

3. STATE BRAKE LAWS

Information applies to both travel trailers and fifth wheels unless otherwise noted.
States stopping distance requirements and performance requirements are not addressed. Contains no information on air brake requirements.

State/Citation	Required Over Gross Weight [†]	Number of Wheels	Number of Axles	Exemptions/Other Requirements	Comments	Automatic Trailer Brake Application Upon Breakaway Required		
						Over Gross Weight	Minutes Hold Time	Number of Wheels
ALABAMA Rule 760-X.09	3,000	All	n/s	Trailers less than 3,000 pounds: total weight on and including wheels shall not exceed 40% of the gross weight of towing vehicle when connected to trailer and combination is capable of complying with state's performance requirements. If weight exceeds, then it needs brakes.		3,000	15	All
ALASKA Rule 13AAC 04.205	5,000	2/side 1/side	3 2 or 1	Towing vehicle must be of sufficient size and weight to safely control towed vehicle.		5,000	n/s	All required brakes
ARIZONA 28-952	3,000 5,999	All All	1 n/s	Means shall be provided for applying rear-most trailer brakes of any trailer equipped with brakes, in approximate synchronism with brakes on towing vehicle and developing the required braking effort on the rear-most wheels at the fastest rate; or means shall be provided for applying braking effort first on rear-most trailer equipped with brakes. Both of the above means, capable of being used alternatively may be employed.	Must be designed to either be applied by driver of towing vehicle or of a type which will operate automatically when service brakes of towing vehicle are applied.	3,000	n/s	n/s
ARKANSAS 27-37-501	3,000	All	n/s	Semitrailers less than 1,500 pounds gross weight need not be equipped with brakes.		3,000	n/s	n/s
CALIFORNIA 26303, 26304	1,500	2	n/s			A	15	n/s
COLORADO 42-2-220	3,000	All	n/s			3,000	n/s	n/s
CONNECTICUT 14-81	3,000	All	n/s	Brakes on trailers under 8,000 pounds gross weight need not be capable of being operated from driver's seat of towing vehicle by either hand or foot.				

[†]Gross weight is combined weight of vehicle and its load. • A=All trailers over 1,500 GVWR equipped with power brakes. • n/s=not specified

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DELAWARE 21-4305	4,000	n/s	n/s					
FLORIDA 16.261+ Break-away Subsection of 16.263	3,000	All	n/s	Trailers less than 3,000 pounds: total weight on and including wheels of trailer shall not exceed 40% of gross weight of towing vehicle when connected to trailer and combination is capable of complying with state's performance requirements. If exceeds, then needs brakes.	X	3,000	15	All
GEORGIA 40-8-50	2,500	All	n/s	40-8-50 requires 30' stopping distance from 20 miles per hour.				
HAWAII Rule 393.42	3,000	All	n/s	Trailers less than 3,000 pounds: total weight on and including wheels of trailer shall not exceed 40% of gross weight of towing vehicle when connected to trailer and combination is capable of complying with state's performance requirements. If exceeds, then needs brakes.	Each county has own requirements.			
IDAHO 49-933	1,500 unladen	All	n/s			1,500 unladen	n/s	n/s
ILLINOIS 5/12-301	3,000 5,000	1/side All	n/s n/s			5,000	n/s	n/s
INDIANA 9-19-3-3	3,000	n/s	n/s			3,000	n/s	n/s
IOWA 321.430	3,000	All	n/s	If not applied by driver of tow vehicle, then trailer must have self-actuating brakes and weight equalizing hitch with a sway control of a type approved by director of transportation. Must be equipped with a separate auxiliary means of applying brakes from cab of towing vehicle.				

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KANSAS 8-1734				Trailer combination must have a braking system capable of stopping it within 40' from an initial speed of 20 mph.	No brake information for trailers			
KENTUCKY 189.090				Combination shall be able to stop when traveling 20 mph within a distance of 30'	No brake information for trailers			
LOUISIANA 32:341	3,000 5,001	All n/s	1 n/s	Semitrailers less than 1,500 pounds gross weight need not be equipped with brakes if sold and operated within state.		3,000	n/s	n/s
MAINE 1652 4	3,000	All	All					
MARYLAND 22-301	3,000 10,000	All All	1 of 2 n/s	Trailers less than 3,000 pounds: total weight on and including wheels of trailer shall not exceed 40% of gross weight of towing vehicle when connected to trailer and combination is capable of complying with state's performance requirements.		3,000 10,000	15 15	All of one axle All
MASSACHUSETTS 90.7	10,000 unladen	n/s	n/s	Must have air or electric brakes.				
MICHIGAN 257.705.28.1479 Sec. 5.79	3,000	All	n/s	Trailers less than 3,000 pounds gross weight need not be equipped with brakes if gross weight of trailer and load do not exceed 40% of gross weight of towing vehicle. Trailers 5,000 pounds and over shall be equipped with brakes designed to be applied by driver of towing vehicle.				
MINNESOTA 169.67:169.82	3,000 GVWR	All	n/s	Brakes required if trailer exceeds empty weight of towing vehicle.		6,000 GVWR	n/s	n/s
MISSISSIPPI 63-7-51	2,000	All	n/s	Brakes not required for two-axle trailers less than 2,000 pounds gross towed by an automobile.		2,000	n/s	n/s

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MISSOURI					No brake information for trailers			
MONTANA 61-9-304	3,000	n/s	n/s	Trailers less than 3,000 pounds: total weight on and including wheels shall not exceed 40% of the gross weight of towing vehicle when connected to trailer and combination is capable of complying with state's performance requirements. If exceeds, then needs brakes		3,000	15	All
NEBRASKA 39-6-134	3,000 6,500 GVWR	2 All	n/s n/s			3,000 6,500 GVWR	n/s n/s	n/s n/s
NEVADA 484.593	1,500	All	n/s n/s			1,500	15	All
NEW HAMPSHIRE 266:30	1,500	n/s	n/s					
NEW JERSEY 39:3-67	3,000	n/s	n/s	Trailers less than 3,000 pounds: total weight shall not exceed 40% of the gross weight of the towing vehicle when vehicles are connected. Trailer brakes must be applied in approximate synchronism with brakes of towing vehicle and developing the required braking efforts on the wheels of rear-most vehicle at fastest rate; or means shall be provided for applying braking effort first on rear-most vehicle equipped with brakes. Both of the above means capable of being used alternatively may be employed.		3,000	Adequate	n/s

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NEW MEXICO 66-3-840	3,000	2	n/s	Means shall be provided for applying the rear-most trailer brakes, of any trailer equipped with brakes, in approximate synchronism with the brakes on the towing vehicle and developing the required braking effort on the rear-most wheels at the fastest rate; or means shall be provided for applying braking effort first on the rear-most trailer equipped with brakes. Both of the above means capable of being used alternatively may be employed.				
NEW YORK 375 Rule 15 41.1	1,000 unladen 3,000 GVWR	n/s	n/s	Brakes which can be applied to every wheel must stop within 30' and brakes which cannot be applied to every wheel, 45' from a speed of 20 mph.				
NORTH CAROLINA 20-124	1,000	n/s	n/s					
NORTH DAKOTA 39-21-32	All	n/s	n/s	Safety chains may be used in lieu of brakes or trailers.		All	n/s	n/s
OHIO 4513.20	2,000	n/s	n/s	Means shall be provided for applying the rear-most brakes in approximate synchronism with the brakes on the towing vehicle, and developing the required braking effort on the rear-most wheels at the fastest rate; or means shall be provided for applying braking effort first on the rear-most brakes. Both of the above means capable of being used alternatively may be employed. Combinations of vehicles not having brakes on all wheels shall come to a stop in 40' or less from a speed of 20 mph.		2,000	n/s	n/s

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OKLAHOMA 47-12-301	3,000	All	n/s			3,000	15	n/s
OREGON 815.125					No brake information for trailers			
PENNSYLVANIA 4502. Rule 175.123	3,000	All	n/s	Trailers less than 3,00 pounds gross weight need not be equipped with brakes if gross weight of trailer and load do not exceed 40% of gross weight of towing vehicle. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surge or inertia brakes are authorized. • A vehicle to which additional axles and wheels have been added shall be equipped with brakes on the additional wheels. 		3,000	n/s	n/s
RHODE ISLAND 31-23-4	4,000	All	n/s	Means shall be provided for applying the rear-most trailer brakes, of any trailer equipped with brakes in approximate synchronism with the brakes on the towing vehicle and developing the required braking effort on the rear-most wheels at the fastest rate; or means shall be provided for applying braking effort first on the rear-most trailer equipped with brakes. Both of the above means capable of being used alternatively, may be employed.		4,000	n/s	n/s

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SOUTH CAROLINA 56-5-4850	3,000	All	n/s	Trailer less than 3,000 pounds: total weight on and including wheels shall not exceed 40% of the gross weight of towing vehicle when connected to trailer and combination is capable of complying with state's performance requirements. If exceeds, then needs brakes.	Trailers equipped with special automatic braking systems actuated by forward pressure on the towing hitch when towing vehicle is braked, shall satisfy the one control requirement.	3,000	15	All
SOUTH DAKOTA 56-5-4850	3,000	All	n/s	Trailer less than 3,000 pounds: total weight on and including wheels shall not exceed 40% of the gross weight of towing vehicle when connected to trailer and combination is capable of complying with state's performance requirements. If exceeds, then needs brakes.		3,000	15	All
TENNESSEE 55-9-204	3,000	All	n/s	Semitrailers less than 1,500 pounds do not need brakes		3,000	n/s	n/s
TEXAS 547.401	4,500 15,000	All All	Rear n/s	Surge or inertia brakes may be used on trailers less than 15,000 GVWR.		3,000	15	All
UTAH Rule 714-300-4	2,000	n/s	n/s			3,000	n/s	n/s
VERMONT 23.1307	3,000 6,000	All All	1 1 of 2 2 of 3	Trailers less than 3,000 pounds do not need brakes provided total weight of trailer does not exceed 40% of gross weight of towing vehicle when connected to trailer. If exceeds, then needs brakes.		3,000	15	n/s
VIRGINIA 46.2-1070:-1067	3,000	n/s	n/s	Combination must be able to stop within 40'. Trailers 3,000 lbs. to 10,000 lbs. require brakes on one axle.				

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WASHINGTON 46.37.340	3,000	All	n/s	Trailer less than 3,000 pounds: total weight on and including wheels shall not exceed 40% of the gross weight of towing vehicle when connected to trailer and combination is capable of complying with state's performance requirements. If exceeds, then needs brakes.		3,000	15	All
WEST VIRGINIA 17C--15-31	3,000	All	n/s	Fifth wheels less than 1,500 pounds need not be equipped with brakes.		3,000	n/s	n/s
WISCONSIN 347.35	All	n/s	n/s	Folding camping trailers under 3,000 pounds do not need brakes.				
WYOMING 31-5-950				Combination must be able to stop within 40' from an initial speed of 20 mph.	No brake information for trailers			
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 18DCMR720	3,000	All	n/s	Trailers less than 3,000 pounds: total weight on and including wheels shall not exceed 40% of the gross weight of towing vehicle when connected to trailer and combination is capable of complying with district's performance requirements. If exceeds, then needs brakes.				

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