



# Texas Department of Transportation

VEHICLE TITLES AND REGISTRATION DIVISION • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78779-0001 • (512) 465-7611

April 19, 2000

## Registration and Title Bulletin # 33-00

To: All County Tax Assessor-Collectors

Subject: Registration Classification of Dump (Pup) Trailers

### PURPOSE

To review the department's policy on the registration classification of dump trailers, commonly referred to as pup trailers.

### DETAILS

Due to recent questions concerning the registration classification of these dump trailers, we would like to briefly review the definitions distinguishing trailers, semitrailers, and token trailers, and to reiterate why most dump trailers are classified and registered as *trailers*.

Transportation Code, §§ 502.001 and 502.167:

- §502.001(21): "Semitrailer" means a vehicle designed or used with a motor vehicle so that part of the weight of the vehicle and its load rests on or is carried by another vehicle.
- §502.001(22): "Trailer" means a vehicle that is designed or used to carry a load wholly on its own structure and is drawn or designed to be drawn by a motor vehicle.
- §502.167(1)(3): "Token trailer" means a semitrailer that has a gross weight of more than 6,000 pounds, and is operated in combination with a truck or truck-tractor that has been issued an apportioned license plate, a combination license plate, or a forestry vehicle license plate.

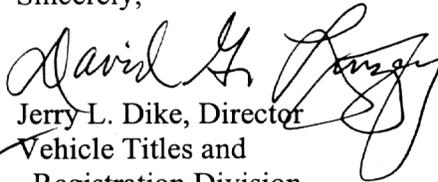
Typically, a dump trailer is supported on two independent axles and is designed so that no significant amount of the empty weight of the trailer and its load is transmitted to the towing unit. This trailer unit designed with a hinged tow bar should be classified as a "*trailer*" and not as a "*semitrailer.*" Full trailer fees should be collected and "*trailer*" license plates displayed on the trailer. Attached is an illustration of a dump trailer.

*NOTE:* Since the "*token trailer*" definition specifically limits such registration to semitrailers, this type of dump trailer may not be legally registered with token trailer license plates.

### VTR CONTACT PERSONS

If you have any questions concerning this bulletin, please contact your local TxDOT Vehicle Titles and Registration Division Regional Office or the Customer Help Desk at (512) 465-7611. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
for Jerry L. Dike, Director  
Vehicle Titles and  
Registration Division

Attachment

cc: Chief Charles Graham  
Traffic Law Enforcement  
Texas Department of Public Safety

