

761—511.22(321) Movement of combination vehicles on economic export corridors.**511.22(1)** *Designation of economic export corridors.*

a. The department may in its discretion establish economic export corridors for the transportation of goods or products manufactured in Iowa to or through the state of South Dakota and for the return of unladen semitrailers or unladen full trailers used for the transportation of those goods or products. An economic export corridor does not include any segment of the interstate system or any part of the national network of highways identified pursuant to 23 CFR Part 658, effective April 1, 2025. However, if appropriate, the department may petition the Federal Highway Administration to remove a road or road segment from the national network of highways for the purpose of including it in an economic export corridor.

b. The department may initiate designation of economic export corridors, or a request for economic export corridor designation may be submitted to the department by an interested party. If a proposed economic export corridor includes any roads or road segments that are under the jurisdiction of a city or a county, a resolution from all relevant local jurisdictions is to be submitted to the department indicating jurisdiction support for economic export corridor designation. The resolution is to include a description of the proposed economic export corridor under local jurisdiction.

c. The department will exercise due regard for the safety of the traveling public and the protection of the highway surfaces and structures when establishing an economic export corridor. Factors to be considered include ability of the proposed economic export corridor to safely accommodate combinations of vehicles described in subrule 511.22(2), taking into account physical configurations and restrictions and traffic demands and capacity, as well as connection to markets that will benefit from the established economic export corridor.

d. The department will post established economic export corridors on the department's website.

511.22(2) *Combination vehicles that may be operated on an economic export corridor.*

a. In addition to combinations of vehicles lawful for operation on roads or road segments not designated as an economic export corridor, the following combinations of vehicles may be operated on an economic export corridor designated under subrule 511.22(1) if the combinations of vehicles meet the requirements in paragraph 511.22(2) "b":

(1) A truck tractor-semi-trailer-semi-trailer converted to a full trailer by use of a dolly equipped with a fifth wheel that is considered a part of the trailer for all purposes, and not a separate unit.

(2) A truck tractor-semi-trailer-full trailer.

(3) A truck tractor-semi-trailer-semi-trailer combination, where the semi-trailers are connected by a rigid frame extension including a fifth wheel connection point attached to the rear frame of the first semi-trailer.

b. The combination of vehicles shall meet all of the following requirements:

(1) The length of the combination of vehicles, excluding the length of the truck tractor, does not exceed 81½ feet.

(2) The length of either semi-trailer or full trailer does not exceed 45 feet.

(3) The weight of the second semi-trailer or full trailer does not exceed the weight of the first semi-trailer by more than 3,000 pounds.

(4) The gross weight of the combination of vehicles does not exceed 80,000 pounds and the combination of vehicles does not exceed the gross axle weight limits of Iowa Code section 321.463(2).

(5) The load on each semi-trailer or full trailer in the combination is an indivisible load. For the purpose of issuing permits for height or width under Iowa Code chapter 321E, the combination of vehicles will be considered an indivisible load so long as the load on each semi-trailer or full trailer in the combination remains an indivisible load.

c. The length of the frame extension is not included when determining the overall length of the first semi-trailer in a truck tractor-semi-trailer-semi-trailer combination in which the semi-trailers are connected by a rigid frame extension including a fifth wheel connection point attached to the rear frame of the first semi-trailer.

d. For purposes of this subrule, "full trailer" means the same as defined in 49 CFR Section 390.5, effective October 1, 2025.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 321.457(2) "n."

[ARC 9512C, IAB 8/20/25, effective 9/24/25; ARC 0327D, IAB 6/10/26, effective 7/15/26]