

IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY

For Illinois Farmers



An overview of Illinois laws regulating the operation of farm equipment on public roads. These laws are found in the Illinois Vehicle Code (IVC)—not in trucking regulations—thus are applicable only within Illinois.

DEFINITIONS

Implement of Husbandry

An implement of husbandry is generally any vehicle designed and adapted exclusively for agricultural, horticultural or livestock raising operations. [1-130]

Wagon trailers & implement trailers used in a farming operation up to 36,000 pounds gross weight and designed and used for carrying other implements of husbandry are considered implements of husbandry. [1-130]

Farm wagon

Wagons up to 36,000 pounds gross weight that are designed, adapted, and used exclusively for agricultural, horticultural or livestock raising operations are implements of husbandry. Above that weight, they no longer meet the definition of an implement of husbandry and are treated in the IVC as a trailer. [1-130]

ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles)

ATVs are specifically excluded from the definition of a "farm tractor" and are not considered to be implements of husbandry regardless of their use. [1-120]

Farm Tractor

A farm tractor is any motor vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing other implements of husbandry, and every self-propelled implement of husbandry, but not ATVs. [1-120]

Gooseneck Trailers (Slang)

Flat bed, box, and livestock gooseneck trailers are not usually considered to be implements of husbandry because their design permits multiple uses. [1-130]

Illinois Vehicle Code (IVC)

A collection of Illinois statutes (laws) that regulate vehicles and drivers.

REGISTRATION & TESTING

Title

Implements of husbandry are not required to be titled. [3-102.6] However, they may be if the owner desires. [3-103]

Licensing

Implements of husbandry are not required to be licensed (registered). [3-402.A.(2)]

Safety Testing

Implements of husbandry are not required to be safety tested. [13-101.(a)]

RULES OF THE ROAD

Towing Unit

An implement of husbandry generally remains an implement of husbandry regardless of the type of vehicle towing it (i.e: truck or farm tractor), therefore the traffic rules are generally the same regardless of the towing unit used. [1-130]

Driver's License

A driver's license is generally not required to operate an implement of husbandry. [6-102.4]

Under certain conditions the operator of a fertilizer "floater" may be required to have a valid driver's license. [3-809.(c)]

Traffic Rules

Most traffic rules which apply to operating cars or trucks also apply to operating implements of husbandry on public roadways. (i.e: stop and yield signs, lane usage, etc.). [11-202] & [11-1418]

A farm tractor must not be on the road unless it is being used as an implement of husbandry in a farming

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operation. [11-1418]

Implements of husbandry are not generally restricted to a specified maximum speed limit other than the posted limit and the reasonable limits of safe operation. [11-601]

Fertilizer "floaters" may not exceed 30 mph. [3-809.(c)]

Implements of husbandry should not impede or block the reasonable flow of traffic. [11.606]

Interstate Highways

Implements of husbandry may not be operated on interstate highways or tollways. [11-711]

SIZE & WEIGHT

Size

There is a general exemption from State standards limiting the length, width or height of most implements of husbandry. [15-101(b)]

Sprayers and fertilizer "floaters" are limited to a maximum width of 12 feet. [3-809(c)]

An implement of husbandry loaded on another vehicle for transport may not exceed 13 feet 6 inches in height from the road's surface. Such loads are generally not restricted by width during the period from 1/2 hour after sunrise to 1/2 before sunset. However, at any other time, this load may not exceed 8' 6" in width unless in compliance with wide load laws. [15-102.2]

Weight

Implements of husbandry are generally not subject to the axle weight limits that apply to trucks and trailers. [15-101(b)]

Despite this exemption, the implement operator and/or owner can be held liable for damage to roads or bridges caused by the implement. [15.318]

Implements of Husbandry are generally considered to be subject to weight postings on bridges. [15-317] & [15-111]

Farm wagons, farm trailers, nurse tanks, sprayers and fertilizer equipment—and their loads—are restricted to 36,000 pounds gross weight or less. [1-130]

SMV must be compliant with ASAE S276.5 or higher



Farm wagons are limited to a maximum GVW of
36,000#

MARKINGS

SMV Emblem

The slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblem is required to be displayed on implements of husbandry any time they are on a public road—day or night. It must be mounted at or near the center of the rear of the implement and must be no less than 4 feet nor more than 10 feet from its bottom edge to the road's surface. SMV emblems may be used only on implements of husbandry, animal drawn vehicles, and special mobile equipment. Any other use is illegal and subject to a fine.

Conspicuity

This reflective marking is included in ASABE standards and applies to newer farm equipment. It is the slow moving vehicle equivalent of the night-time red and white reflective markings seen on large trucks. There is one major difference.

Conspicuity markings on farm equipment consists of alternating retro-reflective red and fluorescent orange horizontal bars across the rear of the implement. Each is 2 inches by 9 inches. (Do not use red and white—that's for high speed vehicles.)

The marking may have gaps of up to 6 feet and should extend to within 16 inches of the left and right extremities. The SMV emblem may be counted as part of the conspicuity marking.

LIGHTS

If manufactured before January 1, 2003

Lights

Lights are required on implements of husbandry when on the road between sunset and sunrise. [12-205]

On older equipment, they must include:

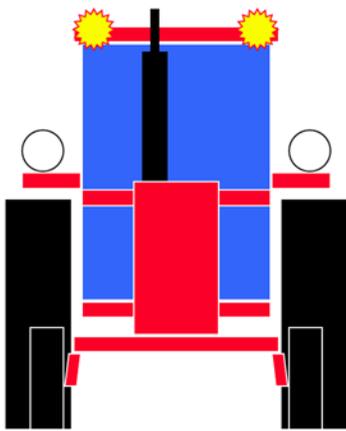
- At least two white headlights on the towing unit [12-205.1]
- Two red tail lights (may not flash except as turn signal) [12-205]
- At least one oscillating, rotating or flashing amber light visible to the rear, mounted as high as practical. [12-205.1] & [12-215(b)11]

Lights on Implement Combinations

If the implement(s) being towed partially or fully obscures the tail lights and/or the SMV emblem mounted on the towing vehicle, the lights and markings must then be mounted on the back of the rearmost implement in tow.

The flashing amber light(s) must be mounted on the rear-most implement in tow. [12-205.1]

LIGHTING & MARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURED IN 2003 OR LATER — BASED ON ASABE STANDARD S279.11

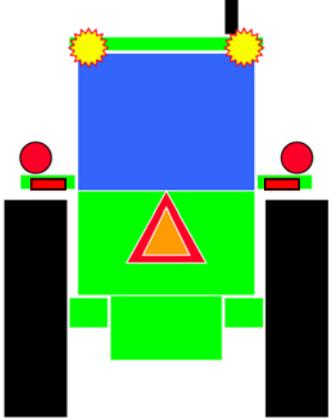


Two flashing amber lights and two white headlights must be visible to the front.

(B)

Two flashing amber lights, two red taillights and two red reflectors must be visible to the rear. Must also be placed on the trailing implement if it obscures the lights on the tractor.

(C)



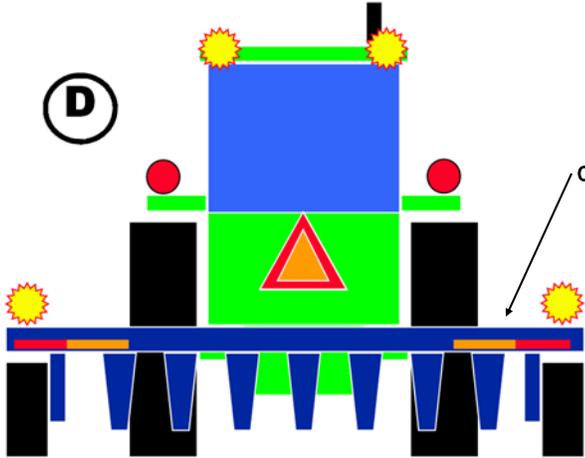
Measured from point of hitch to extreme rear:

- Implements over 16 feet must have an SMV emblem mounted on the rear and amber reflectors along each side.
- Implements over 25' must have tail lights and flashing amber lights mounted on the rear, even if those on tractor are visible.

If the implement or the tractor is over 8 feet wide, amber reflectors are required on the front to mark the extremities.

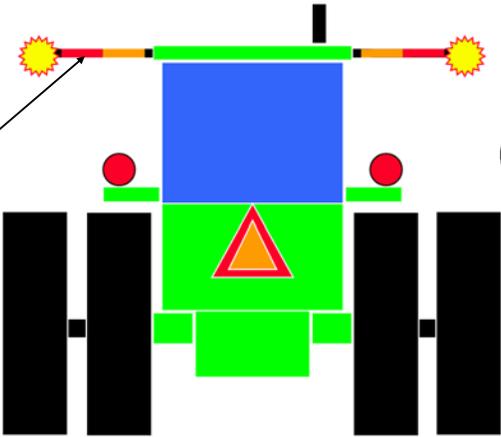
If over 12 feet wide, the flashing amber lights (front and rear) and conspicuity markings (rear) must be extended to within 16 inches of the left and right extremities.

(D)



Conspicuity Markings

(E)



ASABE

[Formerly ASAE]

American Society of Agricultural & Biological Engineers

The illustrations above depict front and rear lighting as set out in the applicable standards of the ASABE. (They exceed the requirements in Illinois law for older equipment, manufactured prior to 2003.)

Because these ASABE standards provide far better visibility of farm equipment while on the road, it is recommended that the additional lighting and reflective material be displayed on all equipment, old and new.

Illinois law requires that all farm equipment manufactured in 2003 and later be equipped with the lights and markings set out in ASABE standard S279.11.

Not all requirements are spelled out here. For additional information or to purchase a copy of the standard (about \$50) contact the ASABE at:

American Society of Agricultural & Biological Engineers
2950 Niles Road
St. Joseph, MI 49085-9659

Phone: 616-429-0300
Fax: 616-429-3852
E-mail: hq@asae.org
Web Site: www.asabe.org

IMPLEMENT COMBINATIONS

With limited exceptions, two is the maximum number of implements of husbandry - loaded or empty - that may be towed in tandem behind a power unit for a total of 3 vehicles in combination. [15-101(b)]

If hauling fresh, perishable fruits or vegetables from farm to the first point of processing, 3 wagons may be towed in tandem if they are pulled by a farm tractor for a total of 4 vehicles in combination. [15-101(b)]

A pdf version of this document is available with hyperlinks at the iffb web address.

This document prepared and provided by:

www.ilfb.org

Important:

The information in this brochure is a general guide to the laws affecting farm equipment as commonly administered by Illinois' regulatory and enforcement agencies. It is not a definitive interpretation of the law.

Much of the information included in this brochure is found in Chapter 625 ILCS 5/ of the Illinois Compiled Statutes. The numbers in brackets indicate the specific section and/or paragraph. Complete Illinois statutes are available on the Internet at:
<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs2.asp?ChapterID=49>

Laws in states other than Illinois vary and are not covered in this brochure.

SAFETY REMINDERS

Brakes

Keep dual brake pedals locked when traveling on the road.

Grades

Shift to a low gear before ascending or descending a hill. Shifting while on the hill could cause tractor and implement to tip or lose control.

Lane Usage

As much as practical, keep your equipment completely in your lane. Your equipment must not interfere with traffic in an adjoining lane.

On a busy two-lane highway or narrow road, pull over when possible to let traffic backed up behind you pass safely.

Wide equipment should be folded or loaded as its design was intended for transport between fields.

Hitches

Always connect the implement at a point lower than the rear axle of the tractor. Use a hitchpin that has a locking device to keep the pin in place.

Two safety chains should be used to connect the tongue of a farm wagon, wagon trailer, implement trailer, nurse tank or fertilizer buggy to the towing vehicle.

Reflectors

Keep all reflectors, lights, and slow moving vehicle emblems clean and free of dust or mud.

Replace faded SMV emblems with a new emblem meeting ASABE standards. Look for the latest retro-reflective material standard number on the emblem, S276.5 (or higher.)

Reflectors or reflectorized tape should be used to mark the left and right extremities of equipment over 8 feet wide—red displayed to the rear, and amber to the front.

Equipment more than 16 feet long when transported should have reflectors or reflectorized tape periodically along its sides. Amber is the appropriate color.

Speed

According to ASABE standards, the following guidelines should be used for towing implements which do not have their own braking system. For example: If a wagon weighing 24,000 pounds were to be pulled by a tractor weighing 12,000 pounds, the maximum speed should be 10 mph.

Always reduce speed on hillsides, rough or uneven pavement, and on curves.

Drive at the maximum speed pavement, weather conditions, equipment and load will safely allow. This keeps the "rate of closure" between the implement and trailing traffic to a minimum.

Mud & Debris

Clean off your vehicles before leaving the field so they don't track mud or other debris onto the road. If your vehicle deposits mud or debris on the road, it's your responsibility to clean it off.

Relative Weights Affect Speed

Weight of Implement Relative to Weight of Power Unit	Maximum Road Speed
1:1 or less	Up to 20 mph
2:1 or less	Up to 10 mph
More than 2:1	Do not tow