway is reopened to traffic. When a bypass or alternate route is recommended by the department for a highway designated in s. Trans 276.07 or 276.075 in order to reduce congestion, improve access or improve public safety, vehicles being operated under ss. $348.07(2)(\mathrm{f})$, (fm), (gm), (gr), (4) and 348.08 (1) (e), Stats., may be operated on the recom-
mended bypass or alternate route Notice of a recommended bypass or alternate route may be given by signs or other appropriate methods.
History: Cr. Register, December, 1991, No. 432, eff. 1-1-92; emerg. am. eff. 11-24-93; am. Register, April, 1994, No. 460, eff 5-1-94.

Trans 276.09 Applicability. (1) The treatment of $s$. Trans 276.07 ( 11 m ), ( 17 m ), ( 26 m ) and ( 40 m ) applies upon completion of the reconstruction of Liberty Avenue in Beloit and ending when the Beloit bypass authorized in s. 84.013 (3) (rb), Stats., is constructed and designated by the department under s . 348.07 (4), Stats., as a highway to which ss. 348.07 (2) (f), (fm), (gm), (gr) and s 348.08 (1) (e) and (h) apply.
(2) The treatment of s. Trans 276.07 ( 15 m ) applies when the state of Minnesota has designated Minnesota state trunk highway 70/county trunk highway 110 from the Wisconsin border to interstate highway 35 .
(3) The treatment of s . Trans 276.07 ( 5 m ) applies after the segment of STH 22 from the Waupaca-Shawano county line to Shawano is reconstructed and all detours are removed in 1996.

Note: The reconstruction of Liberty Avenue in Beloit is expected to be completed in the fall of 1999 and the construction of the Beloit bypass authorized in s. 84.013 (3) ( rb ), Stats., is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2001 .

History: Cr. Register, July, 1990, No. 415, eff. 8-1-90; 276.09 renum to (1), cr (2), Register, May, 1991, No 425, eff 6-1-91; r. and recr. (2), Register, July, 1992, No. 439, eff. 8-1-92; cr. (3), Register, January, 1996, No. 481, eff. 2-1-96; renum (1) (intro) to be (1) and am, r. (1) (a) to (c), Register, April, 1997, No. 496, eff (1) (intro)
5-1-97:

Trans 276.10 Tire load carrying capacity in excess of 13,000 pounds. (1) Subject to the restrictions and limitations in sub. (2), the weight on the steering axle of a truck tractor may exceed 13,000 pounds if the sum of the maximum load carrying capacities of the tires used on that axle, as certified by the tire manufacturer, allows a greater steering axle load.
(2) (a) The actual weight on the steering axle of a truck tractor may not exceed the sum of the maximum load carrying capacities of the tires used on that axle and in any event may not exceed 20,000 pounds.
(b) The extra weight privilege allowed by this chapter is available only when the tires used on the steering axle of a truck tractor have the manufacturer's certified load carrying capacity embossed thereon in compliance with applicable federal regulations. If the tires on a steering axie have no certified load carrying capacity embossed on them, the steering axle is restricted to the 13,000 pound load limit prescribed in s. 348.15 (3) (b), Stats.
(c) This chapter does not authorize the operator of a truck tractor to exceed the gross axle weight rating (G.A.WR.) established by the manufacturer of the steering axle being used
(d) The tires on the steering axle of a truck tractor exceeding the statutory 13,000 pound weight limit shall have equal load carrying capacity and shall be properly inflated.
History: Emerg cr eff. 3-9-78; cr. Register, June, 1978, No. 270, eff. 7-1-78; renum from Hy 36.02, Register, July, 1991, No 427, eff. 8-1-91

