

How To Determine if Your Truck is Legal Length for Surface Streets

STEP 1 -- DETERMINE YOUR TRUCK CATEGORY

The two categories of truck tractor-semitrailers in California are: (1) the "green" trucks (interstate "STAA" trucks) and (2) the "black" trucks (California Legal trucks). This table shows the maximum allowed lengths for the two categories of truck tractor-semitrailers:



LENGTHS	"GREEN" STAA TRUCKS		"BLACK" CALIFORNIA LEGAL TRUCKS
			
OVERALL LENGTH	unlimited	unlimited	65 feet MAX
SEMITRAILER	53 feet MAX	48 feet MAX	unlimited
KPRA (kingpin-to-rear-most-axle distance)	40 feet MAX (for two-axle semitrailer); 38 feet MAX (for single-axle semitrailer)	unlimited	40 feet MAX (for two-axle semitrailer); 38 feet MAX (for single-axle semitrailer)

Doubles: For maximum allowed lengths of STAA and California Legal doubles (truck tractor-semitrailer-trailers), see the doubles on this Caltrans web page: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/engineering/trucks/truckmap/truck-legend.pdf>.

STEP 2 -- DETERMINE THE STATE ROUTES YOU CAN USE

Caltrans Truck Route Map: The on-line color-coded "Caltrans Truck Route Map" for State highways is the official government source for truck route information. This map is located in the table below. There are many private truck route guides, e.g., the *Rand McNally Motor Carrier Atlas* and various GPS systems. However, the accuracy of those private guides cannot be guaranteed, and must be verified by consulting the official "Caltrans Truck Route Map." The table below also shows which color routes on the map your truck may legally travel on. See map on Caltrans web site

Signage: These two signs indicate where a "green" STAA truck may travel off the interstates.

SIGNAGE	ROUTE TYPE	SIGN GRAPHICS	PURPOSE
T-Sign (#G66-56)	State Route Terminal Access		The T-Signs are trailblazer signs showing "Terminal Access" routes where STAA trucks may exit off the interstate and travel onto State and local routes. These T-Signs are also posted on the State and local Terminal Access routes at decision points. IF THE T-SIGN IS NOT POSTED, A STAA TRUCK MAY NOT TRAVEL THERE. If the Terminal Access route deadends, there will be a T-End sign at or near the turnaround location.
S-Sign (#G66-55)	Service Access		The S-Signs are Service Access signs showing where STAA trucks may exit the interstate onto a local road, for one mile only, for food, fuel, lodging, or repair.



STEP 3 -- DETERMINE THE LOCAL ROADS YOU CAN USE

Destination: Locate your destination using [Google Maps](#) to determine which local roads you will need to travel on.

Local Truck Routes: Most cities and counties allow ONLY the "black" California Legal trucks, and ONLY on certain "truck routes" which are posted with "truck route" signs.

Local Terminal Access Routes: Most cities and counties have NOT approved any local Terminal Access routes for the "green" STAA trucks. If a local road has been approved as a Terminal Access route for STAA trucks, the State ramp will be approved by Caltrans and a T-sign will be posted at or near the highway exit leading to the local Terminal Access route.

Signs: Look for these signs in the table below to indicate a local Terminal Access route that allows STAA trucks, or a local "truck route" which allows only California Legal trucks.

SIGNAGE	ROUTE TYPE	SIGN GRAPHICS	PURPOSE
T-Sign (#G66-56)	Local Terminal Access		The T-Signs are trailblazer signs showing "Terminal Access" routes where STAA trucks may travel off the interstates and State routes and onto local Terminal Access routes, and at decision points along the route. IF THE T-SIGN IS NOT POSTED, A STAA TRUCK MAY NOT TRAVEL THERE. If the Terminal Access route deadends, there will be a T-End sign at or near the turnaround location.
Truck Route Sign (#R14-1)	Truck Route		The Truck Route Signs are posted by cities as trailblazer signs to direct the "black" California Legal trucks on approved truck routes through the cities. This does NOT automatically authorize STAA trucks!

Local Terminal Access & Truck Route Maps: This Caltrans web page lists some local Terminal Access and Truck Route maps and municipal codes: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/engineering/trucks/truckmap/local-truck-routes.htm>. The list is not complete. We add links to local truck maps to this page as we learn of them.

Local Contacts: For local truck access in cities or counties that are not listed on the Caltrans page above, you would need to contact the local government (e.g. the local office for Public Works, Traffic, Engineering, or Permits, etc.).

STEP 4 (OPTIONAL) -- CONFIRM LEGAL LENGTH LIMITS IN THE CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE (CVC)

California Legal Truck: The 65-foot maximum length limit for vehicle combinations is codified in [CVC Section 35401](#) which is copied here in part:

35401. (a) "... a combination of vehicles coupled together, ..., may not exceed a total length of 65 feet."

STAA Truck & Routes: The overall length and semitrailer length limits for STAA trucks, and the State and local authority to identify routes, are codified in [CVC Section 35401.5\(a\)](#) which is copied here in part:

35401.5. (a) "A combination of vehicles consisting of a truck tractor and semitrailer, or of a truck tractor, semitrailer, and trailer, is not subject to the limitations of Sections 35400 and 35401, when operating on the" ... (National Network) ... "or when using routes appropriately identified by the Department of Transportation or local authorities as provided in subdivision (c) or (d), if all of the following conditions are met: (1) The length of the semitrailer in exclusive combination with a truck tractor does not exceed 48 feet. A semitrailer not more than 53 feet in length shall satisfy this requirement when configured with two or more rear axles, the rearmost of which is located 40 feet or less from the kingpin or when configured with a single axle which is located 38 feet or less from the kingpin. ..."

CONTACT US	Caltrans Legal Truck Access Branch	General number (916) 654-5741
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Caltrans Menu page:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/engineering/trucks/>

Caltrans length page:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/engineering/trucks/truck-length-routes.htm>