

§ 14-107. *Trailers and towed vehicles.*

(a) *When one vehicle is towing another the towbar or other connection shall be of sufficient strength to pull all weight towed thereby and the towbar 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 be readily dismembered.*

(b) *Every full trailer shall be equipped with a towbar and means of attaching the towbar to the towing and towed units which shall be structurally adequate for any weight drawn, properly and securely mounted, without excessive slack but with sufficient play to allow for universal action of the connection, and provided with a suitable locking means to prevent accidental separation of the towed and towing vehicles. The mounting of the trailer hitch (pintle-eye or equivalent mechanism) of the towing motor vehicle shall include sufficient reinforcement or bracing of the frame to provide sufficient strength and rigidity to prevent undue distortion of the frame.*

(c) *Every trailer and semitrailer which is equipped with a tow bar shall be coupled with a safety chain or chains (stay chains or cables) directly to the frame of the motor vehicle by which it is to be towed. Attachment to the pintle hook will not meet this requirement. No more slack shall be left in safety chains or cables than necessary to permit proper turning. Chains or cables shall be connected to the towed and towing vehicle and to the towbar to prevent the towbar from dropping to the ground if the towbar fails.*

(d) *Coupling devices shall be so designed, constructed, and installed, and the vehicles in the combination shall be designed and constructed to insure that any motor vehicle being towed on level, smooth, paved surface will follow in the path of the towing vehicle without shifting or swerving from side to side over 6 inches to each side of the path of the towing vehicle when it is moving in a straight line.*

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

§ 14-108. *Load limits of axles.*

*No axle load shall exceed 22,400 pounds, and with respect to any vehicle equipped with coupled axles (commonly known as tandem axles) spaced 48 inches or more apart measured horizontally between their centerlines, the combined load of the coupled axles shall not exceed 40,000 pounds; and with respect to any vehicle equipped with coupled axles spaced less than 48 inches apart measured horizontally between their centerlines, the combined weight of the coupled axles shall not exceed 36,000 pounds.*

§ 14-109. *Gross weight of vehicles and loads.*

(a) *No vehicle or combination of vehicles shall have a gross weight in pounds, including the load, in excess of that derived from the table below in which the distance in feet shall be measured horizontally between the center lines of the first and the last axles of the vehicles or combination of vehicles:*