



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 220
[2013 Assembly Bill 284]

**Length of Certain Vehicle
Combinations**

Under current law, no person may operate on a highway any combination of two vehicles with an overall length in excess of 70 feet, unless a specific exception applies or the person has a permit to exceed these lengths. Current law also generally prohibits any person from driving a vehicle on a highway while towing two or more vehicles unless the driver possesses a permit. One exception allows two or three vehicles to be towed, without a permit, when they are being transported by the drive-away method in saddlemount combination and the overall length of the vehicle combination does not exceed 75 feet. "Saddlemount combination" is not defined by statute; however, the Department of Transportation (DOT) defines it by rule as "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."

2013 Wisconsin Act 220 increases to 97 feet the length limit on certain highways that a vehicle combination, involving two or three towed vehicles being transported by the drive-away method in saddlemount combination, may be operated without a permit. This increased limit applies to vehicles operating on a highway designated by DOT as a long truck route or as part of the national system of interstate and defense highways.

The Act defines "drive-away method in saddlemount combination" as "a vehicle combination designed and specifically used to tow up to 3 trucks or truck tractors, each connected by a saddle to the frame or 5th-wheel of the forward vehicle of the truck or truck tractor in front of it, and including not more than one fullmount." "Fullmount" is defined as "a smaller vehicle mounted completely on the frame of either the first or last vehicle in a saddlemount combination."

Effective date: 2013 Wisconsin Act 220 took effect on April 10, 2014, and first applies to vehicles operated on that date.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.