
Chapter 4-23 Trailer Plates

Trailer:

A. Definition: Trailer plates are issued to any vehicle or object on wheels and having no motive power of its own, but which is drawn by or used in combination with, a motor vehicle. It shall not include a pole dolly or pole dickey, so called, nor a pair of wheels commonly used as an implement for other purposes than transportation, nor a portable, collapsible or separate two wheel tow dolly limited only to the purpose of transporting or towing a registered vehicle, nor farm machinery or implements when used in connection with the operation of a farm or estate, nor any vehicle when towed behind a farm tractor and used in connection with the operation of a farm or estate.

Camper plates may also be issued to vehicles which meet the definition of House Trailer (a house trailer that has no motor power and is equipped for human habitation—includes bathroom and sink facilities.) These vehicles are not to be used to transport property other than that property used for human habitation or camping purposes. A four wheel tow dolly, when used in conjunction with a tractor/trailer combination, must be registered as a semi-trailer. Trailer weight is always rounded up to the nearest thousand pounds. 11/95

B. Plate Types: There are two types of trailer plates.

Trailer Normal (Plate Type: TRN)

Trailer Normal plates consist of four to six numbers.

Trailer Reserved (Plate Type: TRR)

Trailer Reserved plates consist of three number or less or a combination of letter and numbers (first two digits may be letters TL, TT, TR).

C. Plates Issued: Trailer Normal and Reserved—One plate is issued.

D. Plate Fees:

A **Trailer Normal** plate fee is based on the weight of the trailer at the rate of \$20 per 1,000 pounds.

A **Trailer Reserved** plate is charged the same registration fee as the Trailer Normal plus a \$20 special plate fee

E. Expiration Date: Trailer plates expire annually on November 30.

All trailer registrations fees are reduced by 1/2 on or after September 1.

NOTE: If the total gross weight of a trailer, which is the combined weight of the trailer and its cargo, is 3,000 lbs or less, a MA title is not required.

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Homemade Trailers

Builders of homemade trailers with a gross weight of more than 3,000 lbs. must apply for a MA Assigned Vehicle Identification Number.

The gross weight of a new or used trailer is determined by the manufacturer and will be listed on the trailer's Certificate of Origin and on the trailer itself. The gross weight of a homemade trailer is determined by the builder of the trailer.

NOTE: Log Splitter or Wood Chipper

A trailer registration plate may be issued if the log splitter or wood chipper and trailer are permanent components of one another (i.e. non-detachable). However, a trailer registration may not be issued to a log splitter or wood chipper by itself (i.e. the unit is not permanently attached to a trailer). If the log splitter or wood chipper is detachable, the trailer carrying the log splitter must be insured and registered.

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