



Riding in Cargo Area of Pickup Trucks

State	Restrictions in Cargo Areas	Gaps in Coverage
Alabama	○	
Alaska	○	
Arizona	○	
Arkansas	● ¹	Employees on duty; persons within bodies of trucks in a space intended for merchandise
California	●	If the person is restrained by a federally approved restraint system; farmer owned vehicle used exclusively within farming land or 1 miles of highway between one part to another; parade if not more than 8 mph; emergency situations
Colorado	●	Persons sitting in the cargo area if it is fully or partially enclosed on all four sides
Connecticut	●	Persons 16 and older; persons 15 and younger if belted; parades; farming operations; hayrides August through December
Delaware	○	
D.C.	● ¹	Employees on duty; persons riding within truck bodies in a space intended for materials
Florida	● ¹	Persons 18 and older; persons 17 and younger in enclosed cargo area; in pickup trucks that have been modified to include secure seating and safety restraints on non-limited access roads unless locally prohibited; employees on duty; persons riding within truck bodies in a space intended for merchandising
Georgia	●	Persons 18 and older; persons 17 and younger in pickup trucks with covered cargo areas; any pickup truck off the interstate
Hawaii	●	Persons may ride in back of pickup trucks if there are no available seats in the cab and the side racks and tailgate are securely closed, and the passengers are seated on the floor and do not attempt to unlash cargo. Also exempt life threatening emergencies; parades; employees on duty
Idaho	○	
Illinois	○	
Indiana	●	Farming operations, parade, construction sites, sleeping area of a tractor, living quarters in a recreational vehicle. ²
Iowa	○	



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Kansas	•	Persons 18 and older; parades; employment; does not apply to vehicles not being operated in the state highway system or within the corporate limits of a city
Kentucky	○	
Louisiana	•	Persons 12 and older on non-interstate highways; parades moving less than 15 mph; emergencies if the child is with an adult in the cargo area; emergencies on an interstate highway
Maine	•	Persons 19 and older; agricultural workers and hunters 18 and younger; parades; and persons in OEM installed seats outside passenger compartment
Maryland	•	Persons 16 and older; persons 15 and younger if the vehicle is traveling 25 mph or less; employees being transported to work sites or persons engaged in farming operations; exceptions do not eliminate requirements to use child restraints or belts; inapplicable to pickup trucks with covered cargo areas
Massachusetts	•	Persons 12 and older; persons 11 and younger if the vehicle is being driven less than 5 miles and less than 5 mph; parades; farming activities
Michigan	•	18 and older; 17 and younger if the vehicle is moving 15 mph or less; parades; military vehicles; emergency situations; farming; construction
Minnesota	○	
Mississippi	○	
Missouri	•	Persons 18 and older; persons 17 and younger if the vehicle is not being operated on a highway which is part of the state or federal highway system or within the corporate limits of any city. Exceptions for employment; agricultural activities; parades; where there is a device to keep the passenger from being thrown or falling out of the vehicle; special events; assisting people in a recreational activity; family owned truck with insufficient room in the cab for all passengers; inapplicable to pickup trucks with covered cargo areas
Montana	○	
Nebraska	•	Persons age 18 or older; parades

•	Law
○	No Law



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Nevada	•	Persons age 18 or older; persons younger than 18 when the vehicle is used in farming or ranching or if vehicle is used in an authorized parade; vehicles operated on unpaved roads; persons riding in areas enclosed by a camper shell
New Hampshire	○	
New Jersey	•	Employees engaged in their duties
New Mexico	•	Persons 18 and older
New York	•	Inapplicable to trips of 5 miles or less; inapplicable to trips of more than 5 miles if one-third or less of the passengers are standing or if suitable seats are securely attached and there are side rails and a tailgate. Inapplicable to trips of more than 5 miles if there are less than 5 persons 17 or younger in the cargo area or if at least one person 18 or older is in the cargo area
North Carolina	•	Persons 16 and younger if a supervising adult is present in the cargo area; when the child is belted; emergencies; parades; vehicle being used in agriculture; vehicles with permanent overhead structures
North Dakota	○	
Ohio	•	Persons 16 and older; persons 15 and younger if the vehicle is driven less than 25 mph or if the person is seated and belted in an OEM seating position; emergencies; inapplicable to pickup trucks with covered cargo areas
Oklahoma	○	
Oregon	•	Persons 18 and older; minors secured with a safety belt or harness; parades; minors seated on the floor of the open bed of a motor vehicle in which all available passenger seats are occupied by minors, the tailgate is securely closed and the minor is being transported either in the course and scope of employment or between a hunting camp and hunting site or between hunting sites during hunting season and the minor has a hunting license
Pennsylvania	•	Persons 18 and older if the vehicle is traveling less than 35 mph; inapplicable to occupants 17 and younger if the cargo area is enclosed; parades, hunting and farm operations
Rhode Island	•	Persons 16 and older; persons 15 and younger who are secured in the cargo area

•	Law
○	No Law



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South Carolina	•	Persons 15 and older; persons 15 and younger when an adult is present; when the child is belted; parade; emergency situation; agricultural activities; hunting; vehicle has a secured metal tailgate and operated less than 36 mph; vehicle operated in county with incorporated areas with population of 3,500 or less
South Dakota	○	
Tennessee	•	Persons 12 and older; persons 6-11 in a vehicle being operated off the interstate or state highway system; parades if vehicle going less than 20 mph; agricultural activities; or on city or county roads unless prohibited by local ordinance or resolution
Texas	•	Persons 18 and older, vehicles that are the only vehicles owned by members of the household; vehicles in parades, hayrides, or on beaches, or being used in an emergency; vehicles in farm operations used to transport persons from field to field or on farm to market roads or on county roads outside municipalities
Utah	• ¹	Off highway operation; employees performing their duties; persons riding in a vehicle space that is intended for any load
Vermont	○	
Virginia	•	Persons 16 and older; farmers when crossing a highway to go from field to field
Washington	○	
West Virginia	○	
Wisconsin	• ¹	Inapplicable to enclosed areas; farm operations; parades; deer hunting; employees; persons riding in truck bodies in spaces intended for merchandise
Wyoming	○	
TOTAL (includes D.C.)	32	

¹ This provision is designed to prohibit riding on hoods, fenders and other places not designed for passengers. The exemption for persons in the body of a truck applies to enclosed areas like the cargo area of a straight truck or van.

² Age limit set by passenger restraint law, not by an explicit cargo area restriction.