

The State of South Carolina

2907 Library



Office of the Attorney General

T. TRAVIS MEDLOCK  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

REMBERT C. DENNIS BUILDING  
POST OFFICE BOX 11549  
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29211  
TELEPHONE 803-734-3970

September 3, 1987

The Honorable Irene K. Rudnick  
Member, House of Representatives  
Box 544  
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Dear Representative Rudnick:

In a letter to this Office you questioned the applicability of Section 56-5-5150 of the Code to travel trailers. Such provision states

(w)hen a vehicle is towing another vehicle on a public road or highway, the towing vehicle must be attached to the towed vehicle by a safety chain, cable, or equivalent device in addition to the regular drawbar, tongue, trailer hitch, or other connection. The safety connections or attachments must be of sufficient strength to maintain connection of the towed vehicle to the pulling vehicle under all conditions while the towed vehicle is being pulled by the towing vehicle. The provisions of this section do not apply to vehicles using a hitch known as a fifth wheel and kingpin assembly.

The term "vehicle" is defined by Section 56-5-120 of the Code as

(e)very device in, upon or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, except devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks ....

The Honorable Irene K. Rudnick  
Page 2  
September 3, 1987

I am informed that the exclusion provided in Section 56-5-5150 for vehicles using a hitch referred to as a fifth wheel or king-pin assembly is applicable to tractor-trailer trucks.

In the opinion of this Office, a travel trailer is a "vehicle" for purposes of Section 56-5-5150. As a result, a travel trailer must be attached to a towing vehicle by a safety chain, cable or equivalent device in addition to the regular drawbar, tongue, trailer hitch or other connection.

If there is anything further, please advise.

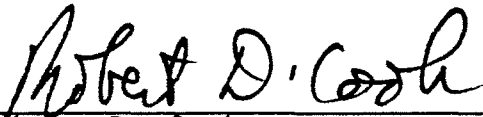
Sincerely,



Charles H. Richardson  
Assistant Attorney General

CHR/an

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:



Robert D. Cook  
Executive Assistant for Opinions