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Georgia Department of Public Safety

Low Boy Trailer Compliance



Officers of the Department of Public Safety's Motor Carrier Compliance Division (MCCD) traditionally encounter two types of vehicles utilized in the Forestry industry. One most notably is a truck-tractor towing a semi-trailer loaded with logs; the other is a truck tractor towing a low boy trailer loaded with a skidder, or other forestry management equipment. Obviously, the logging industry utilizes a variety of equipment to perform specific functions, but without the Low Boy trailer the job would be difficult. The Low Boy trailer comes in several types, for a wide range of tasks, such as hauling heavy equipment; Skidders, Grinders, Loaders, etc., to and from the job site.

All Commercial Motor Vehicles as defined by O.C.G.A 40-1-1 must be mechanically and structurally safe to operate on the roadways of Georgia. Furthermore, all cargo must be secured with the appropriate type and amount of load securement devices as required by Georgia law. Also, motor carriers must use safe drivers to operate such large and cumbersome vehicles. As a point of note, commercial vehicle and driver safety, as well as load securement, is governed by both state and federal law. Specifically, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations and Title 40, O.C.G.A. Additionally, all vehicles must comply with Georgia's size and weight restrictions specified in O.C.G.A. Title 32.

Low Boy Trailers:

Vehicle Safety focuses on the components of the vehicle such as; brakes, frame, lighting, tires and load securement.

Size and Weight focuses on overall dimensions and weight as defined by the Official Criminal Code of Georgia Annotated and the Georgia Department of Transportation Oversize Permit requirements.

While inspecting vehicle components of a Low Boy trailer, officers will inspect components such as frames, tires, steering, suspension, brakes, lighting, and load securement. As a point of note: All loose debris, dunnage, and load securement equipment (when not in use) must be secured or removed from the decks of low boy trailers prior to operating on the highway. NOTE: *Retro-Reflective tape is required on all trailers over 80" wide and over 10,000 Pounds Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR).*



Size and Weight - The general rule for any load that weighs 10,000 lbs. or less requires two tie downs. Any load that is 10,000 lbs. or more requires four separate tie downs. A load that **exceeds** the weight of 80,000 lbs. and dimensions of 8-feet, 6-inches in width, 100 feet in length, or 13-feet, 6-inches in height requires a Permit. *Overweight Permits are **NOT** available for wood.* Oversize and Overweight permits for heavy equipment will not be honored for equipment that can be loaded legally.

Permitted loads are required to be marked as follows; The letters shall be black on orange or yellow backboard and shall be at least eight (8) inches high and four (4) inches wide. The backboard shall be at least one (1) foot high and six (6) feet wide. It shall be mounted on both the front of the vehicle and rear of the vehicle or load over eight feet six inches (8'6") wide, thirteen feet six inches (13'6") high and one hundred (100) feet in length. Such signs shall be removed when an oversize load is no longer being transported by a vehicle that exceeds the legal dimensions. In addition, a square red flag, eighteen inches (18") on a side, shall be displayed at the corners of both sides of such over width vehicle or load, at both the front and rear thereof as defined in the Georgia Department of Transportation (672 rules), governing permits for vehicles or loads of excess weight or dimension.



Permit exemptions for forest management equipment. A permit is not required for Forest management equipment, as long as the vehicle is operated within a 40-mile radius of the owner's property (not leased land), and is operated during daylight hours and on any public road not part of The Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate. OCGA § 32-6-25

As a point of note: Most Low Boy trailers fall within the legal width requirements of 102-inches (8 ½ Feet); however, Low Boy trailers that exceeds 102-inches in width, empty, are required to have an annual permit just to move the trailer on the highways.

The Georgia Department of Public Safety's Motor Carrier Compliance Division (MCCD) is currently engaged in educational campaigns to educate commercial vehicle drivers and motor carriers on rules, regulations, and laws specific to commercial vehicle safety and legal size and weight requirements. To request more information and or request a Safety outreach meeting contact Georgia Department of Public Safety at 404-624-7212. Also, please visit our website at www.dps.georgia.gov.