

# Brakes

## for Light- and Mid-Weight Trailers



Georgia Law, as well as Federal and Georgia Regulations, requires most trailers to have brakes. These laws and regulations generally apply to trailers above 3,000 lbs. Gross Weight or Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR).

Georgia Law (§40-8-50(d)) requires brakes on all wheels of trailers over 3,000 lbs. Gross Weight (actual loaded weight).

Georgia and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (49 CFR §393.41, 393.42, 393.43, and 393.48) require vehicles and combinations over 10,000 lbs. GVWR with trailers over 3,000 lbs to have:

A parking brake system (§393.41);

Operative brakes on all wheels (§393.42);

A brake which will apply automatically in case of trailer breakaway\* (§393.43); and,

Brakes that operate correctly and are properly maintained (§393.48).

Brakes may be hydraulic, air, electric, vacuum, or some combination of these systems.

\*Breakaway devices for air or vacuum brakes must apply automatically if they sense a loss of air or vacuum. Breakaway devices for electric brakes will generally require a battery and relay system on the trailer.



Safety Message from Project P.I.E.  
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