

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation adopts an order to amend TRANS 276.07(13), relating to allowing the operation of double bottoms and certain other vehicles on certain specified highways.

ORDER ADOPTING RULE

Analysis Prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: ss. 85.16(1) and 348.07(4), Stats.

STATUTE INTERPRETED: s. 348.07(4), Stats.

General Summary of Rule. This rule amends Trans 276.07(13), Wisconsin Administrative Code, to add two segments of highway to the designated highway system established under s. 348.07(4), Stats. The actual highway segments¹ that this rule adds to the designated highway system are:

<u>Hwy.</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
STH 60	USH 12 at Sauk City	USH 14 at Spring Green
STH 60	USH 18 at Bridgeport	USH 61 at Boscobel

The long trucks to which this rule applies are those with 53-foot semitrailers, double bottoms and the vehicles which may legally operate on the federal National Network, but which exceed Wisconsin's regular limits on overall length. Generally, no person may operate any of the following vehicles on Wisconsin's highways without a permit: A single vehicle with an overall length in excess of 40 feet², a combination of vehicles with an overall length in excess of 65 feet, a semitrailer longer than 48 feet, an automobile haulaway longer than 66 feet plus allowed overhangs, or a double bottom. Certain exceptions are provided under s. 348.07(2), Stats., which implements provisions of the federal Surface Transportation Assistance Act in Wisconsin.

¹ The rule text often achieves these objectives by consolidating individual segments into contiguous segments with new end points. In order to determine the actual highway segment added, it is necessary to compare the combined old designations with the combined new designation.

² 45-foot buses are allowed on the National Network and Interstate system by Federal law. Section 4006(b) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991.

The effect of this rule will be to extend the provisions of s. 348.07(2)(f), (fm), (gm) and (gr), and s. 348.08(1)(e), Stats., to the highway segments listed above. As a result, vehicles which may legally operate on the federal National Network in Wisconsin will also be allowed to operate on the newly-designated highways. Specifically, this means there will be no overall length limitation for a tractor-semitrailer combination, a double bottom or an automobile haulaway on the affected highway segments. There also will be no length limitation for a truck tractor or road tractor when operated in a tractor-semitrailer combination or as part of a double bottom or an automobile haulaway. Double bottoms will be allowed to operate on the affected highway segments provided neither trailer is longer than 28 feet, 6 inches. Semitrailers up to 53 feet long may also be operated on these highway segments provided the kingpin to rear axle distance does not exceed 43 feet. This distance is measured from the kingpin to the center of the rear axle or, if the semitrailer has a tandem axle, to a point midway between the first and last axles of the tandem. Otherwise, semitrailers, including semitrailers which are part of an automobile haulaway, are limited to 48 feet in length.

These vehicles and combinations are also allowed to operate on undesignated highways for a distance of 5 miles or less from the designated highway in order to reach fuel, food, maintenance, repair, rest, staging, terminal or vehicle assembly or points of loading or unloading.

Fiscal Impact. The Department estimates that there will be no fiscal impact on the liabilities or revenues of any county, city, village, town, school district, technical college district or sewerage district.

Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis. The provisions of this rule adding highway segments to the designated system have no direct adverse effect on small businesses, and may have a favorable effect on those small businesses which are shippers or carriers using the newly-designated routes.

Copies of Rule and Contact Person. Copies of this rule are available without cost upon request to the office of the State Traffic Engineer, P. O. Box 7986, Room 501, Madison, Wisconsin, 53707-7986, telephone (608) 266-1273. For questions about this rule making, please call Ashwani Sharma, Traffic Operations Engineer at (608) 266-1273. Alternate formats of the rule will be provided to individuals at their request.

TEXT OF RULE

Under the authority vested in the state of Wisconsin, department of transportation, by ss. 85.16(1) and 348.07(4), Stats., the department of transportation hereby amends ch. Trans 276, Wisconsin Administrative Code, interpreting s. 348.07(4), Stats., relating

to allowing the operation of double bottoms and certain other vehicles on certain specified highways, as follows:

SECTION 1. Trans 276.07(13) is amended to read:

	<u>Route</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Trans 276.07(13)	STH 60	STH 113 in Lodi	IH 43 E. of Grafton
	<u>STH 60</u>	<u>USH 12 at Sauk City</u>	<u>USH 14 at Spring Green</u>
	<u>STH 60</u>	<u>USH 18 at Bridgeport</u>	<u>USH 61 at Boscobel</u>
	USH 61	IA Line at Dubuque, IA	STH 129 S.E. of Lancaster
	USH 61	STH 129 N.E. of Lancaster	MN Line at LaCrosse
	USH 63	MN Line at Red Wing, MN	USH 2 W. of Ashland
	STH 64	STH 65 in New Richmond	USH 41 in Marinette

(END OF RULE TEXT)

Effective Date. This rule shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register as provided in s. 227.22(2)(intro.), Stats.

Signed at Madison, Wisconsin, this ____ day
of February, 2004.

FRANK J. BUSALACCHI
Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Transportation