WAC 204-70-040  Definitions.  (1) "Coupling" means that part of
the primary connecting system normally mounted on the trailer, such as
a socket, by which the connection is actually made and including the
supporting attachment to the trailer frame.
(2) "Gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR)" means the value speci-
fied by the vehicle manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single ve-
hicle.
(3) "Hitch," defined for specific uses under (a) and (b) of this
subsection, means that part of the primary connecting system normally
mounted on the towing vehicle, including a ball-support platform and
those components which are attached to the towing vehicle.
(a) "Weight distributing hitch" means a mechanical device that
connects the trailer to the towing vehicle, and by means of a leverage
applied on both trailer and vehicle structures, when properly adjus-
ted, distributes the imposed vertical load at the hitch and coupling
connection between the structures of axles of towing vehicle and
trailer.
(b) "Weight carrying hitch" means a mechanical and/or structural
device that connects the trailer to the towing vehicle, and that does
not employ features designed to redistribute the load imposed at the
hitch and coupling connection.
(4) "Maximum gross trailer weight (MGTW)" means the weight of the
trailer plus the weight of all cargo, consumables, and equipment loa-
ded on the trailer when in an actual underway towing condition.
(5) "Maximum vertical load on hitch (tongue weight)" means the
vertical downward static force exerted on the hitch by the coupling at
the point of connection of coupling and hitch, with weight distribu-
tion features or devices, if any, deactivated. Tongue weight is meas-
ured at the trailer coupling, with the trailer on a level surface (de-
tached from the hitch), and with trailer consumables and cargo in max-
imum loaded conditions.
(6) "Patrol" means Washington state patrol as defined in chapter
43.43 RCW.
(7) "Primary connecting system" means the combination of devices
and their attaching structures that are normally utilized to maintain
the connection between towing vehicle and trailer during towing opera-
tions. This includes, but is not limited to, the ball-and-socket type
of connection or draft means. Note: This does not include a safety
chain, which is part of a secondary system normally utilized only upon
failure of the primary connection, nor does it include weight distrib-
uting or sway control features or devices whose function is accessory
to the maintenance of the towing vehicle-trailer connection.
(8) "Safety chains" means flexible tension members connected from
the front portion of the towed vehicle to the rear portion of the tow-
ing vehicle for the purpose of retaining connection between towed and
towing vehicle in the event of failure of the connection provided by
the primary connecting system. The term "safety chains" includes not
only chains, cable, or wire ropes, or equivalent flexible member meet-
ing the strength requirements of SAE J684 revised July 2005, but also
any splice, clamp, socket, snap, eye, ring, thimble, pin, or other
fastening device or forming method which is part of the assembly of
any such flexible tension member.
(9) "Responsible manufacturer" means that person who manufactures
a hitch or hitch component either for resale or for sale where it is
not actually installed by the manufacturer.
[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.37.005 and 46.37.320. WSR 14-17-101, § 204-70-040, filed 8/19/14, effective 9/19/14; WSR 80-03-069 (Order 80-02-2-70), § 204-70-040, filed 2/28/80.]