

### 3. State Brake Laws

Information applies to both travel trailers and fifth wheels unless otherwise noted.  
States stopping distance requirements and performance requirements are not addressed. Contains no information on air brake requirements.

STATE/ CITATION	BRAKES REQ AT OR ABOVE THIS GVWR	NUMBER OF WHEELS:	NUMBER OF AXLES:	PERFORMANCE REQ.:	MAX. SPEED BRAKES REQUIRED:	EXEMPTIONS / OTHER REQ.:	AUTOMATIC BREAK-AWAY BRAKES REQUIRED?:			SURGE BRAKES: REF. / LIMITATIONS	TOW DOLLIES REFERENCED?:	COMMENTS
							AT OR ABOVE THIS GVWR:	MINUTES TO HOLD:	NUMBER OF WHEELS:			
Alabama Ala. Code 1975 § 32-5-212 (brakes); Ala. Admin Code r. 760-X-1-.09 (brake equipment required); Ala. Code 1975 § 32-9A-2 (commercial motor vehicle safety requirements) – [incorporates 49 C.F.R. § 393.42]; Ala. Code 1975 § 32-2-9 (authority to promulgate motor vehicle rules); Ala. Code 1975 32-9a-1 (definitions) & § 40-12-40 (definitions for licensing of motor vehicles)	3001 lbs. GVWR or great if weight of trailer exceeds 40% of tow vehicle weight	ALL	ALL	40' stopping distance from 20 mph for gross trailer weight 3000 lbs. or less, 50' from 20 for all other CV's, 40' from 20 for tow dollies.	NS		3001 lbs.	15	ALL	NO	YES- Brakes not required for vehicles in drive away or tow- away operations, provided they meet performance requirements of 40' from 20 mph.	Trailers with air / vacuum brakes need separate emergency brake which can be operated from the towing vehicle. Air brake trailers further need separate emergency brake which is independent of air supply.
Alaska Alaska Admin Code Title 13, § 04.205 (Brakes); Alaska Stat. § 28.05.011 (Duty of commissioners to adopt regulations); Alaska Stat. § 28.90.990 (Definitions)	5001 lbs.	2 on each side for 3 axle trailer. 1 on each side for 1 or 2 axle trailers.	2 on each side for 3 axle trailer. 1 on each side for 1 or 2 axle trailers.	40' stopping distance from 20 mph	NS	Cannot tow more than 1 vehicle unless towing vehicle weighs more than 15,000 lbs., has 3 or more axles, and is equipped with air brakes for both the towing and towed vehicles.	5001 lbs.	NS	ALL	NO	NO	
Arizona Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 28-952 (Required Brake Equipment); Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 28-101 (Definitions)	3000 lbs.	ALL	ALL	Vehicles having brakes on all wheels must stop within 30' from 20 mph. Vehicles not having brakes on all wheels must stop within 40' from 20 mph.	NS	Means shall be provided for applying the rear-most trailer brakes, in approximate synchronism with brakes on towing vehicle and developing the required braking effort on the rear-most wheels at the fastest rate; and / or means shall be provided for applying braking effort first on the rear-most trailer equipped with brakes.	3000 lbs.	NS	NS	When operated on a highway a trailer or semitrailer with a GW of 3000 lbs. or more shall be equipped with brakes that are adequate to control the movement of and to stop and to hold the vehicle and that are designed to either be applied by the driver of the towing motor vehicle from its cab or be of a type that operates automatically when the service brakes of the towing motor vehicle are applied.	Yes. Brakes not required if combination is capable of meeting Federal and State braking performance requirements.	The brakes shall be designed and connected so that in case of an accidental breakaway of the towed vehicle the brakes shall be automatically applied, except that brakes are not required on all wheels of a truck that is being towed as a semitrailer and that is being towed in a drive-away, tow- away operation, if the combination of vehicles is capable of complying with all state and federal brake performance requirements. Only those brakes on the vehicle being towed need to be operative as may be necessary to ensure compliance with the performance requirements.

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Arkansas Ark. Code Ann. § 27-37-501 (brakes generally); Ark. Code Ann. § 27-31-502 (Required Capabilities of Vehicle); Ark. Code Ann. § 21-14-210 (Trailers Defined)	3000 lbs. brakes on all wheels	ALL	ALL	50' stopping distance from 20 mph for trailers with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of ten thousand pounds (10,000 lbs.) or more	NS	Trailers and Semi-trailers less than 1500 lbs. gross weight need not be equipped with brakes	3000 lbs.	NS	NS	See comments	NO	
California* Ann. Cal. Vehicle Code § 26302 (Trailer Brake Requirements); Ann. Cal. Vehicle Code § 630 (Trailer definition); Ann. Cal. Vehicle Code § 26303 (trailer coaches and camp trailers brake requirements); Ann. Cal. Vehicle Code § 26304 (breakaway brakes); Ann. Cal. Vehicle Code § 26454 (Brakes – Control and stopping requirements); Ann. Cal. Veh. Code § 670 (Definition of Vehicle); Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 8 § 3475 (Vehicles)	3000 lbs.	1500 lbs. for trailer coaches and camp trailers.	At Least 2 Wheels	40' from 20 mph for tow vehicles with GVWR less than 10,000 lbs., towing any trailer. 50' from 20 mph for all other combinations.	NS	Every trailer coach or camp trailer with a GVW of 1,500 lbs. or more must be equipped with brakes on at least 2 wheels.	3000 lbs./ 1500 lbs.	15	NS	NO	26305: Tow dollies may be equipped with brakes. 26311: Any vehicle being towed in driveaway-tow-away operation need not be equipped with brakes.	
Colorado 42-4-235 (Commercial) Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 42-4-223 (brakes); Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 42-1-102 (definitions); 8 Colo Code Regs § 1507-18 (Rules and Regulations concerning the Use of Surge Brakes)	3000 lbs.	ALL	NS	40' from 20 mph.	NS	Brakes not required for: • Any horse trailer of a capacity of 2 horses or less. • Any trailer that is not "commercial" and that is used by a farmer in farm to market operations. • Tank trailers less than 10,000 lbs. transporting dry or liquid fertilizer, or gaseous fertilizer under pressure.	3000 lbs.	NS	NS	NS	NO	Every trailer or semitrailer of a gross weight of 3,000 lbs. or more shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold such vehicle.  Requirements do not apply to manufactured homes.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Connecticut</p> <p>Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 14-81 (Brake equipment of trailers); Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. §14-1 (Definitions); Conn. Agencies Regs. § 14-80-2a (Service Brakes); Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 14-260n (Definitions)</p>	3000 lbs. brakes on all wheels	ALL	NS	NONE	NS	Electric or air brakes required for all trailers with GVWR greater than 8000 lbs., and on any commercial (under FMCSR) when GCWR is 10,000 lbs. or more when used in interstate commerce, and 18,001 lbs. in intrastate commerce. These braking systems must be operable from the driver's seat.	10,000 lbs.	NS	NS	YES. Allowed on non-commercial vehicles having gross weight of 8000 lbs. or less. Allowed on commercial vehicles if not subject to inter and intra state limits above.	NO	The braking system shall be adequate to control the movement of the trailer safely and to hold the trailer stationary.
<p style="text-align: center;">Delaware</p> <p>Del. Code Ann. tit. 21, § 4305 (Trailers and semi-trailers); Del. Code Ann. tit. 21, § 4304; (Brakes-performance requirements); Del. Code Ann. tit. 21, § 4303 (brakes – general motor vehicle requirements); Del. Code Ann. tit. 21, § 101 (Definitions – Words and Phrases); 7 Del. Admin. Code § 9201-11.1 (Vehicles in Public Lands)</p>	4001 lbs., gross weight or over brakes are required	On at least 2 wheels	NS	30' from 20 mph. 40' from 20 if only have brakes on 2 wheels.	10 mph	Two separate means of applying the brakes are required.		NO		Not directly. See comments	NO	Every motor vehicle when operated on a highway shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement, and to stop and hold such vehicle and any trailer attached thereto, including 2 separate means of applying the brakes.
<p style="text-align: center;">District of Columbia</p>	3000 lbs	All	NS	So long as total weight of the trailer does not exceed 40% of the GVW of the tow vehicle								
<p style="text-align: center;">Florida</p> <p>Fla. Stat. Ann. § 316.261 (Brake equipment required); Fla. Stat. Ann. § 316.262 (Performance ability of motor vehicle brakes); Fla. Stat. Ann. § 316.263 (Maintenance of brakes); Fla. Stat. Ann. § 316.003 (Definitions)</p>	3001 lbs.	ALL	NS	50' from 20 mph when trailer exceeds 3000 lbs. 40' from 20 mph when trailer is less than 3000 lbs.	NS	For trailers 3000 lbs. or less no brakes are required so long as the axle weight of the trailer does not exceed 40 % of the gross weight of the towing vehicle, with the trailer connected, and the combination can stop in 40' from 20 mph.	3001 lbs.	15		NO		Every such vehicle and combination of vehicles shall be equipped with service brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold such vehicle under all conditions of loading, and on any grade incident to its operation.  Every towing vehicle, when used to tow another vehicle equipped with air controlled brakes, in other than driveway or tow away operations, shall be equipped with 2 means for emergency application of the trailer brakes.

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Georgia Ga. Code Ann. § 40-8-50 (Brakes, Equipment required); Ga. Code Ann. § 40-8-53 (Performance ability of brakes) Ga. Code Ann. § 40-1-1 (Definitions)	3000 lbs., or more brakes on all wheels	ALL	NS	30' from 20 mph for combination vehicles having brakes on all wheels. 40' from 20 for combinations not having brakes on all wheels (e.g. tow dollies)	NS	Any farm trailer of 4000 lbs. or less, when empty, does not need brakes when used in or for farm operating purposes.	NS	Only for surge brake trailers		Trailer does not exceed 12,000 lbs. GVWR. Combination weight does not exceed 26,000 Emergency breakaway brake required. Cannot haul liquids or gases in packaging which exceed 119 gal. When used for commercial applications trailer must meet FRCSR's.	Not specifically	
Hawaii 24-85, 88, 89, 97 Haw. Rev. Stat. § 287-1 (Definition of motor vehicle includes trailer); Haw. Rev. Stat. § 286-2 (Definition of Trailer); Haw. Admin. Rules § 19-141 (Incorporation by reference); Honolulu Rules & Ordinances §§ 15-19.24-19.26	3001 lbs.	ALL	NS	30' from 20 mph for combination vehicles having brakes on all wheels. 40' from 20 for combinations not having brakes on all wheels (e.g. tow dollies) (Honolulu 15 9.24)	NS	For trailers 3000 lbs. or less the total weight on the trailer axles shall not exceed 40% of the gross weight of the towing vehicle when connected to the trailer, and the CV must meet the performance requirements above.	3001 lbs.	15	ALL	NO	Any vehicle being towed in drive-away or tow-away operations does not need brakes if it can meet the braking performance requirements (40' from 20 mph)	
Idaho Idaho Code Ann. § 49-933 (Brakes); Idaho Code Ann. § 49-121 (Definition of Trailer)	Unladen weight of 1500 lbs. empty, and a breakaway system	ALL	NS	50' from 20 mph for all trailers with GVWR 10,000 lbs. or above	NS	Every farm trailer while being used hauling agricultural products or livestock from farm to storage, marketing or processing plant, or returning therefrom, and used within a radius of fifty (50) miles, shall be exempt from these braking requirements.	1500 lbs. empty	NS	NS	NO	NO	

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Illinois 625 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 5/12-301 (Brakes); Ill. Admin Code 92, § 390.1020 (Definition of "motor vehicle" includes trailer)	3001 lbs.	Only one wheel per side for trailers 3001 to 5000 lbs. Above 5000 lbs. brakes required on all wheels.	NS	30' from 20 mph. Additionally, hand brake must stop combination in 55' from 20 mph.	NS	Trailer brakes must be operable by driver of towing vehicle from its cab.	5001 lbs.	NS	NS	NO	NO	Every trailer or semitrailer of a gross weight of over 3,000 lbs. must be equipped with brakes when operated upon a highway.
Indiana Ind. Code § 9-19-3-3 (Brakes – Trailers and semi-trailers of gross weight of three thousand pounds or more); See also Ind. Code §§ 9-19-3-1 thru 9-19-3-7(Chapter 3 Brakes)	3000 lbs.	ALL	NS	50' from 20 mph for all trailers with GVWR 10,000 lbs. or more.	NS	Trailer brakes must be operable by driver of towing vehicle from its cab.	3000 lbs.	NS	NS	NO	NO	
Iowa Iowa Code Ann. § 321.430 (Brake, hitch and control requirements); Iowa Code Ann. § 321.431 (Performance Ability); Iowa Code Ann. § 321.1 (Definitions)	3000 lbs.	All	NS	Gross weight of less than five thousand pounds within a distance of thirty feet at 20 mph. gross weight in excess of five thousand pounds within a distance of forty-five feet at 20 mph.	NS	Every trailer of a Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) of 3,000 lbs. must be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold the vehicle, and so designed as to be applied by the driver of the towing motor vehicle from its cab, or with self-actuating brakes, and a weight-equalizing hitch with a sway control.				NO	Yes. Only such brakes on the vehicle or vehicles being towed in a driveaway-towaway operation need be operative as may be necessary to insure compliance by the combination of vehicles with the performance requirements of <b>section 321.431.</b>	
Kansas Kan. Stat. Ann. § 8-1734 (Braking systems for motor vehicles and combinations of vehicles); Kan. Stat. Ann. § 8-126 (Definitions)	Performance based only	NS	NS	40' from 20 mph.	NS					NO	NO	

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Kentucky Ky. Stat. Ann. § 189.090 (Brakes); Ky. Stat. Ann. § 189.010 (Definitions)	Performance based only.	NS for trailer	NS	than 40' from 20 mph. (except for commercial motor vehicles with a declared GVW of more than 10,000 lbs. Hand brake shall be adequate to stop the combination in 55' from 20 mph.	NS	A person shall not operate any commercial motor vehicle with a declared gross weight of over ten thousand (10,000) pounds on any highway in this state unless it is equipped with efficient brakes that meet the federal motor carrier safety standards in 49 C.F.R. pt. 393 and may be operated by the operator of the vehicle.				NO	NO	Brakes must be operated by the operator of the towing vehicle.
Louisiana La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32:341 (Brake equipment required); La. Rev. Stat. Ann § 32:342 (Performance ability of brakes); La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32:1 (definitions).	3000 lbs.	ALL	Only one axle if trailer between 3000 and 5000 lbs.	40' at 20 mph for trailers with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 or more lbs.	NS	Brakes must be applied by the driver of the towing vehicle from its cab. All sport, boat, or any other nonagricultural trailer less than 3000lbs gross weight need not be equipped with brakes.	3000 lbs.	NS	NS	NO	NO	
Maine Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. 29-A, § 1902 (Brakes); Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. 29-A, § 101 (Definitions)	3001 lbs.	ALL	ALL	A 2-wheel brake vehicle, within a distance of 45 ft. from a speed of 20 mph. 4-wheel brake vehicle, within 30 ft. from a speed of 20 mph.	NS	Brakes not required if vehicle meets FMCSA braking requirements. Reel (cable dispensing) and pole dolly trailers exempted up to 12,000 lbs. GVWR.	NS	NS	NS	NO	Yes. On a farm truck for transporting agricultural products and supplies are exempted.	
Maryland Md. Code Ann. Trans., § 22-301 (Brake Equipment Required); Md. Code Ann. Trans., 22-302 (Performance ability of brakes); Md. Code Regs. 11.14.05.04 (Inspection standards for Brakes)	3001 lbs.	For trailers 3001 to 10,000 lbs. brakes required on all wheels of only one axle, provided the trailer meets the performance	Above 10,000 lbs. brakes required on all wheels of all axles.	40' from 20 mph for trailers 3000 lbs. and less, and tow dollies. 50' from 20 mph for all other combinations.	NS	The total weight on wheels of trailer must not exceed 40% of the gross weight of the towing vehicle when connected to the trailer. If it does, then trailer needs brakes. All trailers must meet performance requirements.	3001 lbs.	15	1 axle for trailers up to 10,000 lbs. All wheels for trailers above 10,000 lbs.	YES Under 10,000 lbs.	Yes. Must meet performance requirements.	

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Massachusetts Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. 90 § 7 (Brakes); Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. 90 § 1 (Definitions)	10,000 lbs. empty (air or electric brakes required)	NS	NS		NS		NS	NS		NO	NO	
Michigan Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 257.705 (Brakes); Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 480.11a (Incorporation of Federal Motor Carrier regulations); Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 480.13a (trailers; equipment with surge brakes); Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. §§ 257.59; 257.73 (Definitions)	3000 lbs.	ALL	NS	30' from 20 mph for combination vehicles with brakes on all wheels. 40' from 20 mph for combination vehicles not having brakes on all wheels.	NS	A semitrailer, pole trailer, or trailer of less than 3,000 lbs. gross weight need not be equipped with brakes if: no part of the load of which rests upon the towing vehicle, does not exceed 40% of the gross weight of the towing vehicle, and the gross weight of the towing vehicle and the gross weight of a semitrailer or pole trailer, part of the load of which rests upon the towing vehicle, does not exceed 40% of the gross weight of the towing vehicle when connected to the semitrailer or pole trailer.				NO	NO	
Minnesota Minn. Stat. Ann. § 169.67 (Brakes; includes performance standards); Minn. Stat. Ann. § 169.011 (Definitions)	3000 lbs. or a trailer with a gross weight that exceeds the empty weight of the towing vehicle	ALL	NS	50' from 20 mph for all combinations with trailer GVWR of 10,000 lbs. or more.	NS	Trailers used by farmers while transporting farm to market. Trailers operated by dealers in delivery of implements of husbandry. Tank (liquid fertilizer) and dry fertilizer trailers up to 12,000 lbs. while engaged in the transportation of such materials.	3001 lbs.	NS	NS	A trailer or semitrailer with a gross weight of 3,000 lbs. or more, must be equipped with brakes that are constructed so that they can hold the trailer or semitrailer if it becomes detached from the towing vehicle.	Yes. Towing a disabled vehicle is exempted from brake requirements	

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Mississippi Miss. Code Ann. § 63-7-51 (Brakes); Miss. Code Ann. § 63-7-53 (Brake Standards); Miss. Stat. Ann. § 63-3-103 (Types of vehicles); Miss. Stat. Ann. § 63-3-107 (Types of trailers)	2000 lbs.	ALL	NS	NONE	NS	Trailer of two axles of less than 2,000 lbs. gross need not have brakes on all wheels.	2000 lbs.	NS	NS	NO	NO	Brakes on a trailer should be designed so that the driver of the towing vehicle from its cab may apply them.
Missouri Mo. Ann. Stat. § 307.170 (other equipment motor vehicles); Mo. Ann. Stat. § 307.360 (Permits and instructions furnished by superintendent)	NS	NS	NS	None for trailers	NS		NS			NO	NO	Independent braking system not required except on trailers coupled by a 5 <sup>th</sup> wheel and kingpin, and on trailers hauling hazardous materials with a gross weight exceeding 3,000 lbs.
Montana Mont. Code Ann. § 61-9-304 (Brakes required on all wheels – exceptions); Mont. Code Ann. § 61-9-305 (Automatic trailer brake application upon breakaway); Mont. Code Ann. § 61-9-312 (Performance ability of brakes); Mont. Code Ann. § 61-9-301 (Brake equipment required); Mont. Code Ann. § 61-1-101 (Definitions)	3001 lbs.	ALL	NS	40' from 20 mph.	NS	Trailers not exceeding 3000 lbs. are exempted provided that: Total weight on trailer axles does not exceed 40% of gross weight of towing vehicle with trailer attached. They meet performance requirements.	3001 lbs.	15	All	NO		A towing vehicle and all trailers being towed must have 1 control device that can be used to operate all service brakes.
Nebraska Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 60-6, 246 (Trailers; brake requirements); Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 60-673 (Trailer, defined).	3000 lbs. for "cabin" trailer (defined as a trailer equipped as dwelling place, living abode, or sleeping place) or "recreational" trailer (defined as a trailer designed for transporting a motorboat).	Cabin trailers and recreational trailers 3000 – 6499 lbs. required on at least two wheels. 6500 lbs. and above require brakes on each wheel.	NS	NONE	NS	All commercial trailers with a carrying capacity of more than 10,000 lbs. shall be equipped with brakes on each wheel that can be operated from the driving position of the towing vehicle.	YES. Automatic breakaway brakes are required.			YES	NO	

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<p style="text-align: center;">Nevada</p> <p>Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 484D.250 (Equipment required); Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 484D.255 (Requirements for Performance); Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 484D. 270 (Arrangement of system; device for control); Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 484D.260 (Maintenance); Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 484D. 265 (Equipment for towing vehicle); Nev. Admin. Code § 484D.090 (Service Brake; Performance Standard)</p>	<p>Every trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer at least 1,500 lbs. and manufactured after July 1, 1975 must be equipped with service brakes on all wheels.</p>	ALL	NS	<p>40' from 20 mph for trailers of 3000 lbs. or less. 50' from 20 mph for trailers greater than 3000 lbs.</p>	20 mph.	<p>Tow dollies (see "Tow Dolly Referenced" column). A trailer of less than 1500 lbs. need not be equipped with brakes.</p> <p>Any vehicle being towed in driveway or tow-away operations is exempted, provided it meets performance requirements of 40' from 20 mph.</p>	3001 lbs.	15	ALL	NO	<p>Every trailer, semitrailer, house trailer, and pole trailer equipped with air or vacuum-actuated brakes and every trailer, semitrailer, house trailer, and pole trailer exceeding 3,000 lbs. and manufactured after July 1, 1969 must be equipped with brakes acting on all wheels, and of such character as to be applied automatically and remain applied for 15 minutes in the event of a breakaway from the towing vehicle.</p>	<p>Every towing vehicle, when used to tow another vehicle equipped with air-controlled brakes, shall be equipped with 2 means for emergency application of the trailer brakes. One of these means shall apply the brakes automatically in the event of a reduction of the towing vehicle air supply. The other means shall be a manually controlled device for applying and releasing the brakes, readily operable by a person seated in the driver's seat.</p> <p>Every towing vehicle used to tow other vehicles equipped with vacuum brakes shall have a second control device that can be used to operate the brakes on towed vehicles in emergencies. The second control shall be independent of brake air, hydraulic and other pressure, and independent of other controls, unless the braking system is so arranged that failure of the pressure upon which the second control depends will cause the brakes to be applied automatically.</p>

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New Hampshire N.H. Rev. Stat. § 266:30 (Trailer Brakes); § 266:28 (Brake Performance); N.H. Code Admin. R. Saf-C § 3227.07 (Emergency Brakes); N.H. Code R. Saf-C. § 32207.03 (Trailer, Semi-Trailer, and Full Trailer Brakes)	3000 lbs., if the axle weight of the towed vehicle does not exceed 40 % of the sum of the rated axle weights of the towing vehicle.  1501 lbs. for house trailers	NS	NS	Every combination of motor vehicle with a trailer or semitrailer when driven upon the roadways of the state shall at a speed of 20 mph be capable, at all times and under all conditions, of stopping on a dry, smooth, approximately level pavement free from loose material, upon application of the foot or service brake, within a distance of 30 feet.	NS	Does not apply to wood- sawing machines, log splitters, cement mixers, compressors, tar kettles, conveyers, reel or pole trailers (used by Public Utilities), road sweepers and rollers, thawing devices, or refreshment booths towed not more than 2 miles.	NS		NO	NO		
New Jersey N.J. Stat. Ann. § 39:3-67 (Brake Equipment Required); N.J. Stat. Ann. § 39:3-45 (Certain Vehicles exempted); N.J. Stat. Ann. § 39:3-68 (Brake Performance); N.J. Stat. Ann. § 39:3-68.1 (Towing vehicle and towed vehicle defined); N.J. Stat. Ann. 39-1-1 (Definitions)	3001 lbs.	ALL	NS	30' from 40 mph. for trailers with brakes on all wheels. 45' from 20 mph for trailers 3000 lbs. or less.	NS	Trailers less than 3000 lbs. without brakes may not weigh more than 40% of the gross weight of the towing vehicle when the vehicles are connected. Means shall be provided for applying the trailer brakes in approximate synchronism with the brakes of the towing vehicle and developing the required braking effort on the rearmost vehicle at the fastest rate.	All trailers	Ade- quate Period	NS	NO	NO	Every trailer and semitrailer must have brakes that can be automatically applied upon break-away from the towing vehicle, and means shall be provided to stop and hold the vehicle for an adequate period of time.

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STATE/ CITATION	BRAKES REQ AT OR ABOVE THIS GVWR	NUMBER OF WHEELS:	NUMBER OF AXLES:	PERFORMANCE REQ:	MAX. SPEED BRAKES REQUIRED:	EXEMPTIONS / OTHER REQ:	AUTOMATIC BREAK-AWAY BRAKES REQUIRED?:			SURGE BRAKES: REF. /LIMITATIONS	TOW DOLLIES REFERENCED?:	COMMENTS
							AT OR ABOVE THIS GVWR:	MINUTES TO HOLD:	NUMBER OF WHEELS:			
New Mexico N.M. Stat. Ann § 66-3-840 (Brakes); N.M. Stat. Ann. § 66-1-4.3 & N.M. Stat. Ann. § 4.17(Definitions)	3000 lbs.	ALL	NS	30' from 40 mph. for trailers with brakes on all wheels. 40' from 20 mph for trailers 3000 lbs. or less.		Tow dollies, provided they meet 40' from 20 mph. House trailers only require brakes on at least two (2) wheels. Means shall be provided for applying the rearmost trailer brakes in approximate synchronism with the brakes of the towing vehicle and developing the required braking effort on the rearmost wheels at the fastest rate.	NO				Yes. See performance requirements only	
New York N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. 15, §§ 41.1 & 41.2 (Standards for Brake Efficiency); N.Y. Veh. & Traf § 375 (Equipment); N.Y. Veh. & Traf. § 156 (Trailer Defined)	Unladen weight of 1001 lbs. empty or greater	NS	NS	Standards of brake efficiency published by the Commissioner, and filed in the Office of the Secretary of State, thereafter published in the state advertising bulletin.	NS	NS	Yes. For commercially used trailers only. 15 Minutes to hold.		NO		NO	Every trailer and semitrailer weighing more than 1,000 lbs. unladen and every trailer and semitrailer manufactured on or after January 1, 1971, having a registered maximum gross weight or an actual gross weight of more than 3,000 lbs. shall be equipped with adequate brakes in good working order.
North Carolina N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 20-124 (Brakes); 19A NC ADC 3D.0532 (General information regarding safety inspection of motor vehicles – Brakes); N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 20-4.01. (Definitions)	1000 lbs. for house trailers. 4000 lbs. for all others.	ALL	NS	30' from 20 mph with both service brake and parking brake applied simultaneously. 50' from 20 mph for either applied separately.	NS	Farmers, his tenant, agent or employee when registered under provisions of G.S. 20- 51.	NS	NS	NS		NO	NO

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North Dakota N.D. Cent. Code § 39-21-32 (Brake Equipment Required); N.D. Cent. Code § 39-01-01 (Definitions)	ALL	NS	NS		25 mph.	Safety chains may be used in lieu of brakes.	ALL	NS	NS	NO	NO	The safety chains or brakes must be designed so that they can be applied by the driver of the towing vehicle from its cab, and must be designed and connected so that in case of an accidental breakaway the brakes are automatically applied.
Ohio Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 4513.20 (Brake Equipment); Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 4501.01 (Definitions)	3,000 lbs. empty .	NS	NS	30' from 20 mph for vehicles with brakes on all wheels. 45' from 20 mph for vehicles without brakes on all wheels.	NS	Must be designed to be applied from the cab. Means shall be provided for applying the rearmost brakes in approximate synchronism with the brakes of the towing vehicle, and developing the required braking effort on the rearmost vehicle at the fastest rate.	2000 lbs. empty 3000 lbs. - watercraft trailer	NS	NS		NO	
Oklahoma Okl.St. Ann. tit. 47, § 12-301 (Brake Equipment Required); Okl.St. Ann. tit. 47, § 1-180 (Definition of Trailer); Okl.St. Ann. tit. 47, § 1-186 (Definition of Vehicle); Okl.St. Ann. tit. 47, § 12-302 (Performance ability of brakes)	3000 lbs.	ALL	NS	40' from 20 mph for trailer having a GVWR of 3,000 pounds or less. 50' from 20 mph for all other property-carrying vehicles and combinations of property-carrying vehicles	NS	Must be equipped with brakes so designated to apply by the driver from the cab. Brakes required on trailers under 3000 lbs. if gross weight of trailer exceeds 40% of gross weight of towing vehicle. Exemption: Tow Dollies	3000 lbs.	15	NS	NO	Yes. Drive-away, tow- away operations exempted.	
Oregon Or. Rev. Stat. § 815.125 (Brakes, requirements and standards); Or. Rev. Stat § 801.560 (Trailer defined); Or. Rev. Stat § 815.010 (Equipment standards, compliance; application of federal standards). See also Or. Rev. Stat. § 815.130 (penalties for drivers); Or. Rev. Stat. § 815.135 (exemptions)	NS	NS	NS	35' from 20 mph, without leaving 12' wide lane.	NS			NS		NO	NO	Independent braking system not required, but combination of vehicles must be able to stop within legal limits. Every motor vehicle and combination of motor vehicles, except motorcycles and mopeds, shall at all times be equipped with a parking brake system.

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							AT OR ABOVE THIS GVWR:	MINUTES TO HOLD:	NUMBER OF WHEELS:			
<p style="text-align: center;">Pennsylvania</p> <p>75 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 4502 (General requirements for braking systems); Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 102 (Definitions); 67 Pa. Code § 175.123 (Recreational, Semi and Utility Trailers Braking Systems); See also 67 Pa. Code §§ 229.14; 231.7; 231.8 (Incorporation by Reference of 49 CFR)</p>	3001 lbs.	ALL	NS	40' from 20 mph	NS	Brakes required on trailers 3000 lbs. or less if gross weight of trailer exceeds 40% of gross weight of towing vehicle. Tow dollies- Towed instruments of husbandry, or special mobile equipment.	3001 lbs.	NS	NS	Yes. They are authorized.	Yes. Drive-away, tow- away operations exempted.	<p>Every vehicle or combination of vehicles, except a motorcycle, operated on a highway shall be equipped with a parking brake system adequate to hold the vehicle or combination of vehicles on any grade and under all conditions of loading, on a surface free of ice and snow.</p> <p>Every vehicle and combination of vehicles operated on a highway must be equipped with a service brake system adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold the vehicle or combination of vehicles on any grade and under all conditions of loading, and adequate to meet the braking performance standards established by PennDOT regulations.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Rhode Island</p> <p>R.I. Gen. Laws § 31-23-4 (Brake equipment required); R.I. Gen. Laws § 31-1-3 (Types of Vehicles); R.I. Code R. § 47-1-35:3.3 (Brakes – Official Manual for Vehicle Inspection)</p>	4000 lbs.	ALL	NS	NONE	NS	Means shall be provided for applying the rearmost trailer brakes in approximate synchronism with the brakes of the towing vehicle and developing the required braking effort on the rearmost wheels at the fastest rate.	4000 lbs.	NS	NS	NO	NO	<p>Every trailer must have parking brakes adequate to hold the vehicle on any grade it is operated, under all conditions of loading and on a surface free from snow, ice, or loose material.</p> <p>Brakes must be designed so they can be applied from the driver of the towing vehicle's normal operating position.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">South Carolina</p> <p>S.C. Code Ann. § 56-5-4850 (Brake equipment); S.C. Code Ann. § 56-5-4860 (performance requirements); S.C. Code Ann. § 56-3-20 (Definitions); S.C. Code Ann. § 56-5-4870 (Maintenance and adjustment of brakes); S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 38-393.43 (Breakaway and emergency braking)</p>	3001 lbs.	ALL	NS	40' from 20 mph for trailers 3000 lbs. or less, and drive-away, tow-away operations. 50' from 20 mph for all other combinations.	NS	Brakes required on trailers 3000 lbs. or less if gross weight of trailer exceeds 40% of gross weight of towing vehicle. Tow dollies- Towed instruments of husbandry, or special mobile equipment. Tow dollies- Trailers not exceeding 12,000 lbs. which are pulled behind farm tractors and used in the transportation of farm products to and from the farm. However, farm trailers exceeding 8000 lbs. must be pulled by dually truck having a load capacity of at least 1 ton, and may not exceed a speed of 25 mph.	3001 lbs.	15	NS	Yes. Must meet performance requirements	Yes. See performance requirements	<p>Every combination of vehicles must be equipped with service brakes that are capable and adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold the vehicle with any load and on any grade on which it is operated.</p> <p>Every motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer must be equipped with brakes that have a braking system arranged so that 1 control device can be used to operate all service brakes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">South Dakota</p> <p>S.D. Codified Laws § 32-18-1 (Brakes required); S.D. Codified Laws § 32-18-2 (Wheels on which brakes must act); S.D. Codified Laws § 32-18-3 (trailers exempt from all-wheel requirement); S.D. Codified Laws § 32-18-7 (Service brakes); S.D. Codified Laws § 32-18-8 (Capabilities of service brakes); S.D. Codified Laws § 32-18-9 (testing); S.D. Codified Laws § 32-14-1 (Definitions)</p>	3,001 lbs.	Trailers not exceeding 3000 lbs. need not be equipped with brakes on all wheels.	NS	40' from 20 mph for trailers 3000 lbs. or less, and for drive-away, tow-away operations. 50' from 20 mph for all other combinations.	NS	Brakes required on trailers 3000 lbs. or less if gross weight on trailer axle exceeds 40% of gross weight of towing vehicle when connected to the trailer.	NS	NS	NS	NO	Yes. Must meet performance requirements.	<p>Every trailer and semitrailer must be equipped with a braking system that is arranged so that 1 control device can be used to operate all of the service brakes.</p> <p>The combination of vehicles consisting of the towing vehicle and its total towed load must be capable of complying with all performance requirements.</p>

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Tennessee Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-9-204 (Brakes); Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-9-205 (Brakes); Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-8-101 (definitions)	3000 lbs.	NS	NS	NONE	NS	See State/Citation 55-9-204 (c)	3000 lbs.	NS	NS	YES. Ok for trailers less than 7500 lbs.	NO	Brakes must be able to be applied by the driver of the towing vehicle from the cab and must be of a design such that in case of an accidental breakaway of the towed vehicle, the brakes will be automatically applied
Texas Tex. Transp. Code Ann. § 547.401 (Brakes required); Tex. Transp. Code Ann. § 547.402 (Operation and maintenance of brakes); Tex. Transp. Code Ann. § 547.403 (Service brakes required); Tex. Transp. Code Ann. § 547.404 (Parking brakes); Tex. Transp. Code Ann. § 547.405 (Emergency Brakes); Tex. Transp. Code Ann. § 547.406 (Brake Reservoir); Tex. Transp. Code Ann. § 547.408 (Performance Requirements); 43 Tex. Admin. Code	4501 lbs. May go to 15,000 lbs. without brakes if not drawn at more than 30 mph.	ALL	Brakes required on rear axle of trailers 4501 to 15,000 lbs. if being drawn at a speed of more than 30 mph.	40' from 20 mph for trailers 3000 lbs. or less. 50' from 20 mph for all other combinations.	30 mph. for trailers less than 15,000 lbs when they do not have any brakes.	Special mobile equipment- Tow dollies, so long as meet performance requirements.	3000 lbs. (and all trailers with air or vacuum brakes).	15	ALL	YES	Yes. OK if meet performance requirements	
Utah Rule R714-300 (2003) Adopts FMCSR 393.40 through 50 and FMVSS 105 Utah Admin. Code 700-300-3 (Standards for Motor Vehicle Braking Systems) [Incorporates by reference 49 C.F.R. § 393.42 (49 C.F.R. §§ 393.40 through 393.50, 571.105, 571.122, 1996 edition] Utah Code Ann. § 41-6a-102 (Definitions)	3000 lbs.	ALL	NS	40' from 20 mph. (41 6-145 and 393.52)	NS	Trailers with GVWR 3,000 lbs. or less must have brakes if the weight on the towed vehicle axle exceeds 40% of the GVWR of the towing vehicle.	3,000 lbs.	15	ALL	No, but FMCSA prohibits surge brakes by interpretation.	Yes. No brakes if meets performance requirements.	Every motor vehicle and combination of vehicles shall have a parking brake system adequate to hold the vehicle or combination of any grade on which it is operated under all conditions of loading on a surface free from snow, ice, or loose material.
Vermont Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 23, § 1307 (Brake equipment required); Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 23, § 1308 (Performance ability of brakes); Vt. Code R. § 23-1-5:1.6 (Inspection Manual – Trailer Section); Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 23, § 4 (Definitions)	3001 lbs.	ALL	1 axle for trailers more than 3000 lbs. but less than 6000 lbs. Farm trailers exempted	30' from 20 mph	NS	Brakes must be so designed as to be applied by the driver from the cab.  Provided the total weight on the trailer axles does not exceed 40% of the gross weight of the towing vehicle when connected to the trailer. If so, then trailer needs brakes.	3001 lbs.	15	As Above	NO	NO	

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Virginia Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-1070 (Brakes on trailers); Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-1067 (within what distances brakes should stop vehicle); Va. Code Ann. § 46.2- 1066 (Brakes); Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-100 † (definitions)	3000 lbs.	NS	NS	40' from 20 mph.	NS	Farm trailers used exclusively for hauling raw agricultural produce from farm to farm or farm to packing shed or processing plant within the normal growing area of the packing shed or processing plant and trailers or semitrailers drawn by a properly licensed motor vehicle but exempt from registration, shall be exempt from the requirements of this section.	NS			NO	Yes, when used by wrecker or vehicles being towed for repairs.	
Washington RCW Wash. Rev. Code § 46.37.340 (Braking equipment required); Wash. Rev. Code § 46.37.351 (Performance ability of brakes); Wash. Rev. Code § 46.04.320 (motor vehicle definition); Wash. Rev. Code § 46.04.620 (trailer definition)	3,001 lbs.	ALL	NS	40' from 20 mph for trailers 3000 lbs. or less, and tow dollies. 50' from 20 mph for all other combinations	NS	Provided that the total weight on the trailer axles shall not exceed 40% of the gross weight of the towing vehicle when connected to the trailer. If exceeds, then trailer needs brakes. Special mobile equipment.	3,001 lbs.	15	ALL	NO	Yes. Brakes not required if combination meets performance requirements.	

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West Virginia W. Va. Code, § 17C-15-31 (Brakes generally); W. Va. Code §§ 17C-1-15; 17C-1-16; 17C-1-17 (Definitions)	3,000 lbs.	ALL	NS	A motor vehicle or combination of motor-drawn vehicles must be capable of stopping at the following rates as if on a dry, smooth, level free road: (1) vehicles or combinations of vehicles with brakes on all wheels must be able to decelerate at a speed of 14 feet per second; and (2) vehicles or combinations of vehicles mat having brakes on all wheels must be able to decelerate at a speed 10.7 feet per second.	NS	Means shall be provided for applying the rearmost trailer brakes in approximate synchronism with the brakes of the towing vehicle and developing the required braking effort on the rearmost wheels at the fastest rate.  Trailers less than 1500 lbs. gross weight need not be equipped with brakes.	3000 lbs.	NS	NS	NO	NO	In any combination of motor-driven vehicles, the means shall be provided for applying the rear most trailer brakes, of any trailer equipped with brakes, in approximate synchronism with the brakes of the towing vehicle and developing the required braking effort on the rearmost wheels at the fastest rate; means must be provided for applying the braking effort on the rearmost trailer equipped with brakes; or both of the means provided if used in the alternate.
Wisconsin Wis. Stat. Ann. § 347.35 (Brakes); Wis. Stat. Ann. § 347.36 (performance ability of brakes); Wis. Admin. Code Trans. § 308.09 (Brake performance); Wis. Stat. Ann. § 340.01 (Words and Phrases Defined)	3000 lbs.	NS	NS	50' from 20 mph.	NS	Any motor vehicle may be towed without brakes if the gross weight of the towed vehicle is not more than 40% of the gross weight of the towing vehicle, and the combination can stop in 50' from 20 mph. Does not apply to farm trailers or to disabled vehicles being towed to a place of repair.		NS		NO	NO	
Wyoming W.S. 1977 § 31-1-101 (Definition Trailer); W.S. 1977 § 31-5-950 (General braking requirements)	NS	NS	NS	40' from 20 mph, or shorter if specified by the superintendent.	NS	Superintendent may, by regulation, require additional braking systems.		NS	NS	NO	NO	Every combination of vehicles must have a parking brake system adequate to hold the combination of vehicles on any grade on which it is operated under all conditions of loading on a surface free from snow, ice, or loose material.

Gross weight is combined weight of vehicle and its load. • NS= not specified

*NOTE: This document is intended to be used as a general reference only and does not necessarily provide all regulations on the subject or the most current version. This document is not intended to give legal advice. Many state brake laws are ambiguous and some even contradictory. The information in this document represents a good-faith effort to portray, in a condensed format, an accurate summary of these laws. NATM assumes no responsibility for any inaccurate information or omissions.*