

**Chapter 296-865 WAC  
Safety Standards for Motor Vehicles  
(Form Number F414-131-000)**

This book contains rules for Safety Standards for motor vehicles, as adopted under the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act of 1973 (Chapter 49.17 RCW).

The rules in this book are effective December 2015. A brief promulgation history, set within brackets at the end of this chapter, gives statutory authority, administrative order of promulgation, and date of adoption of filing.

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**DOSH CONTACT INFORMATION:**

- **Physical address:**  
7273 Linderson Way  
Tumwater, WA 98501-5414  
(Located off I-5 Exit 101 south of Tumwater.)
- **Mailing address:**  
DOSH Standards and Information  
PO Box 44810  
Olympia, WA 98504-4810
- Telephone: 1-800-423-7233
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## Chapter 296-865 WAC Safety Standards for Motor Vehicles

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**WAC 296-865-099 Definitions.**

**Motor vehicle.** Any vehicle, machine, tractor, trailer, or any combination of these that is driven by mechanical power and used on the roadways in the transportation of people or materials.

**Semitruck.** A truck and trailer combination designed and used primarily for carrying material and property.

**Trailer.** A non-motorized vehicle designed to be towed by a motor vehicle.

**Truck.** Any motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property.

## **WAC 296-865-100 Scope.**

This chapter applies to all motor vehicles and semitrucks used on public or private roadways.

<b>EXEMPTION:</b>
<p>This section does not apply to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Powered industrial trucks (forklifts) covered by another chapter, Powered industrial trucks, Chapter <a href="#">296-863</a> WAC;</li><li>2. Construction equipment covered by another chapter, Safety standards for construction work, Chapter <a href="#">296-155</a> WAC;</li><li>3. Rigging trucks covered by another chapter, Logging operations, Chapter <a href="#">296-54</a> WAC; and</li><li>4. Agricultural equipment covered by another chapter, Safety standards for agriculture, Chapter <a href="#">296-307</a> WAC.</li></ol>

## **WAC 296-865-200 All motor vehicles.**

**Your responsibility:** To make sure all motor vehicle occupants are safe and equipment is safe to use.

<b><i>You must meet the requirements...</i></b>	<b><i>In this section</i></b>
Motor vehicle operation	<a href="#">WAC 296-865-20005</a>
Transportation of passengers	<a href="#">WAC 296-865-20010</a>
Motor vehicle equipment	<a href="#">WAC 296-865-20015</a>

### **WAC 296-865-20005 Motor vehicle operation.**

- (1) You must allow only drivers who are qualified to operate a motor vehicle.
- (2) You must allow only drivers who have a current motor vehicle operator's license to operate motor vehicles on public roadways.
- (3) You must make sure employees follow any site-specific rules and posted speed limits when operating motor vehicles on roadways privately owned and maintained.

### **WAC 296-865-20010 Transportation of passengers.**

- (1) You must transport all passengers safely.
- (2) You must make sure all employees use seat belts, if the vehicle is equipped with seat belts.

<b>EXEMPTION:</b>
This does not apply to emergency medical workers during the treatment of a patient in an ambulance.

- (3) You must make sure vehicles used to transport employees are, at all times:
  - (a) Well equipped;
  - (b) Covered against the weather; and
  - (c) Maintained in good mechanical condition.
- (4) You must make sure when transporting sharp tools that could present a hazard to employees in the vehicle that you provide compartments or (cargo) screens strong enough to retain the tools.

### **WAC 296-865-20015 Motor vehicle equipment.**

- (1) You must make sure all equipment operated on public roadways meets all of the state of Washington motor vehicle laws.
- (2) You must make sure all parts and accessories are safe to use.

- (3) You must make sure all motor vehicle equipment meets the specification or requirements in Table 1.

<b>Table 1 Motor Vehicle Equipment</b>	
<b>If you have this type of equipment:</b>	<b>Then make sure the equipment is:</b>
Seats	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Properly secured; and</li> <li>2. Available for every employee in the vehicle.</li> </ol>
Tires	Safe to use
Exhaust systems	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Designed to eliminate the exposure of exhaust gases and fumes; and</li> <li>2. Installed and maintained in proper condition.</li> </ol>
Fire extinguishers	Provided when the vehicle is: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At least 26,000 pounds (manufacturer's gross weight); and</li> <li>2. Only used in the state of Washington.</li> </ol>

## **WAC 296-865-300 Trucks and trailers.**

**Your responsibility:** To make sure all trucks and trailers are operated and maintained safely.

<b><i>You must meet the requirements...</i></b>	<b><i>in this section</i></b>
Truck operation	<a href="#">WAC 296-865-30005</a>
Dump trucks	<a href="#">WAC 296-865-30010</a>
Semitruck brakes	<a href="#">WAC 296-865-30015</a>
Truck and trailer loads	<a href="#">WAC 296-865-30020</a>

### **WAC 296-865-30005 Truck operation.**

- (1) You must make sure truck drivers operate equipment at a safe speed at all times for roadway conditions.
- (2) You must make sure truck drivers either:
  - (a) Sound their horn before starting to back and intermittently during the entire backing operation; or
  - (b) Have a working automatic reverse signal alarm that is audible:
    - (i) Above the surrounding noise level; and
    - (ii) No less than 15 feet from the rear of the vehicle.
- (3) You must make sure, during the backing of trucks where vision is obstructed, a signal person is stationed at a point giving a clear view of the rear of the truck and the operator of the truck at all times.

### **WAC 296-865-30010 Dump trucks.**

You must make sure dump trucks have a device installed on the frame that will hold the bed in the raised position when employees are working underneath.

### **WAC 296-865-30015 Semitruck brakes.**

- (1) You must make sure semitrucks are equipped with brakes that will safely hold the maximum load on maximum grades.

**Note:** Trailers may use air brakes or other types of brake equipment approved by the Washington state patrol.

- (2) You must test brakes before descending a steep grade.
- (3) You must follow the requirements in Table 2, Semitruck Braking Requirements.

<b>Table 2 Semitruck Braking Requirements</b>	
<b>When:</b>	<b>You must:</b>
You park a truck on an incline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Turn the wheels into the curb; and</li> <li>2. Have at least one "driver" wheel chocked on each side, independent of the braking system.</li> </ol>
Using air brakes	Cut air into the trailer brake system at the time the trailer is attached to the truck.

### **WAC 296-865-30020 Truck and trailer loads.**

You must make sure all loads transported on trucks or trailers are:

- (1) Properly secured and distributed; and
- (2) Limited to a safe operating load for the:
  - (a) Condition of the roadway; and
  - (b) Capacity of the bridges, trestles, and other structures.

**Notes:** The commercial motor vehicles unit of the Washington state patrol determines how much weight can be carried on a vehicle by factoring manufacture limitations, number of axles, and other variables. For more information:

1. See RCW 46.44.041, Maximum gross weights -- Wheelbase and axle factors; or
2. Contact the commercial motor vehicles unit of the Washington state patrol at [Trucks@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Trucks@wsp.wa.gov).



**WAC 296-865-099 Definitions.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, and .050. 15-23-086 (Order 14-16), § 296-865-099, filed 11/17/15, effective 12/17/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. 05-17-059, § 296-865-099, filed 8/10/05, effective 10/1/05.]

**WAC 296-865-100 Scope.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, and .050. 15-23-086 (Order 14-16), § 296-865-100, filed 11/17/15, effective 12/17/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. 05-17-059, § 296-865-100, filed 8/10/05, effective 10/1/05.]

**WAC 296-865-200 All motor vehicles.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, and .050. 15-23-086 (Order 14-16), § 296-865-200, filed 11/17/15, effective 12/17/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. 05-17-059, § 296-865-200, filed 8/10/05, effective 10/1/05.]

**WAC 296-865-20005 Motor vehicle operation.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, and .050. 15-23-086 (Order 14-16), § 296-865-20005, filed 11/17/15, effective 12/17/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. 05-17-059, § 296-865-20005, filed 8/10/05, effective 10/1/05.]

**WAC 296-865-20010 Transportation of passengers.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, and .050. 15-23-086 (Order 14-16), § 296-865-20010, filed 11/17/15, effective 12/17/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. 05-17-059, § 296-865-20010, filed 8/10/05, effective 10/1/05.]

**WAC 296-865-20015 Motor vehicle equipment.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, and .050. 15-23-086 (Order 14-16), § 296-865-20015, filed 11/17/15, effective 12/17/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. 05-17-059, § 296-865-20015, filed 8/10/05, effective 10/1/05.]

**WAC 296-865-300 Trucks and trailers.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, and .050. 15-23-086 (Order 14-16), § 296-865-300, filed 11/17/15, effective 12/17/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. 05-17-059, § 296-865-300, filed 8/10/05, effective 10/1/05.]

**WAC 296-865-30005 Truck operations.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, and .050. 15-23-086 (Order 14-16), § 296-865-30005, filed 11/17/15, effective 12/17/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. 05-17-059, § 296-865-30005, filed 8/10/05, effective 10/1/05.]

**WAC 296-865-30010 Dump trucks.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, and .050. 15-23-086 (Order 14-16), § 296-865-30010, filed 11/17/15, effective 12/17/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. 05-17-059, § 296-865-30010, filed 8/10/05, effective 10/1/05.]

**WAC 296-865-30015 Semitruck brakes.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, and .050. 15-23-086 (Order 14-16), § 296-865-30015, filed 11/17/15, effective 12/17/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. 05-17-059, § 296-865-30015, filed 8/10/05, effective 10/1/05.]

**WAC 296-865-30020 Truck and trailer loads.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, and .050. 15-23-086 (Order 14-16), § 296-865-30020, filed 11/17/15, effective 12/17/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. 05-17-059, § 296-865-30020, filed 8/10/05, effective 10/1/05.]