

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 haulaways	Trans 276.10	Tire load carrying capacity in excess of 13,000 pounds.
Trans 276.06	Permits for vehicles operating in saddlemount 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. (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.

Register, January, 1993, No. 445

(g) "Stinger-steered automobile haulaway" means a truck-tractor 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 (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 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.

Register, January, 1993, No. 445

(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 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; 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) 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 Du-buque, Iowa	USH 51 in Janesville