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This guide is not legal advice. If you think potential problem areas exist in your operation after reading it, you should consult an attorney knowledgeable in transportation regulations. Information contained herein is current as of May 24, 2007.

Terms and Definitions

➤ Farm Vehicle

A vehicle that

- 1) Is owned by a farmer;
- 2) Is used only in the farmer's farming business and about the farmer's farm home and in hauling farm products and the labor, supplies, equipment, and other materials necessary to the operation of the farm and farm home; and
- 3) Is not used to haul farm products previously acquired by the farmer for resale or to haul farm products for hire for another person who is not a farmer.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 13-911)

➤ Farm Tractor

Is a motor vehicle that is designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing farm equipment.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 11-121)

➤ Farm Equipment

In general farm equipment means a vehicle that:

- 1) Is designed and adapted only for agricultural, horticultural, or livestock raising operations;
- 2) Is designed and adapted only for lifting or carrying a "farm vehicle"; or
- 3) Is designed and adapted for splitting firewood.

Note: Farm equipment also includes silvicultural equipment weighing **62,000** pounds or less gross weight.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 11-120)

➤ Farm Products

As defined under Transportation Article

These include food for consumption by humans or livestock, tobacco, shrubbery, flowers, plants, trees for replanting, seed fertilizer, mulch, peat, sod, livestock and livestock products, poultry and poultry products, farm wood lot products, and fibers.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 13-911)

As defined under Agriculture Article

Any agricultural, horticultural, vegetable, or fruit product of the soil, including livestock, meats, marine food products, poultry, eggs, dairy products, wool, hides, feathers, nuts, honey, and every product of farm, forest, orchard, garden or water, but does not include canned, frozen, dried, or pickled products.

(MD Annotated Code, Agriculture § 10-601)

➤ Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV)

A motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles used to transport passengers or property if the vehicle fits at least one of the following conditions:

- a) Any vehicle with a Gross Combination Weight (GCW) or Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) of **10,000 lbs.** or more;
- b) A vehicle that is designed or used to transport more than **8** passengers, including the driver, for compensation;
- c) Any vehicle which is designed to transport **16** or more passengers, including the driver, whether for compensation or not; or
- d) A vehicle of any size that transports hazardous materials that requires placarding.

(Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR) Part 390.5)

Note: CMV does not include a vehicle:

- a) Controlled and operated by a farmer;
- b) Used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery, or farm supplies to or from the farm;
- c) Not used in the operations of a common or contract motor carrier; and
- d) Used within 150 miles of the person's farm.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 16.803(c)(2))

Applicable Registration Requirements

➤ Farm Truck

As defined is a Class E (truck) vehicle and has a shipping weight of its chassis and battery, as certified by the manufacturer of more than ¾ ton.

Registration will be authorized when the MVA certifies that the applicant is a farmer and that the vehicle for which the application is made is a farm truck, specifying its proposed use. When registered as such, the truck may not be used for any other purpose.

Registration Fee is based on the maximum gross vehicle weight, as follows and is renewed yearly:

GVW (lbs.)	Fee (per 1,000 lbs.)
Min 10,000 – 40,000	\$5.00
40,001 – 65,000	\$5.25

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 13-921)

➤ Farm Truck Tractor

Is a farm vehicle that is a Class F (tractor) vehicle.

May not be used for-hire except to haul farm products for another farmer

Annual Registration Fee – For each Farm Truck Tractor, the annual fee is based on the maximum gross weight of the vehicle in

combination with a trailer or semitrailer as follows:

GVW (lbs.)	Fee (per 1,000 lbs.)
40,000 – 80,000	\$5.25

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 13-924)

An additional \$13.50 surcharge per year for the EMS system will be assessed to Class E and F Farm vehicles.

➤ Farm Area Vehicle (Area K)

A Class K Farm Area Vehicle is a motor vehicle owned by a farmer and operated only on a farm or on a highway within a 10-mile radius of the farm.

Annual Registration Fee - \$2.50, with no applicable surcharge.
(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 13-935)

Vehicles with Area K tags are exempt from the State's Preventive Maintenance Program (PMP), which requires annual inspection for safety control mechanisms on the vehicle. Interstate travel requires adherence to Federal Motor Carrier Safety standards and we encourage voluntary use of the PMP.

➤ Temporary Harvest Vehicle

This temporary registration designation is available to vehicles owned by a nonresident individual or company under contract with a MD farmer to conduct seasonal harvesting. It is used to transport perishable commodities from the farm to the packing plant for sorting, and processing.

Qualifying Vehicles Must:

- Pass Level 1 Safety Inspection conducted by MD State Police;
- Have a minimum insurance coverage; and
- Be operated within 35-miles of the harvesting operation.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 13-935)

Vehicles can be registered at the Salisbury and Easton branch MVAs, for the following fees:

- 30 days - \$20.00
- 60 days - \$40.00
- 90 days - \$60.00

➤ Foreign harvest vehicles

If a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer is registered in another state, displays current registration plates issued for it by that state, and is brought into MD by a nonresident for transporting seasonal farm labor to be employed on Maryland farms or for work incidental to seasonal crop operations on MD farms, the vehicle does not need to be registered in MD if:

- The vehicle is being used as an incidental part of harvesting operations within 35 miles of the field; and
- The owner of the vehicle has obtained an exemption permit for the vehicle.

MVA will need certification from State Police that the vehicle is indeed entitled to the exemption before issuing the exemption permit. The State Police will require proof of adequate insurance and may require a certificate of inspection for the vehicle. If issued, the permit must be carried by the driver at all times or posted in a conspicuous place on the vehicle.

The permit is valid for 90 days and eligible for a renewal of no more than 90 days in any 1 calendar year.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 13-402(d))

➤ Farm trailer and semitrailer

Is a farm vehicle that is a Class G (trailer) vehicle and may not be used for-hire.

Annual Registration Fee – For each farm trailer or semitrailer the annual fee is based

on the maximum gross weight for the vehicle as follows:

GVW (lbs.)	Fee (per 1,000 lbs.)
3,000	\$12.75
5,000	\$25.50
10,000	\$40.00
20,000	\$62.00

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 13-930)

➤ Trailers in general

Can be classified as either freight or non-freight

Freight: Designed for towing by a Class E (truck) or Class F (tractor) vehicle and be in excess of **20,000 lbs.** gross weight if towed by a Class E (truck) and in excess of **10,000 lbs.** if towed by a Class F (tractor) vehicle.

Non-freight: A vehicle designed for towing by a Class A (passenger), Class M (multipurpose), or a Class E (truck) vehicle and shall:

- If towed by a Class E (truck) vehicle, have a gross weight of **20,000 lbs.** or less; or
- If towed by a Class A or Class M vehicle, have a gross weight of **10,000 lbs.** or less and be a:
 - a) Boat trailer;
 - b) Camping trailer;
 - c) Travel trailer;
 - d) House trailer; or
 - e) Utility trailer.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 13-927)

CDL Licensing

➤ All commercial drivers must do the following:

- a) Notify their employers and the MVA of any convictions of motor vehicle laws, in this state or any other state, other than parking violations, within

- 30 days** of the date of conviction;
and
- b) Notify their employer of any revocation, suspension, cancellation or disqualification, before the end of the business day following the day that the driver received notice of the fact.
- c) Provide any new employer with a **10-year** employment history and a **3-year** driving history, including the reason for leaving that employment.
- d) Turn in all other driver's licenses issued by any other state or country.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 16-805)

For the driver of any vehicle, the following will be considered major disqualifying offenses for commercial drivers:

- Operating a commercial vehicle with a suspended or disqualified license; and
- While operating **any** vehicle,
 - Refusing a sobriety test;
 - Leaving the scene of an accident;
 - Using the vehicle to commit certain felonies; and
 - Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Penalty for conviction one year license disqualification for 1st offense, and lifetime disqualification for 2nd offense. Probation before judgment is considered a conviction in all above cases.

(FMCSR, Part 383.15)

➤ Physical Qualifications for New Commercial Driver License Applicants

- a) An applicant for a Class A or B learner's permit is required to show evidence that he/she meets the physical qualifications specified for interstate or intrastate operation, as appropriate.
- b) An applicant applying to add a hazardous materials endorsement to an existing commercial driver's

license is required to show evidence that he/she meets the physical qualifications specified for interstate or intrastate operations, as appropriate.

- c) An applicant applying to add a passenger endorsement to an existing commercial driver's license is required to show evidence that the applicant meets the physical qualifications specified for interstate or intrastate operation, as appropriate.

(COMAR, Title 11, Transportation 11.17.14.08-1)

- To apply for a CDL, you must do so at a full service MVA office and take the appropriate written, as well as, skill tests. A CDL manual is available from MVA to help applicants prepare for the tests. CDL skill tests are not given at all locations. You may obtain the test schedule containing locations, dates and business hours from any branch office.

➤ Age Requirements

- a) You must be at least **21** years old to drive a commercial vehicle in **interstate** transport.
- b) You must be at least **18** years of age to obtain a Class A CDL (tractor semitrailer) in **intrastate** transport
- c) You must be at least **21** years of age to haul hazardous materials.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 16-817)

- Waived from CDL requirements in MD and thus considered non-commercial for the purpose of CDL:

- a) A vehicle controlled and operated by a farmer;
- b) Used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery, or farm supplies to or from a farm;

- c) Not used in the operation of a common or contract motor carrier; and
- d) Used within **150** miles of the person's farm.

➤ Non-Commercial Licenses

Apply to all vehicles that do not fall under commercial definitions contained in the law. If a combination or articulated vehicle is being operated in **interstate** commerce, a physical exam is required of the driver.

Class A license holders are permitted to drive any combination of non-commercial Class F (tractor) and Class G (trailer) and any non-commercial vehicle that a Class B license authorizes its holder to drive, except motorcycles.

Class B license holders are permitted to drive any non-commercial vehicle or combination of non-commercial vehicles with a GVW or GCW of 26,001 lbs. or more and any vehicle that a non-commercial Class C license authorizes its holder to drive, except motorcycles, and combinations of Class F and Class G vehicles.

Class C license holders are permitted to drive any non-commercial vehicle or combination of non-commercial vehicles with a GVW less than 26,001 lbs., except motorcycles

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 16-104.1)

➤ Commemorative Ag Tag

The Ag Tag consists of a farm scene at sunset and has the quote, "Our Farms, Our Future" boldly written on it. In addition to the normal applicable registration fee, there is a one-time fee of \$20 at issuance and a \$5 per year renewal fee which goes to the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation to support agricultural awareness through educational programs.

Qualified Vehicles:

- Class A (passenger)
- Class E (truck, up to **1 ton**)
- Class E Farm Truck
- Class G (trailer)
- Class M (multipurpose)

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 13-619.2)

Size Limitations

➤ Maximum Width Limits

The width limit is 102 inches. The width of a vehicle includes any load it carries and shall be exclusive of safety and energy conservation devices, such as side mirrors, turn signal lamps, etc., provided the equipment or device (other than mirrors) does not extend more than 3 inches on each side of the vehicle beyond the width limitation.

A vehicle exceeding 102 inches in width may not be driven on a highway unless it has a special hauling permit issued from the State Highway Administration, or as to a highway under the jurisdiction of a local authority, has special permission from the local authority.

If the state or local jurisdiction imposes a width restriction on a particular stretch of highway, the law requires them to erect and maintain signs providing notice of the restriction prior to the affected location.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 24-102)

Width limitations do not apply to any:

- a) Farm equipment;
- b) Vehicle transporting farm equipment; or
- c) Vehicle carrying a load of forage crops in connection with harvesting, if the distance traveled with the load on the

highways in the state of MD is less than **5 miles**.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 24-102)

➤ Maximum Height Limits

While a vehicle combination is transporting farm equipment, the overall height of the vehicle combination and its load may extend up to **16 feet** if;

- a) The vehicle combination is traveling on a highway for a distance not exceeding **75 miles**; and
- b) The load cannot readily be reduced in height.

- If not described as above, all other vehicles and their loads may not exceed **13 feet 6 inches**.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 24-104)

➤ Length Limitations

A single unit truck may not be more than **40 feet** long. A combination of a semitrailer (single) being operated with a non-cargo carrying truck tractor is not restricted to an overall length, however the semitrailer may not exceed **48 feet** in length

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 24-104.1)

➤ Gross Weight Limitations(based on # of axles and bridge formula): The gross weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles may not exceed the following limits depending upon the number of axles:

<u># of Axles</u>	<u>GVW or GCW (in lbs.)</u>
3 or less	55,000
4	66,000
5	80,000

➤ Weight Limit Exceptions

Except on interstate highways, a vehicle carrying farm products as defined under MD Annotated Code, Agriculture § 10-601 that have been loaded in fields or other off-highway locations is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of **10%**.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 24-108)

The following load tolerances are also permitted:

- Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with **3 axles**, or a combination of vehicles with a trailer less than **32 feet** long or a semitrailer less than **45 feet** long, either registered as a farm vehicle or carrying farm products that were loaded in fields or other off-highway locations, is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of **5%** except during harvest time when a tolerance of **15%** is permitted for a vehicle carrying the following:
 - Wheat – from June 1 to August 15
 - Corn – from July 1 to December 1
 - Soybeans – from September 1 to December 31
 - Vegetable Crops – from June 1 to October 31
- Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with at least **3 axles**, or a combination of vehicles with a trailer length of less than **32 feet** carrying forest products that have been loaded in forests, or other off-highway locations, is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of **10%**, except from June 1 to September 30 when the axle load limit tolerance is at **15%**.

- Except on interstate highways, a combination of vehicles with a semitrailer length of **45 feet** or less carrying forest products that have been loaded in forests or other off-highway locations, is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of **5%**, except from June 1 to September 30 when the permitted tolerance is **15%**.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 24-109)

- Garrett County Commissioners are authorized to establish gross maximum weight limits not to exceed **87,000 lbs.** for the following vehicles and circumstance: if a vehicle has at least **6 axles**, is a tractor trailer and semitrailer combination, and is using any parts of Table Rock Road and Wilson Run owned and maintained by the County.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 24-108)

- **Forest Products Exceptional Hauling Permit**

Valid for use in Garrett and Allegany counties only, this permit allows for a combination of vehicles solely carrying forest products loaded off-highway, and that has an axle configuration of not less than six axles and a front-to-rear centerline axle spacing of not less than 50 feet. Operators of such vehicles may then be allowed a maximum GCW of **87,000 lbs** and additional tolerances of **1,000 lbs** GCW and **15%** for axle weights. **Several safety and regulatory requirements apply.**

Permit Fee: \$500 (renewed yearly)

- **Exceptional Milk Hauling Permit**

Valid for use in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard,

Montgomery, Prince George's, and Washington counties only, this permit allows for a combination of vehicles hauling raw liquid milk loaded from bulk storage tanks at one or more farm locations and that has an axle configuration of not less than six axles and a front-to-rear centerline axle spacing of not less than 50 feet. Operators of such vehicles may then be allowed a maximum GCW of **87,000 lbs** and additional tolerances of **1,000 lbs** GCW and **15%** for axle weights. **Several safety and regulatory requirements apply.**

Permit Fee: \$500 (renewed yearly)

- ***Please Note: Neither of the aforementioned exceptional hauling permits is valid on the Interstate Highway System.***

For requirements to obtain the above exceptional hauling permits, please contact the Maryland State Highway Administration, Hauling Permit Unit at 410-582-5734.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 24-113.2)

- Farm equipment temporarily moved on a highway is exempted from regulations governing size, weight, and load.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 24-101)

- **Vehicles Hauling Liquid Milk**

Except on interstate highways, vehicles transporting liquid milk from the producer may be granted a **5%** tolerance on the applicable registration or statutory gross weight limit. However, the tolerance may not permit the weight of the vehicle to exceed **80,000 lbs.**

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 24-111.1 (c))

- ◆ If **more than 1** statutory weight limit tolerance applies to a vehicle being weighed, the police officer shall grant **only the greatest applicable tolerance.**

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 24-111 (b) 3)

➤ **The following axle load limits apply in the state of Pennsylvania**

2-Axle Truck – 38,000 lbs.

Front Axle: not to exceed (nte) 20,000 lbs.

Rear Axle: nte 22,400 lbs.

3-Axle Truck – 58,400 lbs.

Front Axle: nte 20,000 lbs.

Axle 2 and 3: nte 18,000 on interstate highway

3-Axle Combination – 58,400 lbs.

Front Axle: nte 20,000 lbs.

Axle 2 and 3: nte 22,400 per axle

4-Axle Truck – 73,280 lbs.

Front Axle: nte 20,000 lbs.

Axles 2,3,and 4: nte 18,000 lbs. on interstate highway, otherwise nte 21,400 lbs. Total of rear axles nte 60,000 lbs.

4-Axle Combination – 73,280 lbs.

Front Axle: nte 20,000 lbs.

2nd Axle: nte 22,400 lbs.

Axles 3 and 4: nte 18,000 lbs. if center to Center distance between axles is less than 6 feet.

*if center to center distance is 6 – 8 ft, one axle is allowed 18,000 lbs., the other 22,400 lbs. If the center to center distance exceeds 8 ft, each axle is allowed 22, 400 lbs.

4-Axle Combination (3 axle truck tractor) – 73,280 lbs.

Front Axle: nte 20,000 lbs.

Axles 2 and 3: nte 18,000 lbs. per axle if the center to center distance between axles is less than 6 ft and the weight on axle 4 does not exceed 22,400 lbs.

*If the center to center distance between Axles 2 and 3 is between 6 ft and 8 ft, one axle is allowed 18,000 lbs., the other 22,400 lbs. If the distance exceeds 8 ft, each axle is nte 22,400 lbs.

Covering of Loads

- The beds of all vehicles transporting loose materials that include dirt, sand, gravel, wood chips, or other material that can blow, fall, or spill from a vehicle, must be fully enclosed on all sides and covered with a canvas or other type of approved cover.
- The loose material regulations of the **Transportation Article, Title 24-106 of the Annotated Code of MD**, do not apply to agricultural products in their natural state or residue developed from processing vegetable agricultural products that can be used as feed for animals and that are being transported to a farm. This provision, however, does not prevent the enforcement of any rule or regulation promulgated by the Department of the Environment for the control of air pollution.

The following vehicles, when transporting loose materials, are exempt from this law:

- Any **Class K** (Area K Farm Vehicle);
- Any **Class E** truck registered or capable of being registered under Subsection 13-917 of the Transportation Article if the vehicle manufacturer’s original design specifications for bed enclosures have not been altered to increase the vehicle’s load capacity;
- Any construction vehicles working within the confines of a public works construction site as

outlined in the construction plans, provided the distance traveled does not exceed one mile or the distance specified in an extension granted;

- d) Any construction vehicle or mining equipment while crossing a highway between construction or mining sites;
 - e) All **Class G** (trailer) vehicles, provided no part of the load is higher than six inches below the top of any enclosures; and
 - f) All vehicles operating within the Port of Baltimore for a distance not to exceed 1 mile between a stockpile or storage facility and a vessel docked at the Port.
- Vehicles carrying any material that can blow, fall, or spill must transport the load in a vehicle enclosed on both sides by sideboards, in the front by a board or the cab of the vehicle, and in the rear by a tailgate or board. The vehicle must be loaded so no part of the load is in contact with the sideboards or panels that is within **6 inches** of the top of either sideboard or panel. Vehicles with securely covered loads are exempt from the **6-inch** requirement, as is any vehicle with a fully enclosed body. Flat bed or drop deck trailers are required to have a headboard or “headache rack” installed on the back of the tractor.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 24-106)

MD Motor Vehicle Identification Numbers

- In MD, every truck registered over **10,000 lbs.** capacity, truck tractor, and bus operated on highways in the state, unless specifically **exempt***, must display either a USDOT or a MD-issued motor carrier identification number. If you are a motor carrier that is not

required to have a USDOT number because your vehicles do not leave the state and you do not handle interstate cargo, you must obtain a MD identification number and display it on your trucks, truck tractors, and buses.

The marking must display the following information:

- The trade name of the motor carrier operating the self-propelled motor vehicle.
- The motor carrier identification number issued by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration preceded by the letters “USDOT”.
- If the name of any person other than the operating carrier appears on the motor vehicle, the name of the operating carrier must be followed by the information required above and preceded by the words “operated by”.

The marking must:

- Appear on both sides of the self-propelled vehicle;
- Be in letters that contrast sharply with the background on which the letters are placed;
- Be readily legible, during daylight hours, from a distance of **50 feet** while the vehicle is stationary; and
- Be kept and maintained in a manner that retains the legibility required by the previous statement.
- The marking may be painted on the motor vehicle or may consist of a removable device.

- The Maryland State Highway Administration’s Motor Carrier Division of the Office of Traffic and Safety has been designated as the issuing agency for Maryland motor carrier identification numbers (MD DOT #s).

(FMCSR Part 390.21)

***The following vehicles, if only operated intrastate, may be exempt: Farm trucks, and farm truck tractors, Area K farm vehicles, emergency vehicles, vehicles transporting money or commercial paper, vehicles owned or operated by the State or local government, and vehicles within 15 days of their purchase.**

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 22-404.3)

Safety Issues

➤ Lighted Lamp Requirements

Every vehicle on a highway in MD, at any time, when due to insufficient light or inclement weather, persons and vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of **1,000 feet** ahead, shall display lighted lamps and illuminating devices as respectively required for different classes of vehicles, and further that stoplights, turn signals, and other signaling devices shall be lighted as prescribed for the use of these devices.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 22-201.1)

➤ Lamps on Farm Tractors and Farm Equipment

Every farm tractor and every self-propelled unit of farm equipment shall be equipped with **2** single-beam or multiple-beam headlamps and at least **2** red lamps visible when lighted from a distance of no less than **1,000 feet** to the rear; And at least **2** red reflectors visible from all distances within **600 feet** to **100 feet** to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps.

Every combination of farm tractor and towed farm equipment shall be equipped with lamps as provided below:

- a) The farm tractor towing the equipment shall be equipped as established above.
- b) The towed unit of equipment shall be equipped on the rear with two red lamps visible when lighted from a distance of no less than **1,000 feet** and **2** red reflectors visible to the rear from all distances within **600 feet** to **100 feet** when directly in front of the lawful upper beams of headlights.
- c) The combination also shall be equipped with a lamp displaying a white or amber light visible when lighted from a distance of no less than **1,000 feet** to the front. This lamp shall be positioned to indicate the extreme left of the combination.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 22-215)

➤ Reflective Material

Red and white retroreflective sheeting or reflex reflectors must be retrofitted to the sides and rears of semitrailers and trailers, including agricultural trailers that travel **interstate**. This federal regulation applies to semitrailers and trailers with an overall width of **80 inches** and a **GVW of 10,001 lbs.** or more. The reflective material is intended to help prevent nighttime and low-light condition side and rear impact collisions. These requirements do not apply if the vehicle travels within Maryland **only**, however Maryland Farm Bureau **encourages** the use of the reflective materials regardless of inter- or intrastate travel.

(FMCSR, Part 393.13)

- *Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) Emblem*
An SMV emblem is **required** to be displayed when operating on a highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles that is designed to be and is driven at a speed of **25 mph or less**. The emblem is to be mounted on the rear of the vehicle, base down, at a height of not less than **3** and no more than **5 feet** from ground to base. Any other vehicle or combination of vehicles when driven 25 mph or less may display the emblem.

In MD, new farm equipment designed or intended by the manufacturer to be driven or moved at speeds of 25 mph or less may not be sold unless equipped with an SMV emblem.

Unauthorized display of the SMV emblem is prohibited under State law.
(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 21-805)

The National Safety Council estimates that over **42,000** accidents occur in the United States each year between farm vehicles and motorists. Half of these accidents occur during September and October alone. SMV emblems on vehicles indicate that this vehicle is not to exceed **25 mph**. An effective SMV emblem should be visible from **600 feet** at anytime, day or night. Using SMV emblems for any other purpose other than slow moving vehicles severely diminishes the effective warning it is intended to give and thus puts the driver and the vehicle at greater risk from others. An example of misuse would be placing SMV emblems at the end of driveways as markers.

- *Safety Suggestions for Farm Vehicle Road Use:*
 - Clean SMV emblems each time before entering a road. Dust and dirt severely decrease the emblem's reflective properties.

- Before driving at night, clean headlights and taillights as well as flashers. Make sure they are working and turned on before entering a roadway.
- Ask someone to escort you and your machinery by having them drive a car/truck with its flashers on.

- *Preventive Maintenance Program*
Maryland's Preventive Maintenance Program applies to vehicles over **10,000 lbs.** registered as Class E, Class G freight trailer or freight semitrailer, F, P, and M. Area K vehicles do not have to adhere to the program, but MD Farm Bureau recommends farmers do so voluntarily for safety reasons.
(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 23-301)

- Owners must have the vehicles inspected, maintained, and repaired at least every **25,000 miles** or every **12 months**, whichever occurs first. A file containing the records is required and shall be retained where the vehicle is either housed or maintained for a period of **2 years** and for **6 months** after the vehicle leaves the owner's control.
(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 23-302)

- *Towed Vehicles Safety Chains*
Every trailer and semitrailer equipped with a tow bar and any special equipment being towed shall be coupled directly to the frame of the towing vehicle with 1 or more safety, or "stay" chains or cables. Attachment to the pintle hook does not meet this requirement.
 - No more slack may be left in these chains or cables than is needed for proper turning.

- The chains/cables shall be connected to the towed vehicle and to the tow bar to prevent the tow bar from dropping to the ground if it fails.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 24-107)

➤ Display of Warning Flag

While one vehicle is towing another and the connection is a chain, rope, or cable, a white, red, or orange-fluorescent warning flag or cloth at least **18 inches** square shall be displayed on the connection.

(MD Annotated Code, Transportation § 24-107(f))

International Fuel Tax Agreement

➤ The International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) is an agreement among states and Canadian provinces to simplify the reporting of fuel used by interstate/inter-jurisdictional motor carriers. As of Jan. 1, 1998, the IFTA member jurisdictions include all states and Canadian provinces **except** the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, the Northwest Territory, Yukon Territory, and Nunavut Territory. Maryland is your base jurisdiction for IFTA licensing and reporting if you:

- Have one or more qualified motor vehicles based in MD;
- Have an established place of business in MD for which motor carrier inspections are required;
- Maintain operational control and operations records for qualified vehicles in MD;
- Have one or more motor vehicles actually travel on MD highways; and
- Operate in at least one other IFTA jurisdiction.
- A Maryland registered vehicle that always stays within the

boundaries of Maryland and DC is not required to display IFTA decals.

- ❖ To request an IFTA license contact:
Comptroller of the Treasury
Motor Fuel Tax Division
IFTA Program
P.O. Box 1751
Annapolis, MD 21404-1751
Telephone (410-) 260-7215
Toll Free (MD only) 1-888-784-0142.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

- To report emergency situations (including disabled vehicles) from a cellular phone dial **#77**.
- MD Department of the Environment Hazardous Material Spill and Oil Spill Response (24 hrs)
1-866-633-4686
- Div. Of Radiation Control
7:30AM – 5:00PM, M-F
410-537-3300
4:30PM – 8:30AM, M-F/weekends/holidays
1-866-633-4686
- MD Transportation Authority Police (MDTAP monitor CB Channel 3)
1-888-754-0185
- MD State Police HQ/State Fire Marshal (State Police monitor CB Channel 9)
410-486-3101
State Police Toll Free Emergency:
1-800-525-5555
- Natl. Information Reporting & Response Center (USDOT)
1-800-424-8802
- CHEMTREC – **1-800-424-9300**

- CSX Railroad Crossing Emergency
1-800-232-0144
- Norfolk Southern Crossing Emergency
1-800-453-2530

Routine Calls and Websites

- *Motor Vehicle Administration*
General Info: Toll Free from MD,
DC, and Northern Virginia
1-800-950-1682
From other areas:
301-729-4550

Recorded information and answers to
common questions available 24
hrs/day:
Baltimore area **410-768-7000**
PG County area **301-350-9771**
Montgomery County area
301-948-3177

Motor Carrier Services Section

MD calls only **1-800-248-4160**
Local calls, Baltimore area
410-787-2971

Truck and Bus Driver Licensing

MD calls only **1-800-344-7309**
MD, DC, and Northern VA
1-800-950-1682
Other calls from outside MD
1-301-729-4575

- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Pertaining to:

- USDOT Identification #
- Carrier Safety Profile
- Other Federal Safety Info
1-800-832-5660

- MD State Police
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement
Division (Compliance Reviews and
PM's)
410-694-6100

- MD State Highway Admin.
Motor Carrier Division
1-800-543-4564
410-582-5734

Maryland Department of Transportation
www.marylandtransportation.com

Maryland Motor Carrier Handbook (Online)
www.marylandroads.com

To apply for a US DOT Number (Online)
www.fmcsa.dot.gov

To apply for a MD USDOT Number
(Online)
www.marylandroads.com

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