Light and Reflect for Farm Safety

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Light and Reflect for Farm Safety
Many of the crashes occur on clear days in the summer or autumn.
• Speed Differential
• Increased Size of Machinery
• Time of Year
• Time of Day
A car that is travelling 55 mph has 7 seconds to respond before crashing with farm machinery travelling at 15 mph that is 400 feet away.
Most farm machinery is transported during 6:00-8:00 am and 6:00-8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Farm season corresponds with vacation season in the summer and fall months.
• Machinery
  Lighting
• Machinery
  Marking
• Mirrors
• Operating
  Procedures
• the Operator
Machinery Lighting
Machinery Lighting

• Front Lighting Requirements:
  – Farm tractors operated on a public road at night must be equipped with at least one white lamp visible at a distance of 500 feet. (NCGS 20-129)
American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) recommends two white lights mounted at the same level as far apart as possible in the front of machinery.
ASAE recommends that farm equipment should have at least one red light—mounted as far left as possible.

**North Carolina Rear Lighting Requirements:**
- At least one red lamp visible at a distance of 500 feet should be mounted to the rear of the farm equipment.
- Two red reflectors, each having a diameter of at least four inches, may be used in lieu of the lamp. (NCGS 20-129)
Machinery Lighting

• ASAE also recommends:
  – If a second red light is used in the rear it should be mounted on the far right of the machinery.
Machinery Lighting

Farm machinery that covers the brake lights must be equipped with a stop lamp that is activated by the foot brake of the towing unit.

(NCGS 20-125.1)
The Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) is used to notify other drivers that they are approaching machinery traveling less than 25 mph.
Machinery Markings

The Slow Moving Vehicle emblem is not required by the Motor Vehicle Laws in North Carolina.
Machinery Markings

However, the Slow Moving Vehicle emblem is required by the Occupational Safety and Health Standards- 1910.145(d)(10).
Machinery Markings

The Slow Moving Vehicle emblem should be replaced if damaged or if the orange center is faded.
The SMV emblem should be mounted two to four feet above ground.
Mirrors
Tractors and other farm machinery in North Carolina are not required to be equipped with mirrors. (NCGS 20-126)
Mirrors should be extended to allow machinery operators to see around wide equipment or blind spots caused by operator cabs.
Operating Procedures
• Electronic turn signals are the best way to signal other drivers.

• Electronic turn signals are not required on farm machinery in North Carolina.

• However, all motor vehicles operators in public roads are required to signal when stopping or turning. (NCGS 20-154)
Hand signals are acceptable for notifying others of turns or stopping.
Machinery operators should not wave drivers around. The waving motion is too similar to a left hand turn signal and may confuse other drivers.
The Operator
It is strongly urged that only licensed drivers be permitted to transport equipment on public roads.
• Tips to Remember:

• Use adequate lighting on machinery

• Use adequate markings to maximize the visibility of your machinery

• Know and obey all traffic laws

• Allow traffic to pass
Most of all practice safe operating procedures when sharing the road with other vehicles.

Keep lights, emblems, and reflectors clean.

Use seatbelts, roll bars, and other safety devices.

Use lights.
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For more information or a free SMV emblem please contact 1-800-Labor-NC.