

Summary

Nowadays the transport of containers on the public road is being done by truck and semi-trailer or by lorry and trailer. If the Netherlands wants to maintain their position as a big transport country, new means of transport will always have to be explored. Without development there is no progress and no growth.

An example of an alternative means of transport is a truck and trailer. This vehicle consists of a truck with a trailer behind it. The trailer is suitable for the transport of two twenty-ft containers.

It was not clear if the truck and trailer are legally allowed on the public road. For this purpose a survey was carried out with the help of domestic and foreign literature. Both the legal and technical specifics have been considered. Besides that these problems have been discussed with (Dutch) experts on the territory of vehicle dynamics, legislation and transport.

At this moment the truck and trailer will not be allowed to drive on a public road, since this vehicle does not meet the technical demands. The length of the vehicle exceeds the allowed length. To get permission to drive the truck and trailer on the public road without changing the law is to get special permission. A condition for getting a special permission is that the vehicle must be capable to make a described turn. After a few adjustments the truck and trailer will meet all of the technical conditions for a special permission. The decision to give a special permission can only be made by the Ministry of Transport and Construction.

The policy for the longer and heavier vehicles is not yet been decided on. In September 1997 decisions will be made by the government concerning this policy. A lot of requests for a special permission for longer and heavier vehicles have already been made. If these vehicles will get a special permission, the truck and trailer will also get a special permission.