

South Dakota Codified Law - Title 32 - Motor Vehicles

32-3-1. **Definition of terms.** Terms used in chapters 32-3 to 32-5B, inclusive, mean:

(13) "Noncommercial motor vehicle," any motor vehicle not classified as a commercial motor vehicle;

(14) "Noncommercial trailer or semitrailer," any trailer or semitrailer not used or maintained for the transportation of persons or property for hire, compensation, or profit;

(23) "Trailer," any vehicle without motive power designed for carrying property or passengers wholly on its own structure and for being drawn by a motor vehicle;

South Dakota:

32-3-1. **Definition of terms.** Terms used in chapters 32-3 to 32-5B, inclusive, mean:

(13) "Noncommercial motor vehicle," any motor vehicle not classified as a commercial motor vehicle;

(14) "Noncommercial trailer or semitrailer," any trailer or semitrailer not used or maintained for the transportation of persons or property for hire, compensation, or profit;

(23) "Trailer," any vehicle without motive power designed for carrying property or passengers wholly on its own structure and for being drawn by a motor vehicle;

32-22-5. **Maximum length of vehicle**--Violation as misdemeanor. No motor vehicle may be operated upon a public highway if it has an overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of forty-five feet. A violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

32-22-8.1. **Length limitations on trailers, semitrailers, and auto and boat transporters**--Violation as misdemeanor. Unless otherwise signed, any motor vehicle may travel upon any segment of the national system of interstate and defense highways and the state trunk highway system if the vehicle is operated within the following length limitation:

(1) Fifty-three feet on the length of the semitrailer unit operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer combination;

(2) Twenty-eight and one-half feet on each trailer unit operating in a road tractor-trailer-trailer combination if the towbars do not exceed nineteen feet and the overall length of the trailer-trailer unit including towbars does not exceed eighty feet;

(3) Eighty feet on the overall length of a straight truck-trailer combination, provided that, if the towbar between the straight truck and trailer exceeds nineteen feet, the towbar is flagged during daylight hours and lighted at night; or

(4) The maximum length of a semitrailer-semitrailer or semitrailer-trailer combination, excluding the length of the truck-tractor, is eighty-one and one-half feet provided the maximum length of either unit does not exceed forty-five feet. If the towbar length exceeds nineteen feet, the towbar shall be flagged during daylight hours and lighted at night. The weight of the second unit may not exceed the weight of the first unit by more than three thousand pounds.

No other length limitation may be imposed on the vehicles described in this section. Length limitations are exclusive of load overhang, retractable extensions used to support overhanging load and safety and energy conservation devices, including but not limited to mirrors, turn signal lamps, hand holds, flexible fender extensions, and mud flaps. Load overhang and retractable extensions on any vehicle may not extend more than four feet beyond the rear bumper, bed, or body nor more than three feet beyond the front bumper, bed, or body of the vehicle carried thereon. Retractable extensions shall be retracted if not being used to support overhanging load. If a vehicle exceeds the length limitations of this section, the driver of the vehicle is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

32-22-9. Combination of vehicles of more than two units--Violation as misdemeanor. Except as provided by §§ 32-19-8, 32-22-8.1, 32-22-10, 32-22-11, 32-22-12.1, and 32-22-12.2, any combination of vehicles consisting of more than two units, including a truck, tractor, or towing vehicle, may not operate on a public highway. A violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

32-22-10. Requirements for combination vehicles. Combinations of vehicles of not more than three units may be operated upon a public highway if the combinations consist of truck tractor--semitrailer--semitrailer converted to full trailer by use of a dolly equipped with fifth wheel which is considered a part of the trailer for all purposes and not as a separate unit; truck tractor--semitrailer--full trailer; or truck tractor--semitrailer--semitrailer. If a combination consists of more than two units, the rear unit of the combination shall have breakaway brakes.

32-22-14. Maximum height of vehicles--Farm and fire vehicles excepted--Trailers carrying baled hay--Duty to provide vertical clearance--Violation as misdemeanor. Except for farm

machinery and fire department equipment for which there is no maximum height limit and for trailers carrying baled hay for which the maximum height limit is fourteen feet and three inches, no motor vehicle may operate upon a public highway if the maximum height of such vehicle, including the load thereon, exceeds fourteen feet. Nothing in this section requires the public authorities to provide sufficient vertical clearance to permit the operation of such vehicles. A violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

32-22-5. **Maximum length of vehicle**--Violation as misdemeanor. No motor vehicle may be operated upon a public highway if it has an overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of forty-five feet. A violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

32-22-8.1. **Length limitations on trailers, semitrailers, and auto and boat transporters**--Violation as misdemeanor. Unless otherwise signed, any motor vehicle may travel upon any segment of the national system of interstate and defense highways and the state trunk highway system if the vehicle is operated within the following length limitation:

- (1) Fifty-three feet on the length of the semitrailer unit operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer combination;
- (2) Twenty-eight and one-half feet on each trailer unit operating in a road tractor-trailer-trailer combination if the towbars do not exceed nineteen feet and the overall length of the trailer-trailer unit including towbars does not exceed eighty feet;
- (3) Eighty feet on the overall length of a straight truck-trailer combination, provided that, if the towbar between the straight truck and trailer exceeds nineteen feet, the towbar is flagged during daylight hours and lighted at night; or
- (4) The maximum length of a semitrailer-semitrailer or semitrailer-trailer combination, excluding the length of the truck-tractor, is eighty-one and one-half feet provided the maximum length of either unit does not exceed forty-five feet. If the towbar length exceeds nineteen feet, the towbar shall be flagged during daylight hours and lighted at night. The weight of the second unit may not exceed the weight of the first unit by more than three thousand pounds.

No other length limitation may be imposed on the vehicles described in this section. Length limitations are exclusive of load overhang, retractable extensions used to support overhanging load and safety and energy conservation devices, including but not limited to mirrors, turn signal lamps, hand holds, flexible fender extensions, and mud flaps. Load overhang and retractable extensions on any vehicle may not extend more than four feet beyond the rear bumper, bed, or body nor more than three feet beyond the front bumper, bed, or body of the vehicle carried

thereon. Retractable extensions shall be retracted if not being used to support overhanging load. If a vehicle exceeds the length limitations of this section, the driver of the vehicle is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

32-22-9. **Combination of vehicles of more than two units**--Violation as misdemeanor. Except as provided by §§ 32-19-8, 32-22-8.1, 32-22-10, 32-22-11, 32-22-12.1, and 32-22-12.2, any combination of vehicles consisting of more than two units, including a truck, tractor, or towing vehicle, may not operate on a public highway. A violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

32-22-10. **Requirements for combination vehicles.** Combinations of vehicles of not more than three units may be operated upon a public highway if the combinations consist of truck tractor--semitrailer--semitrailer converted to full trailer by use of a dolly equipped with fifth wheel which is considered a part of the trailer for all purposes and not as a separate unit; truck tractor--semitrailer--full trailer; or truck tractor--semitrailer--semitrailer. If a combination consists of more than two units, the rear unit of the combination shall have breakaway brakes.

32-22-14. **Maximum height of vehicles**--Farm and fire vehicles excepted--Trailers carrying baled hay--Duty to provide vertical clearance--Violation as misdemeanor. Except for farm machinery and fire department equipment for which there is no maximum height limit and for trailers carrying baled hay for which the maximum height limit is fourteen feet and three inches, no motor vehicle may operate upon a public highway if the maximum height of such vehicle, including the load thereon, exceeds fourteen feet. Nothing in this section requires the public authorities to provide sufficient vertical clearance to permit the operation of such vehicles. A violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

32-15-8. Rear view **mirror** — Minimum afforded view — Petty offense.

- Every motor **vehicle** entitled to be licensed in South Dakota shall be equipped with a **mirror** so located as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway for a distance of at least two hundred feet to the rear of such **vehicle**, whether operated singly or towing another **vehicle**. A violation of this section is a petty offense.

32-19-9. Towed trailer — Coupling requirement — Class 2 misdemeanor.

Every trailer which shall be towed on the public highways at a speed in excess of twenty miles per hour shall be coupled to the towing vehicle by means of a safety chain, chains, cables, or equivalent devices in addition to the regular trailer hitch or coupling. This requirement does not apply to a semitrailer having a connecting device composed of a fifth wheel and kingpin assembly meeting the requirement of the interstate commerce commission, nor to a pole, pipe, casing, log or piling dolly. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.