



SLOW MOVING VEHICLES (SMV)

Implements of husbandry are required to display a Slow-Moving Vehicle (SMV) Emblem to the rear at any time they are operated on a public road—day or night. Since 2004, all SMV emblems in use in the State of Illinois have had to meet or exceed the specifications and mounting requirements established by the American Society of Agricultural & Biological Engineers (ASABE) in standard S276.5.

PROPER USE

The Illinois Vehicle Code requires that certain vehicle types display the SMV emblem when operated on public roads—day and night. It is NOT contingent on the speed of the vehicle. Vehicle types affected are:

- Implements of husbandry (farm equipment)
- Animal-drawn vehicles
- Special mobile equipment
- Non-highway vehicles in municipalities or other local government that have passed a resolution or ordinance to allow the operation of these vehicles on roadways under its jurisdiction.

Any use of the SMV emblem other than for these vehicle types is prohibited by Illinois law.

MAINTENANCE

Keep it clean! It is the simplest thing you can do to ensure you are seen when out on the road.

Replace faded reflectors. The design standards that specify reflectivity of the SMV emblem are encoded in Illinois law. That means that old, faded emblems no longer meet legal requirements and should be replaced.

Just compare the old emblem to a new one, both in daylight and at night. If there is a noticeable difference in reflectivity, replace the old one. The new materials can last 8 to 10 years but fade faster if stored outdoors and constantly exposed to sunlight.

MOUNTING THE SMV EMBLEM

ASABE standards spell out how the SMV emblem is to be positioned on farm equipment:

- As near to the rear and centered, or as near to the left of center of the equipment as practical.
- From 2 feet to 10 feet above the pavement (measured to the lower edge of the emblem)

- Perpendicular to the direction of travel
- Visible to the rear
- Point of the triangle upward
- Securely and rigidly affixed to the equipment. (Moveable emblems may be mounted with socket and bracket.)

An SMV emblem must be displayed on the back of all interchangeable towed machinery and trailers.

“A slow-moving vehicle emblem may not be displayed in public view of a highway on an object other than a vehicle . . .”

Improper use distorts the true meaning of this internationally recognized traffic symbol. Its unique triangular shape and red/orange color combination was scientifically engineered to give motorists advance warning that the vehicle they are approaching is slow-moving. That is why Illinois law prohibits its use on stationary objects and other vehicle types.

PENALTY FOR IMPROPER USE

Misuse of an SMV emblem is a petty offense subject to a \$75 fine.

FOR SAFETY SAKE

Please help Illinois farm families and the motoring public stay safe by avoiding misuse of the SMV emblem and preserving its true meaning.

REFERENCES

IL Statutes: 625 ILCS 5/12-709
625 ILCS 5/1-130
625 ILCS 5/1-191
625 ILCS 5/11-1426.1

IL Admin Code: Title 92, Part 564