

# DMV Trailer Safety & Licensing

## Safety Basics

Read your vehicle/trailer manuals and consult with a knowledgeable dealer or other source *before* you buy. Ensure the tow vehicle is large enough for the trailer and the hitch and electrical systems are compatible.

Take time to practice before driving on main roads. Before you leave, remember to check routes and restrictions on bridges and tunnels. Never allow anyone to ride in or on a trailer.

### General Handling

- Drive at moderate speeds. Trailer instability (sway) is more likely to occur as speed increases.
- To control swaying caused by wind buffeting and air pressure changes from passing vehicles, slow down and keep a firm grip on the steering wheel.
- Make wider turns at curves and corners.



If you tow a trailer that is **wider** than your tow vehicle, you will need **extended side-view mirrors**.

### Braking

- Allow considerably more distance for stopping.
- Do not use the tow vehicle brakes to control trailer sway. Activate the electric brake controller by hand if equipped.
- Always anticipate the need to slow down. To reduce speed, shift to a lower gear and press the brakes lightly.
- On long downgrades, apply brakes at intervals. Brakes may overheat if used excessively.

### Backing Up with a Trailer

- Put your hand at the bottom of the steering wheel. To turn left, move your hand left. To turn right, move your hand right. Back up slowly. Have someone outside at the rear of the trailer to guide you whenever possible.
- Use slight movements of the steering wheel to adjust direction. If you have difficulty, pull forward and start again.

### Parking

- Try to avoid parking on grades.
- If possible, have someone outside to guide you as you park.
- Do not overload your transmission. Once stopped, but before shifting into Park, have someone place blocks on the downhill side of the trailer wheels. Apply the parking brake, shift into Park, and then remove your foot from the brake pedal.

## Driver Licensing

Nevada issues commercial and noncommercial driver licenses in four classes. The majority of private motorists have a Class C license, which is adequate for most RV and trailer combinations.

Nevada does require special endorsements for a Class C license to tow large or multiple trailers. Additional knowledge and skills tests are required.

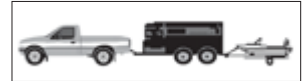
### Endorsement J

Allows Class C to tow trailers in excess of 10,000 pounds.



### Endorsement R

Allows Class C to tow multiple trailers with a total combined vehicle and trailer weight of under 10,000 pounds.



The total length of a vehicle and trailer combination driven with a Class C license cannot exceed 70 feet.

If the gross weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles and trailers exceeds 26,000 pounds, you must have a Class A or B license.

## Planning Your Trip

State laws vary on allowable vehicle types and weights, especially on multiple trailers.

Many highways also have specific restrictions.

Contact state law enforcement and highway departments *before* you leave.

Internet links to all 50 states are available at [www.dmvnv.com](http://www.dmvnv.com)

## Do I Need a Commercial License?

The answer is "yes" if you operate paid tours or vacation packages, any type of for-hire transportation or any pickup and delivery service.

Commercial use is also subject to higher liability insurance requirements and state and federal regulation. See the DMV's Vehicles in Business web page at [www.dmvnv.com/busguide.html](http://www.dmvnv.com/busguide.html).

### Commercial Driver License Offices

Carson City	(775) 684-4368
Elko	(775) 753-1126
North Las Vegas	(702) 486-5655
Sparks	(775) 688-2535
Winnemucca	(775) 623-6515

Revised November 2005



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