



Rev. 2011.09.13

Chapter 15

Legal Size Vehicle Dimensions

HEIGHT, WIDTH, & LENGTH

The following are the maximum legal vehicle dimensions, loaded or unloaded, that may be operated without special permits on Utah highways:

Height:	14'	Measured from level road surface to top of load or vehicle.
Width:	8' 6"	With or without load. Measured from outside to outside of widest extremities, excluding appurtenant devices as referenced in UCA 72-7-402(1).
Length:		Maximum lengths for various vehicles are as follows:

Vehicle	Maximum Length (1)	Comments
Single motor vehicle	45'	Including front and rear bumpers.
Semi-trailer	48'	There is no overall length limitation on a tractor and semi-trailer combination when the semi-trailer length is 48 feet or less.
	53'	See Oversize Divisible Permit Provisions
Double trailer combinations	61'	Measured from the front of the first trailer to the rear of the second trailer, excluding appurtenances. There is no overall length limitation on a truck tractor and double trailer combination when the trailers coupled together measure 61 feet or less. On secondary routes the maximum number of vehicles in combination may not exceed three.
Stinger-steered transporters	75'	Measured from bumper-to-bumper. May have 3 feet of front and 4 feet of rear overhang. Permits are not available for excess overhangs or length. (Re: Federal Size Regulations for Commercial Motor Vehicles- CFR23)- Not to exceed 82 feet maximum overall length. 23 CFR 658.13
Saddle mount	97'	Drive-away with full mount. Up to triple saddle mount with full mount vehicle transporter combinations allowed. This will allow a maximum of three saddle mount vehicles, one power unit and one full mount. View code: 23 CFR 658.13(e)(iii)
Truck trailer combination	65'	Measured from bumper-to-bumper.
Dromedary unit	65'	Truck tractor, unloaded box/deck and trailer. A vehicle combination equipped with dromedary capability is only considered a dromedary unit when loaded. If the dromedary box, plate or deck is not being utilized to transport cargo, the vehicle combination must comply with tractor trailer combination length limits.

Vehicle	Maximum Length (1)	Comments
	75'	Dromedary units transporting Class 1 explosives or munitions-related security materials, as specified by the Department of Defense, are allowed up to 75 feet of overall length on the Interstates, US highways and reasonable access routes without requiring a permit. Reasonable access means any other highway that facilitates access to the Interstate or US highway system.
All other combinations, including recreational vehicles	65'	Length limitations do not apply to combinations of vehicles operated at night by a public utility when required for emergency repair of public service facilities or properties, or when operated with an overweight/oversize permit under UCA 72-7-406. Appurtenances attached to the sides or rear of a recreational vehicle that is not a commercial motor vehicle are excluded for purposes of measuring width and length of the recreational vehicle if the additional width or length of the appurtenances does not exceed 6 inches. UCA 72-7-402(1)(c)
Overhang	3' Front	A vehicle or combination of vehicles, as defined in UCA 41-1a-102, may not carry any load 6' Rear extending more than 3 feet beyond the front of the power unit or more than 6 feet beyond the rear of the bed or body of the vehicle.
Drawbar	15'	The drawbar or other connection between any two vehicles, one of which is towing or drawing the other on a highway, may not exceed 15 feet in length from the one vehicle to the other (measured from box to box and/or frame to frame), except in the case of a connection between any two vehicles transporting poles, pipe, machinery, or structural material that cannot be dismembered when transported upon a pole trailer as defined in UCA 41-6a-102 (45).

Note:

When measuring a drawbar length on vehicles that have the coupling device, hitch mounted on the end of the box, bed or frame, do not include the coupling device/hitch in the measurement. An example of this would be a drawbar that when not attached to a tow vehicle, does not exceed 15 feet but when attached to the towing vehicle, the distance from frame to frame or box to frame is greater than 15 feet as a result of the coupling device/hitch.

DEFINITIONS:

Tractor: A motor vehicle designed to carry a portion of a load within or on a trailer and not constructed to carry a load by itself.

Truck: A single unit motor vehicle used primarily for the transportation of property. Trucks are designed to carry a load without requiring a trailer. However, a trailer may be added to increase load carrying capacity.

Exception: When measuring a vehicle to determine legal dimensions, do not include appurtenances. Appurtenances include the following:

- Refrigerator units
- Hitches

- Air line connections
- Load securing devices

Note: This exclusion does not apply to devices designed or used to carry cargo.

Defining and Measuring Legal Height: Commercial vehicles may operate within the legal height dimension of 14 feet. This is determined by measuring from the surface of the roadway to the highest point on the load or vehicles.

Defining and Measuring Legal Width: Commercial vehicles may operate within the legal width dimension of 8 feet 6 inches. This is determined by measuring from the widest points on each side of the vehicle or load.

Defining and Measuring Legal Length:

- **Single Unit Motor Vehicle:** A single motor vehicle is a power unit that is not towing or pulling another vehicle. These vehicles may not exceed 45 feet in length. This is determined by measuring from the front-most point of the vehicle to the rear-most point of the vehicle, excluding overhangs. In most cases, this would be measured from front bumper to rear bumper.
- **Semi Trailer or Full Trailer Combinations:** Semi trailers or full trailers are vehicles that cannot be moved under their own power and are designed to carry a load while being drawn behind a power unit. The legal length for semi-trailer or full trailer is 48 feet. This is determined by measuring from the front most point of the trailer to the rear most point of the trailer and should not include any cargo with the measurement.

Note: There is no overall length limitation on a tractor and semi-trailer combination when the trailer length is 48 feet or less.

Exception: Although trailers in excess of 48 feet up to 53 feet in length exceed legal dimensions, an oversize permit is not required provided they are traveling one mile or less from and interstate or a state route system.

- **Truck Trailer Combinations:** A Truck Trailer Combination is allowed up to 65 feet of overall length. This is determined by measuring from the front bumper of the truck to the rear bumper of the trailer, including the drawbar or connecting devices. Front and rear overhangs are not included in the overall length.

Basic Rule: A truck towing a gooseneck or fifth wheel trailer is considered a truck trailer combination when the truck is carrying cargo. Otherwise, when the truck is not carrying cargo, the combination is considered a tractor trailer and does not have an overall length limit.

- **Double Trailer Combinations:** A double trailer combination consisting of a tractor and two trailers may have a combined trailer length up to 61 feet. This is determined by measuring from the front of the lead trailer to the back of the rear trailer including the connecting equipment. This measurement is referred to as cargo carrying length. There is no overall length limit for a tractor and double trailer combination when the trailers coupled together measure 61 feet or less.
- **Stinger-Steered Transporters:** Stinger-steered transporters are considered specialized equipment and have been given additional length allowances by the Federal Highway Administration. These additional length allowances are available only when transporting automobiles, boats, or camp trailers. These industries were able to demonstrate that this vehicle type can be safely operated at these dimensions. Additionally, this allowance has provided for a more efficient mode of transportation and has increased productivity, thereby, facilitating commerce.

A stinger-steered transporter is a truck and trailer combination where the fifth wheel is located on a drop frame behind and below therearmost axle of the power unit. These units are most recognized as auto or boat transporters.

The legal length of a stinger-steered transporter is 75 feet measured from bumper to bumper. These combinations are allowed to have an additional 3 feet of front overhang and 4 feet of rear overhang.

To determine proper measuring points on these combinations when extendable ramps or flippers are used and to ensure consistency and uniformity within the Division, measurements will be taken as follows:

The cargo carrying length of 75 feet is measured from the front bumper of the power unit rearward to the rear bumper of the trailer. When flippers or ramps are used, and the front bumper of the power unit to rear bumper of the trailer measurement is less than 75 feet, the measurement will be taken from the front bumper rearward 75 feet.

Note: This 75 foot point may extend beyond the rear bumper of the trailer and be located within the extended ramp or flipper.

- The 3 feet of front overhang is measured from the front bumper of the power unit to the end of the overhang.
- The 4 feet of rear overhang is measured from the rear bumper of the trailer to the end of the overhang, or from the 75 foot point on the flipper or ramp to the end of the overhang.
- The total overall length allowed including overhangs with or without ramps or flippers may not exceed 82 feet.

Note: Stinger steered combinations exceeding 3 feet of front overhang, 4 feet of rear overhang, and 82 feet of overall length will not be permitted and corrective action will be necessary before returning to the highway. Corrective actions may include but are not limited to shifting or removing vehicles.

- **Saddle Mount Combinations:** A saddle mount configuration consists of a truck or tractor transporting up to four additional trucks, tractors, or vehicles. You should note that the industry may refer to this configuration as a "piggy back" unit. The additional trucks or tractors are connected by a saddle to the frame or 5th wheel of the power unit or preceding vehicle. A saddle mount configuration is legal up to 97 feet overall length and may consist of:
 - The power unit
 - No more than three saddle mounted vehicles, and/or
 - One fully mounted vehicle loaded without any part touching the road surface

To determine legal dimensions, measure from the front bumper of the power unit to the rear most point of the last vehicle.

- **Dromedary Units:** A dromedary is a box, deck, or plate mounted behind the tractor's cab and forward of the fifth wheel on its frame. A dromedary unit is considered a truck trailer combination and has a maximum legal length limit of 65 feet. This is determined by measuring from the front bumper of the power unit, to the rear most point of the trailer.

A vehicle combination equipped with dromedary capability is only considered a dromedary unit when loaded. If the dromedary box, plate, or deck is not being utilized to transport cargo, the vehicle combination will be considered a tractor trailer combination, and must comply with tractor trailer combination length limits.

Exception: Dromedary units transporting Class 1 explosives or munitions-related security materials, as specified by the Department of Defense, are allowed up to 75 feet of overall length on the Interstates, US highways and reasonable access routes without requiring a permit. Reasonable access means any other highway that facilitates access to the Interstate or US highway system.

- **All Other Combinations:** All other configurations not defined above are considered to be "other combinations". Maximum legal length for "other combinations" is 65 feet. This is determined by measuring from the front of the first vehicle, to the back of the rear most vehicle within the combination including connecting devices. Exception: Appurtenances attached to the sides or rear of a recreational vehicle (non-commercial), are excluded for the purposes of measuring width and length, provided the additional width or length does not exceed 6 inches such as door handles, light fixtures and awnings.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further information regarding Maximum Legal Size Vehicle Dimensions contact the Motor Carrier Division at (801) 965-4892 or (866) 215-5399, or the closest Port of Entry. Contact information can be found in the Utah Agency Directory Section, or by emailing mccustomerservice@utah.gov.