

CHAPTER VIII
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE ACT

800 **GENERAL**

The Federal Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 as implemented in California Vehicle Code (CVC) 35401.5 allows on a federally designated system of highways and on access routes that are signed by Caltrans or local authorities the use of semitrailers up to 48 feet in length without king pin restrictions. The use of semitrailers up to 53 feet in length may be used on the system if the kingpin to the center of the rear axle is not greater than 40 feet for multi-axle or 38 feet for single axle and with an unlimited combination length. Situations may arise where a nonreducible load is being moved over the designated system on these semitrailers. The load may move through the state entirely on the designated system (including signed access routes) or it may have an origin or destination which requires use of nondesignated state and/or local highways. In the case of travel entirely on the designated system, and signed terminal access routes, nonreducible oversize/overweight loads on these semitrailers shall be issued permits.

In the situation where the permit movement begins or ends at a location not served by the designated system (including signed terminal access routes), proof of authorization by the local agency or agencies before issuing a permit to move on the designated portion of the state highway system will not be required. A statement by the permittee that he has a permit or other local authorization will suffice.

The description of the equipment should specify "3-axle tractor/48-foot semitrailer" or "3-axle tractor/53-foot semitrailer". The king pin to center of rear axle dimension shall be indicated on the permit.

Caltrans will not permit movement of these semitrailers exceeding the legal king pin to rear axle dimension on nondesignated state highways unless the load justifies their use. Return trips shall be made on designated highways. _____

**NATIONAL NETWORK,
TERMINAL ACCESS
and ALL OTHER
HIGHWAYS**

**NATIONAL NETWORK
and TERMINAL
ACCESS HIGHWAYS
ONLY**

**Tractor-Semitrailer
Combinations**

- Combination length of 65'
- Semitrailer length unlimited if:
- Kingpin to center of rear axle is not greater than 40' for multi-axle or 38' for single axle

- Combination length unlimited if
- Semitrailer length is not greater than 48' (kingpin to center of rear axle unspecified)
- or
- Semitrailer length is not greater than 53' and kingpin to center of rear axle length is not greater than 40' for multi-axle or 38' for single axle

**Tractor-Semitrailer and
Trailer Combinations**

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- Combination length of not greater than 65' when either semitrailer or trailer length exceeds 28'-6"
 - or
 - Combination length of not greater than 75' and neither semitrailer nor trailer length exceeds 28'-6"

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- Combination length unlimited if:
 - Neither semi-trailer nor trailer length is greater than 28'-6"

Tractor-semitrailer and doubles combinations are not subject to Vehicle Code Section 35401 (length limitations) while operating on the National Network Highways, Terminal Access Highways, and signed accesses to services when trailer length limitations for the National Network are met (V.C. Section 35401.5).

Definition of STAA Truck ----

Any tractor-semitrailer combination or set of doubles with length configuration such that the truck may legally operate only on National Network Highways, Terminal Access Highways, and signed accesses to service.