

Motor Carrier Size and Weight Restrictions



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Motor Carrier Update

	Issue	Current Code
1&2	Semitrailer legal length	<p>72-7-402 Limitations as to vehicle width, height, length, and load extensions</p> <p><i>(b)(i) Except as provided under Subsection (4)(b)(iii), a semitrailer, unladen or with a load, may not exceed a length of 48 feet excluding refrigeration units, hitches, air line connections, and safety appurtenances.</i></p> <p><i>(ii) There is no overall length limitation on a truck tractor and semitrailer combination when the semitrailer length is 48 feet or less.</i></p> <p><i>(iii) A semitrailer that exceeds a length of 48 feet but does not exceed a length of 53 feet may operate on a route designated by the department or within one mile of that route</i></p>

Recommendation:

- Change legal length in (i) and (ii) to 53' to reflect current practice.
- Delete (iii), no longer needed if update legal length to 53'.

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3	Insurance clarification	<p>72-7-406 Oversize permits and oversize and overweight permits for vehicles of excessive size or weight</p> <p><i>(1)(d) The department may deny or issue a permit under this section to protect the safety of the traveling public and to protect highway foundation, surfaces, or structures from undue damage by one or more of the following:</i></p> <p><i>(iii) requiring security in addition to the permit to compensate for any potential damage by the vehicle to any highway;</i></p>

Recommendation: Change “security” to “insurance” to make language plain.

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4	Proof of permit	72-7-406 Oversize permits and oversize and overweight permits for vehicles of excessive size or weight <i>(3) Each oversize permit or oversize and overweight permit shall be carried in the vehicle or combination of vehicles to which it refers and shall be available for inspection by any peace officer, special function officer, port of entry agent, or other personnel authorized by the department.</i>

Recommendation: Specify electronic copy of permit is also allowed.

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5	Commercial vehicle definition exemptions	<p>72-9-102 Motor Carrier Safety Act, Definitions</p> <p>Subsection (1)(b) exempts certain vehicles from definition of “commercial vehicle”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Federal and state military vehicles- Firefighting and emergency vehicles- Recreational vehicles driven solely as family or personal vehicles <p>Code of Federal Regulations also exempts state and local government vehicles.</p>

Recommendation: Make exemptions consistent with existing federal regulations to include state and local government vehicles.

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6	Domicile Lettering	72-9-105 Motor Carrier Safety Act, Information Lettered on Vehicle <i>(1) Except under Subsection (4), a motor carrier shall have lettered on both sides of any vehicle used for transportation of persons or property:</i> <i>(a) the name of the motor carrier company; and</i> <i>(b) the location of domicile by city and state for an intrastate commercial vehicle.</i>

Recommendation: Delete domicile lettering requirement to make consistent with federal regulations.

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	Issue	Current Code
7	Motor Carrier Advisory Board frequency of meetings	72-9-201 Motor Carrier Advisory Board Subsection (6) requires the board to meet “ at least quarterly or as needed when called by the chair.”
Recommendation: Change required frequency of meetings to twice yearly or as needed when call by the chair.		

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	Issue	Current Code
8	Clarify existing rulemaking authority	<p>UDOT has been granted sufficient rulemaking authority to administer and enforce motor carrier laws under Title 72 Chapter 7 Part 4, Vehicle Size, Weight and Load Limitations, and Title 72 Chapter 9, Motor Carrier Safety Act.</p> <p>However, Utah Code, as written, has sometimes created confusion regarding rulemaking authority for motor carrier size and weight issues. The code may benefit from better clarification.</p>

Recommendation: Clarify existing rulemaking authority.