

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC REGULATION 169.03

CHAPTER 169. HIGHWAY TRAFFIC REGULATION

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169.01 Definition

[For text of subds. 1 to 4, see M.S.1971]

Subd. 5. Authorized emergency vehicle. "Authorized emergency vehicle" means any of the following vehicles when equipped and identified according to law: (1) A vehicle of a fire department; (2) a publicly owned police vehicle or a privately owned vehicle used by a police officer for police work under agreement, express or implied, with the local authority to which he is responsible; (3) an ambulance, whether publicly or privately owned; (4) an emergency vehicle of a municipal department or a public service corporation, approved by the commissioner of public safety or the chief of police of a municipality; (5) any volunteer rescue squad operating pursuant to Laws 1959, Chapter 53.

[1973 c 27 s 1]

[For text of subds. 6 to 59, see M.S.1971]

169.03 Emergency vehicles; application

Subdivision 1. The provisions of this chapter applicable to the drivers of vehicles upon the highways shall apply to the drivers of all vehicles owned or operated by the United States, this state, or any county, city, town, district, or any other political subdivision of the state, subject to such specific exemptions as are set forth in this chapter with reference to authorized emergency vehicles.

Subd. 2. The driver of any authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, upon approaching a red or stop signal or any stop sign shall slow down as necessary for safety, but may proceed cautiously past such red or stop sign or signal after sounding siren and displaying red lights.

Subd. 3. The driver of any authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to any emergency call, may enter against the run of traffic on any one-way street, or highway where there is authorized division of traffic, to facilitate traveling to the area in which an emergency has been reported; and the provisions of this section shall not affect any cause of action arising prior to its passage.

Subd. 4. An authorized emergency vehicle, when at the scene of a reported emergency, may park or stand, notwithstanding any law or ordinance to the contrary.

Subd. 5. No driver of any authorized emergency vehicle shall assume any special privilege under this chapter except when such vehicle is operated in response to any emergency call or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law.

Subd. 6. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to persons, teams, motor vehicles, and other equipment while actually engaged in work upon the roadway of a highway, but shall apply to such persons and vehicles when traveling to or from such work.

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Subd. 7. Streetcars and trackless trolley cars, except where otherwise specifically provided, shall be governed by the same rules and regulations as provided in this chapter for vehicles and motor vehicles, only insofar as such regulations apply to speed, stopped at through streets and railroad tracks, and obeying signals of traffic-control devices and rights of way, driving under the influence of drugs or intoxicating liquor, careless driving, and the stopping at the scene of an accident and giving the information as required by this chapter, and following vehicles too closely, and shall be entitled to the same rights and benefits of this chapter, as to warning, turning and stopping signals and rights of way, as any vehicles or motor vehicle in the streets and highways of this state.

Subd. 8. Every person riding a bicycle or an animal or driving any animal drawing a vehicle upon a roadway shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter applicable to the driver of a vehicle, except those provisions which by their nature can have no application.

Subd. 9. The provisions of this chapter shall be applicable and uniform throughout this state and in all political subdivisions and municipalities therein, and no local authority shall enact or enforce any rule or regulation in conflict with the provisions of this chapter unless expressly authorized herein. Local authorities may adopt traffic regulations which are not in conflict with the provisions of this chapter; provided, that when any local ordinance regulating traffic covers the same subject for which a penalty is provided for in this chapter, then the penalty provided for violation of said local ordinance shall be identical with the penalty provided for in this chapter for the same offense.

[1973 c 28 s 1]

169.121 Motor vehicle drivers under influence of drugs or alcoholic beverages

Subdivision 1. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person described in clauses (a), (b), (c) or (d) to drive, operate or be in actual physical control of any vehicle within this state:

(a) A person who is under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or narcotic drug;

(b) A person who is an habitual user of narcotic drugs;

(c) A person who is under the influence of a combination of any two or more of the elements named in clauses (a) and (b) hereof;

(d) A person whose blood contains 0.10 percent or more by weight of alcohol.

When a police officer has reason to believe from the manner in which a driver is driving, operating, or actually controlling, or has driven, operated, or actually controlled, a vehicle that such driver may be violating this subdivision he may require the driver to provide a sample of his breath for an immediate preliminary screening test or analysis before an arrest is made, using a device approved by the commissioner for this purpose. The results of such a preliminary screening test or analysis shall be used only for the purpose of guiding the officer in deciding whether an arrest should be made, and shall not be used as evidence in any court action.

The driver of any motor vehicle shall furnish such a sample of his breath when required to do so. The provisions of section 169.123, shall apply to any driver who refuses to furnish a sample of his breath; provided that the license or permit of a driver shall not be revoked pursuant to section 169.123, subdivision 4, for refusal to provide a sample of his breath for preliminary screening purposes, if he submits to a blood, breath or urine test to determine the alcoholic content of his blood pursuant to section 169.123, subdivision 2. Another test may be required of the driver following the screening test pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, which shall be admissible evidence in accordance therewith.

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Nothing in this subdivision authorizing such preliminary screening test or analysis shall be construed as changing, limiting, or otherwise modifying the procedures, safeguards, and other provisions of sections 169.121 to 169.123 or ordinances in conformity therewith.

The provisions of this subdivision apply, but are not limited in application, to any person who drives, operates, or who is in actual physical control of any vehicle in the manner prohibited by this subdivision upon the ice of any lake, stream, or river, including but not limited to the ice of any boundary water.

[1973 c 421 s 1]

[For text of subd. 2, see M.S.1971]

Subd. 3. Every person who is convicted of a violation of this section shall be punishable by imprisonment of not less than ten days nor more than 90 days, or by a fine of not less than \$10 nor more than \$300, or both, and his driver's license shall be revoked for not less than 30 days, except that every person who is convicted of a violation of this section, when such violation is found to be the proximate cause of grievous bodily injury or death to another person, shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 60 days nor more than 90 days, or by fine of not more than \$300, or both and his driver's license shall be revoked for not less than 90 days.

[1973 c 494 s 8]

[For text of subds. 4 to 6, see M.S.1971]

169.123 Chemical tests for intoxication

[For text of subd. 1, see M.S.1971]

Subd. 2. Implies consent; conditions; election as to type of test. Any person who drives or operates a motor vehicle upon the public highways of this state shall be deemed to have given consent subject to the provisions of this section and section 169.121, subdivision 2, to a chemical test of his blood, breath, or urine for the purpose of determining the alcoholic content of his blood. The test shall be administered at the direction of a peace officer. The test may be administered when the officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a person was driving or operating a motor vehicle while said person was under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, and one of the following conditions exist: (1) the said person has been lawfully placed under arrest for alleged commission of the said described offense in violation of section 169.121, or an ordinance in conformity therewith; or, (2) the person has been involved in a motor vehicle collision resulting in property damage, personal injury, or death. The test may also be administered when the officer has reason to believe that a person was driving or operating a motor vehicle in violation of section 169.121 or an ordinance in conformity therewith and the person has either refused to take the preliminary screening test provided for by section 161.121, subdivision 1, or such preliminary screening test was administered and recorded a blood alcohol level of .10 percent or more by weight of alcohol. Any person may decline to take a direct blood test and elect to take either a breath, or urine test, whichever is available, in lieu thereof, and either a breath or urine test shall be made available to the arrested person who makes such an election. No action shall be taken against the person for declining to take a direct blood test unless either a breath, or urine test was available. At the time the peace officer requests such chemical test specimen, he shall inform the arrested person that his right to drive may be revoked or denied if he refuses to permit the test and that he has the right to have additional tests made by a person of his own choosing.

[1973 c 35 s 36]

Subd. 3. Manner of making test; additional tests. Only a physician, medical technician, registered nurse, medical technologist or laboratory assistant

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acting at the request of a peace officer may withdraw blood for the purpose of determining the alcoholic content therein. This limitation shall not apply to the taking of a breath, or urine specimen. The person tested shall have the right to a physician, a medical technician, medical technologist, laboratory assistant or registered nurse of his own choosing to administer a chemical test or tests in addition to any administered at the direction of a peace officer; provided, that the additional test specimen on behalf of said person be obtained at the place where such person is in custody and at no expense to the state. Said person shall have the right to immediately communicate with his attorney, doctor or any other person in order to secure a physician, medical technician, medical technologist, laboratory assistant or registered nurse of his own choosing for the purpose of administering such additional test or tests; but this shall in no way delay the administering of the test at the direction of the peace officer. The failure or inability to obtain an additional test or tests by a person shall not preclude the admission in evidence of the test taken at the direction of a peace officer unless the additional test was prevented or denied by the peace officer. Upon the request of the person who is tested, full information concerning the test or tests taken at the direction of the peace officer shall be made available to him. The physician, medical technician, medical technologist, laboratory assistant or registered nurse drawing blood at the request of a peace officer for the purpose of determining alcoholic content shall in no manner be liable in any civil or criminal action except for negligence in drawing the blood. The person administering such test at the request and direction of such peace officer shall be fully trained in the administration of such tests pursuant to standards promulgated by rule by the commissioner of public safety.

[1973 c 555 s 1]

[For text of subds. 4 to 8, see M.S.1971]

169.21 Pedestrians

[For text of subd. 1, see M.S.1971]

Subd. 2. Rights in absence of signals. Where traffic-control signals are not in place or in operation the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk but no pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield. This provision shall not apply under the conditions as otherwise provided in this subdivision.

When any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle.

It is unlawful for any person to drive a motor vehicle through a column of school children crossing a street or highway or past a member of a school safety patrol, while the member of the school safety patrol is directing the movement of children across a street or highway and while the school safety patrol member is holding his official signal in the stop position.

[1973 c 193 s 1]

[For text of subds. 3 to 5, see M.S.1971]

169.42 Littering or placing refuse upon highways or adjacent lands, private property, parks or public place; dropping objects on vehicles

Subdivision 1. No person shall throw, deposit, place or dump, or cause to be thrown, deposited, placed or dumped upon any street or highway or upon any public or privately owned land adjacent thereto without the owner's consent any glass bottle, glass, nails, tacks, wire, cans, garbage, swill, papers, ashes, refuse, carcass of any dead animal, offal, trash or rubbish or any other form of offensive matter or any other substance likely to injure any person, animal or vehicle upon any such street or highway.

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Subd. 2. Any person who drops, or permits to be dropped or thrown, upon any highway any of the material specified in subdivision 1, shall immediately remove the same or cause it to be removed.

Subd. 3. Any person removing a wrecked or damaged vehicle from a highway shall remove any glass or other injurious substance dropped upon the highway from such vehicle.

Subd. 4. No person shall drop or hurl any destructive or injurious material or object at or upon any motor vehicle upon any highway or the occupants thereof.

Subd. 5. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. The record of any conviction of or plea of guilty under this section of a person operating a motor vehicle shall be immediately forwarded to the department of public safety for inclusion upon that offender's driving record. Any second offense or offense thereafter under this section shall require a minimum fine in the amount of \$100. Any judge or magistrate may, for any violation of this section, order the offender to pick up litter along any public highway or road for four to eight hours under the direction of the department of highways, with the option of a jail sentence being imposed.

[1973 c 299 s 1]

169.44 School buses; stop signals; conduct of other vehicles

Subdivision 1. Meeting or overtaking buses; stop signals; stopping. The driver of a vehicle upon a street or highway, upon meeting or overtaking from front or rear any school bus which has stopped on the street or highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school child or children, shall stop the vehicle not less than 20 feet from the bus when the bus is stopped and is displaying an extended stop signal arm and flashing red signals and shall remain stopped until the school bus driver retracts the stop signal arm and extinguishes the flashing red signals. Every school bus with a seating capacity in excess of 16 persons shall be equipped with a stop signal arm, pre-warning flashing amber signals and flashing red signals. The stop signal arm shall be used in conjunction with the flashing red signals only when the school bus is stopped on a street or highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school child or children.

Vehicles district owned or under contract having a seating capacity of 16 or fewer persons transporting school children to or from school shall comply with state board of education rules and regulations relating to, but not limited to, construction, design, equipment, color, identification, and operation.

[1973 c 384 s 1]

Subd. 2. Loading and unloading passengers; use of signals. (a) Drivers of a school bus with a capacity of more than 16 persons shall actuate the pre-warning flashing amber signals of the bus before stopping to load or unload a school child or children at least 300 feet when operating outside an incorporated municipality and at least 100 feet when operating within an incorporated municipality and, upon stopping for such purpose, such drivers shall extend the stop signal arm and actuate the flashing red signals and shall not retract the stop signal arm and extinguish the flashing red signals until loading or unloading is completed and persons who must cross the street or highway are safely across.

(b) School bus drivers shall not actuate the pre-warning flashing amber signals or flashing red signals:

(1) in special school bus loading areas where the bus is entirely off the traveled portion of the road;

(2) in residence or business districts of cities, villages, and boroughs except when directed by the local school administrator;

(3) when a school bus is being used on a highway for purposes other than the actual transportation of school children to or from school or a school ap-

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proved activity, in which event the words "school bus" on the front and rear of the bus shall be removed or completely concealed; and

(4) at railroad grade crossings.

(c) Where school children must cross the road before boarding or after being discharged from the bus, the driver of a school bus or a school bus patrol may supervise such crossings making use of the standard school patrol flag or signal as approved and prescribed by the commissioner of public safety. When children are alighting from a school bus, and not crossing the road, the driver shall visually ascertain that alighting children shall be a safe distance from the bus before moving the bus.

(d) Vehicles having a seating capacity of 16 or fewer persons shall load or unload school children only from the right hand side of the vehicle except on a one way street such vehicle shall load or unload school children only from the curb side of the vehicle.

[1973 c 384 s 2]

[For text of subds. 3 to 5, see M.S.1971]

Subd. 6. Passenger capacity. The number of pupils or other authorized passengers transported in or assigned to a school bus shall not be more than the number of pupils or passengers that can be seated. Seating capacity shall be adjusted according to passenger's individual physical size, but not to exceed manufacturers' rated seating capacity, and no person shall stand when the bus is in motion.

[1973 c 384 s 3]

Subd. 7. Color. Any new school bus purchased for delivery after June 1, 1973 for use in the state of Minnesota as a school bus with a seating capacity in excess of 16 persons shall be of a uniform color, national school bus glossy yellow. Any school bus substantially repainted after June 1, 1973 shall be painted national school bus glossy yellow.

[1973 c 384 s 4]

Subd. 8. Vehicles used as other than school buses. A vehicle which is no longer used as a school bus shall not be operated on a public street or highway unless it is painted a color other than that required by law for school buses, including for purposes of this subdivision, Minnesota school bus golden orange, and all school bus related equipment and printing shall be removed from said vehicles. Violation of this subdivision is a misdemeanor.

[1973 c 384 s 5]

[For text of subd. 9, see M.S.1971]

Subd. 10. Approved flashing signals; system of operation. Flashing pre-warning amber signals and flashing red signals shall be of a type approved by the commissioner of public safety. Such signals shall be a complete system meeting minimum standards as prescribed by state board of education rules and regulations.

Subd. 11. Recapped tires. Recapped tires shall not be used on the front wheels of a school bus.

[1973 c 384 s 6]

169.451 School bus inspection

Subdivision 1. The Minnesota highway patrol shall inspect every school bus at least semiannually to ascertain whether its construction, design, equipment, and color comply with all provisions of law.

Subd. 2. No person shall drive, or no owner shall knowingly permit or cause to be driven, any school bus unless there is displayed thereon a certificate issued by the commissioner of public safety stating that on a certain date, which shall be within seven months of the date of operation, a member of the Minnesota highway patrol inspected the bus and found that on the date of inspection the bus complied with the applicable provisions of state

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law relating to construction, design, equipment, and color. The commissioner of public safety shall provide by rule or regulation for the issuance and display of distinctive inspection certificates.

[1973 c 80 s 1]

169.47 Unsafe equipment

Subdivision 1. Misdemeanor. It is unlawful and punishable as hereinafter provided for any person to drive or for the owner to cause or knowingly permit to be driven on any highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles which is in such unsafe condition as to endanger any person, or which does not contain those parts or is not at all times equipped with such lamps and other equipment in proper condition and adjustment as required in this chapter, or which is equipped in any manner in violation of this chapter, or for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required under this chapter.

The provisions of this chapter with respect to equipment on vehicles shall not apply to implements of husbandry, road machinery, road rollers, or farm tractors, except as herein made applicable. For purposes of this section, a specialized vehicle resembling a low-slung two wheel trailer having a short bed or platform shall be deemed to be an implement of husbandry when such vehicle is used exclusively to transport implements of husbandry, provided, however, that no such vehicle shall operate on the highway before sunrise or after sunset unless proper lighting is affixed to the implement being drawn.

Subd. 2. Vehicle modifications. It is unlawful for any person to drive or operate or for the owner to cause or knowingly permit to be driven or operated on any highway any motor vehicle, passenger automobile, motor scooter or station wagon as defined in section 168.011, or motorcycle as defined in section 169.01, subdivision 4 in which road clearance, center of gravity, braking, or steering has been altered or modified in any manner which has been prohibited by rules and regulations adopted by the commissioner of public safety.

[1973 c 730 s 1]

169.52 Projecting loads; lights and flags

When the load upon any vehicle extends to the rear four feet or more beyond the bed or body of such vehicle there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of the load, at the times when lighted lamps on vehicles are required in this chapter, a red light or lantern plainly visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the sides and rear. The light or lantern required under this section shall be in addition to the rear light required upon every vehicle. At any time when no lights are required there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of such load a red, yellow or orange flag or cloth not less than 16 inches square.

[1973 c 56 s 1]

169.72 Surface of tires; tires with metal studs

Subdivision 1. Every solid rubber tire on a vehicle shall have rubber on its entire traction surface at least one inch thick above the edge of the flange of the entire periphery.

No person shall operate or move on any highway any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, having any metal tire in contact with the roadway, except in case of emergency.

Except as provided in this section no tire on a vehicle moved on a highway shall have on its periphery any block, stud, flange, cleat, or spike or any other protuberances of any material other than rubber which projects beyond the tread of the traction surface of the tire. It shall be permissible to use any of the following on highways: Farm machinery with tires having protu-

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berances which will not injure the highway, and tire chains of reasonable proportions upon any vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice, or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid.

The commissioner and local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may, in their discretion, issue special permits authorizing the operation upon a highway of traction engines or tractors having movable tracks with transverse corrugations upon the periphery of such movable tracks or farm tractors or other farm machinery, the operation of which upon a highway would otherwise be prohibited under this chapter.

[1973 c 378 s 1]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1973 c 378 s 3]

Subd. 3. The commissioner of highways shall prescribe specifications and guidelines for an in-depth study or test of the damage, if any, that may be caused to the public roadways of this state from the use of pneumatic tires that have embedded in them wire or wire coils for improving traction on ice and snow. The cost of such study and test shall be paid for by others, and no part of the study shall be paid for out of state funds except as may be incidentally spent for preparing specifications and guidelines. The study or test, if it is to be effective for the purposes of this subdivision, shall be made in accordance with the specifications and guidelines of the commissioner of highways, and the tires so studied and tested shall be so constructed that the percent of wire or wire coils in contact with the roadway will not exceed, during the first 1,000 miles of use or operation, 20 percent of the total tire area in contact with the roadway, and after the first 1,000 miles of use or operation of such tires, the wire or wire coils in contact with the roadway will not exceed eight percent of the total tire area contact with the roadway. The commissioner of highways shall promptly evaluate the results of the study, and if he determines that the use of pneumatic tires embedded with wire or wire coils meeting the above test specifications as to percentage of wire or wire coils in contact with the roadway will not damage the streets and highways or that the use of such tires will only cause slight and tolerable damage to the streets and highways, he shall, by order, authorize the use of such tires on the streets and highways of this state, specifying in such order the months during which the tires may be used. The metal wire or coils used in such tires shall be of a limited hardness so that the wire or coils shall wear at the same rate as the rubber in such tires. When the tire is at rest, the wire or coils shall not protrude beyond the rubber surface of the tire, or shall protrude only to such an insignificant amount as not to cause damage to the highway roadways beyond the tolerable limits set by the commissioner. A certified copy of the order shall be filed with the secretary of state prior to the date that such tires are authorized by the order to be used on the highways and streets. The use of such tires in accordance with, and during the times specified in, the commissioner's order shall be lawful notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 1.

[1973 c 378 s 2]

169.80 Size, weight, load

Subdivision 1. Limitations. It is a misdemeanor for any person to drive or move, or for the owner to cause or knowingly permit to be driven or moved, on any highway any vehicle or vehicles of a size or weight exceeding the limitations stated in sections 169.80 to 169.88, or otherwise in violation of sections 169.80 to 169.88, and the maximum size and weight of vehicles herein specified shall be lawful throughout this state, and local authorities shall have no power or authority to alter these limitations except as express authority may be granted in sections 169.80 to 169.88.

When all the axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles are weighed separately the sum of the weights of the axles so weighed shall be evidence of the total gross weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles so weighed.

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When each of the axles of any group that contains two or more consecutive axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles have been weighed separately the sum of the weights of the axles so weighed shall be evidence of the total gross weight on the group of axles so weighed.

When, in any group of three or more consecutive axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles any axles have been weighed separately and two or more axles consecutive to each other in said group have been weighed together, the sum of the weights of the axles weighed separately and the axles weighed together shall be evidence of the total gross weight of the group of axles so weighed.

The provisions of sections 169.80 to 169.88 governing size, weight, and load shall not apply to fire apparatus, or to implements of husbandry temporarily moved upon a highway, or to loads of loose hay or corn stalks if transported by a horse-drawn vehicle or drawn by a farm tractor, or to a vehicle operated under the terms of a special permit issued as herein provided. For purposes of sections 169.80 to 169.88, a specialized vehicle resembling a low-slung two wheel trailer having a short bed or platform shall be deemed to be an implement of husbandry when such vehicle is used exclusively to transport implements of husbandry; and the term "temporarily moved upon a highway" shall mean a movement not to exceed 50 miles.

[1973 c 148 s 1]

[For text of subds. 2 and 3, see M.S.1971]

169.81 Height and length limitation

[For text of subd. 1, see M.S.1971]

Subd. 2. Municipal regulation of length. The governing body of any city or village is hereby authorized by ordinance to provide for the maximum length of any motor vehicle, or combination of motor vehicles, or the number of vehicles that may be fastened together, and which may be operated upon the streets or highways of such city; provided, that such ordinance shall not prescribe a length less than that permitted by state law. Any such motor vehicle operated in compliance with such ordinance on the streets or highways of such city shall not be deemed to be in violation of this chapter. A truck tractor and semitrailer shall be regarded as a combination of vehicles for the purpose of determining lawful length.

[1973 c 707 s 1]

Subd. 3. Length of combinations and semitrailers and tractors. No combination of vehicles coupled together unladen or with load, including truck trailers and semitrailers, shall exceed a total length of 55 feet, provided that this limitation shall not apply to the transportation of telegraph poles, telephone poles, electric light and power poles, piling, or pole length pulpwood, and subject to the following further exceptions: Said length limitations shall not apply to vehicles when transporting pipe, or other objects by a public utility when required for emergency or repair of public service facilities or when operated under special permits as provided in this subdivision, but in respect to night transportation every such vehicle and the load thereon shall be equipped with a sufficient number of clearance lamps and marker lamps on both sides and upon the extreme ends of any projecting load to clearly mark the dimensions of such load. Mount combinations may be drawn but such combinations may not exceed 55 feet in length. Said limitation on the number of units shall not apply to vehicles used for transporting milk from point of production to point of first processing, in which case no combination of vehicles coupled together unladen or with load, including truck tractor and semitrailers, shall consist of more than three units

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and no such combination of vehicles shall exceed a total length of 55 feet. For the purpose of registration, trailers coupled with a truck-tractor, semi-trailer combination shall be considered the same as semi-trailers. The state, as to state trunk highways, and any city, village, borough or town, as to roads or streets located therein, may issue permits authorizing the transportation of combinations of vehicles exceeding the limitations herein contained over highways, roads or streets within their boundaries.

[1973 c 17 s 1; 1973 c 546 s 4; 1973 c 707 s 2]

[For text of subd. 4, see M.S.1971]

Subd. 5. Manner of loading. No vehicle shall be driven or moved on any highway unless such vehicle is so constructed, loaded, or the load securely covered as to prevent any of its load from dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping therefrom, except that sand may be dropped for the purpose of securing traction, or water or other substances may be sprinkled on a roadway in cleaning or maintaining such roadway. This subdivision shall not apply to motor vehicles operated by a farmer or his agent when transporting produce he has produced.

[1973 c 666 s 1]

[For text of subds. 6 and 7, see M.S.1971]

169.82 Trailer equipment

Any trailer exceeding a gross weight of 6,000 pounds shall be equipped with brakes adequate to stop and hold such trailer, and which are so constructed that they will so operate whenever such trailer becomes detached from the towing vehicle.

When one vehicle is towing another the draw-bar or other connection shall be of sufficient strength to pull all weight towed thereby, and said draw-bar or other connection shall not exceed 15 feet from one vehicle to the other except the connection between any two vehicles transporting poles, pipe, machinery or other objects of structural nature which cannot readily be dismembered.

When one vehicle is towing another and the connection consists of a chain, rope, or cable, there shall be displayed upon such connection a white, red, yellow or orange flag or cloth not less than 12 inches square.

Every trailer or semi-trailer shall be hitched to the motor vehicles furnishing the tractive power for it by a device approved by the commissioner of public safety as safe and in addition shall be equipped with safety chains permanently attached to the trailer except that where the coupling device is a regulation fifth wheel and king pin assembly approved by the commissioner of public safety such safety chains shall not be required. In towing, such chains shall be carried through a ring on the tow-bar and attached to the towing vehicle, and shall be of sufficient strength to control the trailer in event of failure of the towing device.

[1973 c 10 s 1]

169.83 Weight limitations

Subdivision 1. Pneumatic-tired vehicles. No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with pneumatic tires shall be operated upon the highways of this state:

1. Where the gross weight on any wheel exceeds 9,000 pounds;
2. Where the gross weight on any single axle exceeds 18,000 pounds;
3. This limitation shall be increased by 20 percent from January 1 through March 7 each winter for haulers of raw and unfinished forest products in the following specified zone of the state, where frost conditions are

most constant and of longest durations: The zone is bounded as follows: Beginning at Pigeon River, in the northeast corner of Minnesota; thence, in a southwesterly direction along the north shore of Lake Superior to the Minnesota-Wisconsin border; thence, southerly along this border to Trunk Highway No. 48; thence westerly along Trunk Highway No. 48 to Interstate Highway No. 35; thence southerly along Interstate Highway No. 35 to Trunk Highway No. 23; thence southwesterly along Trunk Highway No. 23 to Trunk Highway No. 52 and Interstate Highway No. 94; thence northwesterly along said highways to Trunk Highway No. 29; thence northerly along Trunk Highway No. 29 to Trunk Highway No. 210; thence westerly along Trunk Highway No. 210 to Trunk Highway No. 108; thence northwesterly along Trunk Highway 108 to Trunk Highway No. 78; thence northerly along Trunk Highway No. 78 to Trunk Highway No. 10; thence northwesterly along Trunk Highway No. 10 to Trunk Highway No. 59; thence northerly along Trunk Highway No. 59 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 2; thence, westerly along Trunk Highway No. 2 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 32; thence, northerly along Trunk Highway No. 32 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 11; thence, northeast along Trunk Highway No. 11 to the east line of Range 43 W. to the Minnesota-Canadian Border; thence, easterly along said Border to Lake Superior; and further, this limitation shall be increased by 20 percent from December 1 through March 7 each winter for haulers of raw and unfinished forest products, subject to limitation by order of the commissioner of highways, in that part of the above zone bounded as follows: Beginning at Pigeon River in the northeast corner of Minnesota; thence in a southwesterly direction along the north shore of Lake Superior along Trunk Highway No. 61 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 210; thence westerly along Trunk Highway No. 210 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 10; thence northwesterly along Trunk Highway No. 10 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 59; thence northerly along Trunk Highway No. 59 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 2; thence westerly along Trunk Highway No. 2 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 32; thence northerly along Trunk Highway No. 32 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 11; thence northeast along Trunk Highway No. 11 to the east line of Range 43W to the Minnesota-Canadian Border; thence easterly along said Border to Lake Superior.

In all cases where gross weights in an amount less than in this subdivision set forth are fixed, limited or restricted on any highway or bridge by or pursuant to any other section of this chapter such lesser gross weight as so fixed, limited or restricted shall not be exceeded and in such case shall control instead of the gross weight in this subdivision set forth.

[1973 c 353 s 1]

Subd. 2. Gross weight schedule. (1) No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with pneumatic tires shall be operated upon the highways of this state where the total gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles of any vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeds that given in the following table for the distance between the centers of the first and last axles of any group of two or more consecutive axles under consideration; the distance between axles being measured longitudinally to the nearest even foot, and when the measurement is a fraction of exactly one-half foot the next largest whole number in feet shall be used, except that when the distance between axles is more than three feet four inches and less than three feet six inches the distance of four feet shall be used:

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Maximum gross weight in pounds on a group of

Distances in feet between centers of foremost and rearmost axles of a group	2 consecutive axles of a 2-axle vehicle or of any vehicle or combination of vehicles having a total of 3 or more axles	3 consecutive axles of a 3-axle vehicle or of any vehicle or combination of vehicles having a total of 3 or more axles	4 consecutive axles of any combination of vehicles having a total of 4 or more axles
4	32,000		
5	32,000		
6	32,000		
7	32,000	37,000	
8	33,000	38,500	
9	34,000	39,900	
10	35,000	41,200	42,500
11	36,000	42,400	44,300
12		43,500	46,000
13		44,500	47,600
14		45,500	49,100
15		46,500	50,500
16		47,500	51,800
17		48,500	53,000
18		49,500	54,000
19		50,500	54,500
20		51,500	55,500
21		52,200	56,000
22		52,900	56,500
23		53,600	57,500
24		54,000	58,000
25			58,500
26			59,500
27			60,000
28			60,500
29			61,500
30			62,500
31			63,500
32			64,000

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 169.85, the gross vehicle weight of all axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles shall not exceed 73,280 pounds and the gross weight on any tandem axle shall not exceed 32,000 pounds.

(5) During the times and within the zone set forth in subdivision 1 of this section and not otherwise haulers of raw and unfinished forest products shall not be subject to the foregoing limitations of gross weight for groups of two or more consecutive axles in this subdivision set forth but shall in lieu thereof within such zone and during such time be subject to the gross weight limitations as follows: No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with pneumatic tires shall be operated by haulers of raw and unfinished forest products upon the highways of this state during the times and within the zone in subdivision 1 of this section set forth where the total gross weight on any two or more consecutive axles of any vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeds the product of the coefficient named below multiplied by the sum of

40 plus the distance in feet between the first and last axles of the group of axles under consideration. A coefficient of 800 shall be used where a group of two consecutive axles is under consideration, a coefficient of 860 shall be used where a group of three consecutive axles is under consideration; a coefficient of 900 shall be used where a group of four consecutive axles is under consideration; and a coefficient of 920 shall be used where a group of five or more consecutive axles is under consideration.

(6) In all cases where gross weights in an amount less than in this subdivision set forth are fixed, limited or restricted on any highway or bridge by or pursuant to any other section of this chapter such lesser gross weight as so fixed, limited or restricted shall not be exceeded and in such case shall control instead of the gross weights in this subdivision set forth.

[1973 c 353 s 2]

Subd. 3. Single axle. A single axle as used in this section is defined as including all wheels whose centers may be included within two parallel transverse vertical planes 40 inches apart. In no event shall the front steering axle of any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with pneumatic tires exceed a gross weight of 18,000 pounds.

[1973 c 353 s 3]

[For text of subds. 4 to 6, see M.S.1971]

169.831 Refuse compactor collector vehicles, weight limits

The weight limitation of 18,000 pounds on a single axle, 32,000 pounds on a tandem axle, and 73,280 pounds on all axles, as provided in section 169.83, subdivisions 1 and 2, do not apply to a rear loading refuse compactor collection vehicle used solely for transporting solid waste on streets and highways designated for such transportation by the board of county commissioners of any county or the governing body of any city, village or borough in which the street or highway is located. The gross weight on a compactor collection vehicle transporting solid waste on such designated streets and highways shall not exceed 22,000 pounds on a single axle, 40,000 pounds on both axles, 32,000 pounds on a tandem axle, and 50,000 pounds on three axles. This provision shall not apply on interstate highways where prohibited by federal law.

This section shall expire on July 1, 1975.

[1973 c 357 s 1]

169.86 Special permits

Subdivision 1. Applying for. The commissioner, with respect to highways under his jurisdiction, and local authorities, with respect to highways under their jurisdiction, may, in their discretion, upon application in writing and good cause being shown therefor, issue a special permit, in writing, authorizing the applicant to move a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum specified in this chapter, or otherwise not in conformity with the provisions of this chapter, upon any highway under the jurisdiction of the party granting such permit and for the maintenance of which such party is responsible. Such permits relating to over-width, over-length mobile homes shall not be issued to persons other than mobile home dealers for movement of new units owned by the mobile home dealer, without such person first presenting a statement from the county auditor and treasurer where the unit is presently located, stating all personal and real property taxes have been paid. This statement must be dated within 30 days of the contemplated move.

[1973 c 549 s 3]

[For text of subds. 2 to 5, see M.S.1971]

169.861 Permits for certain combinations

Subdivision 1. Applications. The commissioner shall issue an annual permit to enable a combination of vehicles between 55 and 65 feet in length to

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operate on the public highways. The permit shall entitle the combination of vehicles to operate only on divided highways having four or more lanes of travel, and on such other highways as may be designated by the commissioner of highways subject to section 169.87, subdivision 1, and subject to the approval of the authority having jurisdiction over such highway, for the purpose of providing access between such divided highways of four or more lanes of travel and truck terminals and marshalling yards or for the purpose of providing continuity of route. All vehicles operated under the provisions of this section shall conform to the standards for such vehicles as prescribed by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety, and as may be amended.

Subd. 2. Display. The permit issued under this section shall be displayed on the left side of the truck-tractor of the combination of vehicles, in the immediate vicinity of the painted, printed, stenciled, or decalcomanic, numbering showing the gross registered weight of the combination of vehicles.

Subd. 3. Fees. The commissioner is authorized to charge a fee of \$75 for an annual permit for each combination exceeding 55 but not more than 60 feet in length; and \$200 for each combination exceeding 60 but not more than 65 feet in length. All such fees for permits issued by the commissioner shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the highway user tax distribution fund. This fee may be prorated in the same manner as registration fees are prorated pursuant to section 168.187 and for those vehicles not covered by section 168.187, a trip fee of \$10 for combinations exceeding 55 but not more than 60 feet in length and \$20 for combinations exceeding 60 but not more than 65 feet in length.

[1973 c 546 s 5]

169.87 Seasonal load restrictions; designation of truck routes

[For text of subds. 1 and 2, see M.S.1971]

Subd. 3. School busses. Weight restrictions imposed pursuant to subdivisions 1 and 2 do not apply to a school bus transporting students when the gross weight on a single axle of the school bus does not exceed 14,000 pounds; provided that, road authorities may restrict any highway under their jurisdiction to a lesser school bus axle weight by written order to school boards 24 hours in advance of required compliance with such reduced axle weight.

[1973 c 85 s 1]

169.89 Penalties

Subdivision 1. Violation. Unless otherwise declared in this chapter with respect to particular offenses, it is a petty misdemeanor for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required by this chapter; except that: (a) a violation which is committed in a manner or under circumstances so as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property; or (b) exclusive of violations relating to the standing or parking of an unattended vehicle, a violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, classified therein as a petty misdemeanor, when preceded by two or more convictions within the immediate preceding 12 months period; is a misdemeanor to which the provisions of subdivision 2 shall not apply.

[1973 c 421 s 2]

[For text of subds. 2 to 5, see M.S.1971]

169.972 Establishment of driver improvement clinic; fees

[For text of subd. 1, see M.S.1971]

Subd. 2. The court, municipality or organization conducting a driver improvement clinic may establish reasonable tuition fees not to exceed \$25, but not to exceed the actual cost of the course.

[1973 c 194 s 1]