

**RULES  
OF  
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS DIVISION**

**CHAPTER 1680-10-02  
TRUCK LANE RESTRICTIONS ALONG INTERSTATES AND  
MULTI-LANE ACCESS CONTROLLED HIGHWAYS**

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**1680-10-02-.01 PURPOSE AND SCOPE.**

- (1) The purpose of these rules is to implement Tennessee Code Annotated § 55-8-195 by establishing criteria for the designation and enforcement of lane restrictions for truck tractors and semi trailers as defined in Tennessee Code Annotated § 55-8-101 and in these rules.
- (2) The truck lane restrictions established under these rules shall apply only in designated areas where appropriate signage has been posted on eligible highways as defined in these rules.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 55-8-195. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 23, 2005; effective October 28, 2005. Chapter renumbered from 1680-02-05 effective March 1, 2018.

**1680-10-02-.02 DEFINITIONS.**

- (1) "Access controlled highway" means a highway or street especially designed for through traffic, with grade-separated interchanges rather than at-grade intersections, and to which owners or occupants of abutting land or other persons have no legal right or easement of access from abutting land.
- (2) "Bus" means every motor vehicle designed for carrying more than ten (10) passengers and used for the transportation of persons, and every motor vehicle, other than a taxicab, designed and used for the transportation of persons for compensation.
- (3) "Eligible highways" means highways on the Interstate Highway System and access controlled, multilane divided highways on the state highway system that have three (3) or more lanes in each direction of travel.
- (4) "Semi trailer" means every vehicle with or without motive power, other than a pole trailer, designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that some part of its weight and that of its load rests upon or is carried by another vehicle.
- (5) "Truck tractor" means every motor vehicle designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to carry a load other than a part of the weight of the vehicle and load so drawn.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 55-8-195. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 23, 2005; effective October 28, 2005. Chapter renumbered from 1680-02-05 effective March 1, 2018.

**1680-10-02-.03 TRUCK LANE RESTRICTIONS.**

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in these rules, truck tractors and semi trailers shall be restricted to the right two (2) lanes of travel, or as otherwise determined by the Department of Transportation, in designated areas of eligible highways where appropriate signage has been posted.
- (2) Truck lane restrictions shall not apply when truck tractors and semi trailers are passing other motor vehicles. The passing maneuver shall be safely completed in as short a time period as feasible. The passing maneuver shall consist of passing one motor vehicle at a time.
- (3) Buses are not subject to the restrictions established in these rules.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 55-8-195. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 23, 2005; effective October 28, 2005. Chapter renumbered from 1680-02-05 effective March 1, 2018. Amendment filed December 1, 2017; effective March 1, 2018.

**1680-10-02-.04 GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHING TRUCK LANE RESTRICTIONS ON ELIGIBLE HIGHWAYS.**

- (1) Interstate highways and other access controlled, multilane divided highways that have three (3) or more through lanes in each direction of travel are eligible for truck lane restrictions.
- (2) Only those portions of eligible highways approved by the Department of Transportation and where appropriate signage has been installed shall be considered as having truck lane restrictions.
- (3) Truck lane restrictions shall terminate within two (2) miles of a left lane exit to allow ample time for lane transitions.
- (4) Existing truck lane restrictions may be temporarily terminated or modified during highway construction and other special events at the discretion of the Department of Transportation.
- (5) Truck lane restrictions should be avoided in areas where the average truck spacing is less than 500 feet per lane.
- (6) Signs shall be placed in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) to provide motorists with notification of the restricted zone. Examples of the signs may be found in the current edition of the Tennessee Supplement to Standard Highway Signs and the MUTCD.
- (7) These rules do not apply to those portions of highways where “truck climbing lanes” have been established due to excessive grades or where special truck lane restrictions have been established in construction zones.
- (8) The Commissioner of the Department of Transportation reserves the authority to remove or modify truck lane restriction zones established under these rules.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 55-8-195. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 23, 2005; effective October 28, 2005. Chapter renumbered from 1680-02-05 effective March 1, 2018.