

**“Ask The Law”™ offers Q & A’s**

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**Logbook, CDL and Unloading in Street questions  
answered by law enforcement officials as of June 2007**

**Warning: Laws are subject to change without notice**

### **Logbook Inspections by Law Enforcement**

**Q:** An older truck driver told me that law enforcement could only inspect my logbook back to the point where I entered the state. So if I flag my logbook when I enter CA for instance, a California Trooper cannot inspect any further than where I said I entered the state. I am a new driver and am not sure if this is true or just a "trucker story". Can you please set me straight? Jason in Kansas

**A: Provided by Senior [Trooper Monty Dial](#), Texas Highway Patrol, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division, Garland, Texas:**



DOT Regulations in Part 395.8 require you to carry the current day plus the previous 7 days of logs with you.

Law Enforcement can inspect all 8 days anytime you are stopped at roadside for an inspection. Drivers cannot call another Federal Agency to come to the rescue when local or State Troopers ask the driver for their logbook.

### **Pick-up Truck & Two Trailers**

**Q:** In California what is the maximum length for a pickup truck with a fifth-wheel trailer and a boat combination? Do you need a CDL for this? Bernie in Arizona

**A. Provided by [Officer Chris Sahagun](#), California Highway Patrol, Commercial Vehicle Section, Sacramento, California:**



In California a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) may tow more than one trailer as long as the overall length of the combination does not exceed 65 feet.

Additionally, a California resident must possess a valid class “A” commercial driver license with a double/triple (T) endorsement and a valid medical certificate. **A resident from another state must possess the proper license or endorsement for towing such a combination, from their home state.** Per Section 21715 of the California Vehicle Code, a passenger vehicle or house car is prohibited from towing more than one trailer, and a vehicle under 4,000 pounds may not tow any vehicle over 6,000 pounds.

## **Unloading in the Street**

**Q:** I do a lot of flatbed unloading on the street at lumberyards and jobsites. I park in the middle of the street to let traffic pass on both sides if possible. But it's not always enough space for traffic to pass at a safe distance for me to work around and unstrap. Who's at fault if a car hits me while I'm next to my truck getting ready to unload at that jobsite or business? What if something falls from my trailer and damages a car going by, who's at fault? Kevin in Nebraska

**A: Provided by [Sgt. Jim Brokaw](#), Nebraska State Patrol, Carrier Enforcement Division, Lincoln, Nebraska:**



I apologize for the delay in answering, your questions required some research and I have to admit I wasn't really able to find you a complete answer. Liability issues tend to be governed more by the statutes addressing civil law, which is normally outside the scope of law enforcement.

**To answer your first question;** in Nebraska, center parking on any roadway is normally prohibited, unless allowed and regulated by local ordinance. Loading and unloading zones are also established by local ordinances. If you are parked in an established parking space or loading zone, then it appears you should be OK, barring any negligent activity on your part. Again, liability will be probably determined by what the local ordinances required.

**In answer to your second question;** any damages caused by you because of cargo falling from your truck or being dropped will be your responsibility.

You may want to ask these same questions of your insurance company or someone that specializes in civil matters.

*The Ask The Law™ programs, which are provided as a public service by Alcoa Wheel Products™, are an ongoing educational effort between Ol' Blue, USA™ and commercial law enforcement agencies. The specific purpose is to have truckers contact Ol' Blue, USA and pose questions to law enforcement officials relating to safety and legal issues concerning commercial vehicles. Truckers may submit questions at [www.askthelaw.org](http://www.askthelaw.org). **Warning: Laws are subject to change without notice. These interpretations were made in May 2007.***

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