Louisiana Department of Public Safety

Office of Motor Vehicles

107.00 Trailers – Homemade / Shopbuilt

Revised Date: 11/13/2026

Authority:
R.S. 47:477
To view Louisiana Statutes: http://www.legis.state.la.us/

Definitions:

- **Semi-Trailer** - single vehicle without motive power designed to carry property or passengers and so designed to be used in conjunction with another vehicle so that some part of its own weight and that of its own load rests upon or is carried by the other vehicle and, for purposes of this order, has one load carrying axle.
- **Manufacturer** - Person(s) engaged in the business of designing, manufacturing, constructing, or assembling new motor vehicles, trailers or semi-trailers.
- **Tandem Semi-Trailer** - a semi-trailer which has two load carrying axles.
- **Trailer** - single vehicle without motive power designed to carry property or passengers wholly on its own structure and designed to be drawn by truck, tractor, or another motor vehicle and having two or more load carrying axles.
- **Tridem Semi-Trailer** - a semi-trailer which has three load carrying axles.

General:

- The Office of State Police shall assign a serial number on trailers, semi-trailers, or tandem semi-trailers that do not have a serial number. This does not include commercially manufactured trailers.
- Classification of Trailers:
    - **Homemade** - A trailer or semi-trailer constructed or reconstructed from new or used parts which have never been registered or titled in any state.
        - The essential part(s) of the constructed or reconstructed trailer shall not come from a vehicle with an existing manufacturer's or State Police issued serial number unless presented with a permit to dismantle issued by the Office of Motor Vehicles or a receipt from a licensed dismantler indicating that the vehicle has been dismantled in accordance with R.S. 32:718.
        - Essential parts are considered to be the steel frame (including tongue and hitch) and axles.
        - The owner/applicant must furnish: A permit to dismantle for the donor vehicle from which the parts came to be utilized in the construction of the trailer or if the parts were purchased from a licensed dismantler, a receipt indicating that the vehicle was dismantled in accordance with R.S. 32:718.

- **Shop-made** - A trailer or semi-trailer constructed or reconstructed for the owner to meet his specifications. The builder may be anyone other than a manufacturer.
    - Trailers which have been built by a shop to be displayed for sale will have a number affixed by the builder since they are actually manufactured vehicles requiring a certificate of origin from a licensed manufacturer. Legitimate shop made trailers should be accompanied by an invoice stating the trailer was "built according to specifications" and if that invoice shows tax was collected for parts and labor at the time of sale, then no tax is due when application for title and license is made.
    - The owner/applicant must furnish:
        - A notarized invoice as described herein.
        - A notarized affidavit that the vehicle was not purchased from a manufacturer.
- **Factory made** - A trailer or semi-trailer commercially manufactured which have the manufacturer's logo stamped onto the frame.
    - Factory made trailers will have factory assigned numbers as well as a certificate or origin.
    - If previously registered in another state which required no serial number, a serial number may only be assigned when the owner furnishes a current registration in his name or a notarized bill of sale and a current registration in the seller's name.
    - Serial numbers which have been defaced, obscured or are otherwise illegible, may be re-stenciled without cost to the owner, provided the owner furnishes the title or registration for that vehicle.
- **Unassembled Trailer Kits** – A trailer kit sold by various department stores. The trailer kit is assembled by the customer.
    - The seller of the unassembled trailer kit does not need to be licensed as vehicle dealer under Louisiana law and the seller will not collect sales tax.
    - The owner/applicant must furnish
        - The manufactures certificate of origin
        - Bill of sale or cash register receipt
    - The owner/applicant is responsible for obtaining a title and license plate and for the payment of sales tax due.

Requirements:

- The fee for assigning and stenciling trailer serial numbers will be collected by the Office of Motor Vehicles.
- $5 fee if the number was assigned at the State Police Troop
- $10 fee if the number was assigned in the Customer Service Center