

## Chapter Trans 276

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 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 348, 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 C.F.R. 658.5 (g) and 23 C.F.R. 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.

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Note: The 3-inch limit is imposed by 23 C.F.R. 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 C.F.R. 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 C.F.R. 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 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 saddle-mount combination.** For enforcement purposes, no permit is required for vehicles operating in double saddle-mount combination provided the overall length of the combination is 65 feet or less in length. 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 C.F.R. 658.13 (d) 3.) when these vehicles operate on the designated system and access routes.

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

**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	Minn. Line at Superior	Mich. Line at Hurley
USH 2	Mich. Line W. of Florence	Mich. Line E. of Florence
(2) USH 8	Minn. Line at St. Croix Falls	Mich. Line at Norway, MI
(3) USH 10	Minn. 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	IH 94-CTH "EE" W. of Eau Claire	USH 10 at Fairchild
USH 12	IH 90-94 at Lake Delton	Ill. Line at Genoa City
STH 13	STH 82 S. of Adams	USH 2 in Ashland
USH 14	USH 61 at Readstown	STH 11 E. of Janesville
USH 14	STH 11-89, 5 miles W. of Delavan	STH 67 in Walworth

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Route	From	To
	CTH "A" South County Line	CTH "K" S. of Green Lake
	CTH "AW" STH 73 S. of Manchester	East County Line
	CTH "K" CTH "A" S. of Green Lake	East County Line
(34)	KENOSHA COUNTY:	
	CTH "C" CTH "W" in Wilmot	USH 45 S. of Bristol
(35)	MILWAUKEE COUNTY:	
	CTH "BB" STH 100 in Franklin	STH 38 in Oak Creek
	CTH "E" West County Line	73rd St. in Milwaukee
	CTH "PP" USH 41	Port Washington Rd.
(36)	ROCK COUNTY:	
	CTH "A" USH 14 E. of Janesville	East County Line
	CTH "J" CTH "O" E. of Janesville	STH 11
	CTH "O" USH 51 in Janesville	CTH "J" E. of Janesville
(37)	RUSK COUNTY:	
	CTH "G" STH 194 in Sheldon	USH 8 in Ladysmith
	CTH "I" STH 27 S. of Ladysmith	CTH "G" at Conrath
(38)	SHEBOYGAN COUNTY:	
	CTH "PP" STH 67 S. of Plymouth	STH 57
	CTH "RR" STH 57 at Random Lake	IH 43 at Cedar Grove
(38m)	TREMPEALEAU COUNTY:	
	CTH "R" USH 10 E. of Osseo	N. County Line
(38r)	WALWORTH COUNTY:	
	CTH "A" West County Line	USH 12 N. of Elkhorn
(39)	WAUKESHA COUNTY:	
	CTH "A" STH 59 E. of Waukesha	USH 18 E. of Waukesha
	CTH "F" STH 15 N. of Big Bend	STH 59 S. of Waukesha
	CTH "VV" STH 83 at North Lake	East County Line
(40)	WINNEBAGO COUNTY:	
	CTH "M" South County Line	STH 44 at Pickett
(40m)	CITY OF BELOIT:	
	Broad St. STH 213 in Beloit	USH 51 in Beloit
(41)	CITY OF FOND DU LAC:	
	Pioneer Rd. Johnson Street	Scott Street
	Scott St. Pioneer Road	Main Street
(43)	CITY OF JANESVILLE:	
	Delavan Dr. USH 51	East Corporate Limit
(44)	CITY OF MILWAUKEE:	
	Silver 73rd Street	East Corporate Limit
	Spring Dr.	
(44m)	CITY OF RIPON:	
	Douglas St. E. Fond du Lac St.	Oshkosh St.
	Oshkosh W. Fond du Lac St.	Douglas St.
	St.	
(45)	CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE:	
	Main St. USH 151	STH 19

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 au-

thorities 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), (17m), (26m) and (40m).

Note: See s. Trans 276.09 (2) regarding applicability of s. Trans 276.07 (8m), (17s) and (26s).

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), r. (42), Register, February, 1988, No. 386, eff. 3-1-88; am. (3), (4), (9), (12), (14), (15), (17) and (36), cr. (38r), Register, May, 1989, No. 401, eff. 6-1-89; cr. (11m), (17m), (26m) and (40m), 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.

**Trans 276.09 Applicability.** (1) The treatment of s. Trans 276.07 (11m), (17m), (26m) and (40m) applies beginning January 1, 1992, and ending when any one of the following occur:

(a) The department determines, by rule, that the state of Illinois has designated Illinois state trunk highway 26 from the Wisconsin border to U.S. highway 20, north of Freeport, Illinois, as a designated highway for the operation of vehicles and combinations of vehicles the overall length of which cannot be limited.

(b) The department, as a result of the Rock County Transportation Study authorized by 1989 Wis. Act 31, Section 3053 (7e), determines and designates a more feasible alternative route than the route provided under s. Trans 276.07 (11m), (17m), (26m) and (40m).

(c) On January 1, 1996.

(2) The treatment of Trans 276.07 (8m), (17s) and (26s) applies beginning on June 1, 1991 and ending when either of the following occur:

(a) On the effective date of any 1991 Wisconsin Act which amends s. 348.07 (1), Stats., to increase the overall allowable length for a combination of 2 vehicles from 60 feet to 65 feet.

(b) On January 1, 1993.

Note: Sections Trans 276.07 (11m), (17m), (26m) and (40m) and 276.09 (1) shall expire on December 31, 1995.

Note: Sections Trans 276.07 (8m), (17s) and (26s) and 276.09 (2) shall expire on December 31, 1992.

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.

**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.

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(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 axle 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.W.R.) 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.