

CHAPTER 453  
WEIGHT EQUALIZING HITCH AND SWAY CONTROL  
DEVICES FOR TRAILERS

[Appeared as Ch 4, Department of Public Safety, 1973 IDR]  
[Prior to 6/3/87, Transportation Department[820]—(07,E) Ch 4]

**761—453.1(321) Definitions.**

*Fifth wheel type connection.* A coupling between a trailer and the towing vehicle in which a portion of the weight of the trailer is carried on the towing vehicle of or forward of, the rear axle of the towing vehicle.

*Sway control device.* Equipment which is mounted on the trailer or a part of the hitch, used to limit sway from one side to another.

*Weight equalizing hitch or weight distributing hitch.* A mechanical device that connects the trailer to the towing vehicle and by means of leverage applied on both the trailer and towing vehicle structures or axles, distributes the imposed vehicle's load of the hitch and coupling connection between structures of towing vehicle and trailer when a towing vehicle frame is used, and between the rear axle of towing vehicle and the trailer structure when an axle mount is used. The towing vehicle thus loaded retains a level position with respect to the road.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 321.430.

**761—453.2(321) Weight equalizing hitches.** The following types of weight equalizing hitches are hereby approved for use with trailers:

**453.2(1)** Weight equalizing hitches which apply leverage by means of spring bars.

**453.2(2)** Weight equalizing hitches which apply leverage by means of coil springs.

**453.2(3)** Weight equalizing hitches which apply leverage by means of torsional bars.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 321.430.

**761—453.3(321) Sway control devices.** The following types of sway control devices are hereby approved for use with trailers:

**453.3(1)** Devices employing friction to limit sidesway.

**453.3(2)** Devices employing hydraulics to limit sidesway.

**453.3(3)** Devices employing torsional bars to limit sidesway.

**453.3(4)** Devices employing mechanical cams to limit sidesway.

**453.3(5)** Devices employing electronics to limit sidesway.

**453.3(6)** Fifth wheel types of connection.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 321.430.

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