

USE OF FARM VEHICLE PLATES  
(revised)

September 15, 1994

This is issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the purpose of interpreting the provisions of Section 1344 (a) of the Vehicle Code relative to the operation of vehicles registered under farm vehicle registrations. It is the intent of this document that the interpretations expressed herein be applied by the Department and by law enforcement and judicial officials, pursuant to determinations of uses of farm registered vehicles that are permitted and prohibited under Section 1344 (a).

A. In order for a registered farm vehicle to be lawfully operated under Section 1344(a), one of the following conditions must exist:

1. The vehicle registrant must own the farm from which the farm registered vehicle will be operated; or
2. The vehicle registrant must operate the farm from which the farm registered vehicle will be operated.

B. A registered farm vehicle shall be authorized to be operated:

1. Within any farm owned or operated by the vehicle registrant;
2. On highways between parts of one farm owned or operated by the vehicle registrant;
3. On highways between any of two or more farms owned or operated by the vehicle registrant;
4. On highways between any farm owned or operated by the vehicle registrant and a place of business, provided that the operation of the vehicle is for the purpose of buying or selling agricultural commodities or supplies.

A registered farm vehicle may also be operated on highways between a place of business at which the commodity is sold by the vehicle registrant, an employee of the vehicle registrant or an auctioneer and the place of delivery if delivery is made using the same vehicle of the registrant which transported the commodities to the place of business.

5. On highways between any farm owned or operated by the vehicle registrant and any of the following locations:
  - a. a driver examination point;
  - b. a vehicle inspection station
  - c. a commercial or noncommercial vehicle repair or service facility.

C. For the purpose of determining whether or not compliance with the applicable requirements of paragraph (b)(4) have been met:

1. A "place of business" shall include other farms owned or operated by persons other than the vehicle registrant; commercial businesses engaged in buying, selling or marketing agricultural commodities or supplies; and any premises for disposal of any waste or residual materials resulting from the use of agricultural supply or production of any agricultural commodity on the farm or farms owned or operated by the vehicle registrant.

2. An “agricultural supply” shall include any material that facilitates the operation of a farm or the production, storage or preservation of any agricultural product on a farm, such as feed; seed; plants; fertilizer; manure; pesticides; herbicides; fuel used for heating of any building located on a farm; fuel for operation of equipment or vehicles used by the farm operation; building materials and equipment used in the maintenance, repair or construction of any building or road located on a farm; livestock; bedding; animal pens and enclosures; materials, containers and equipment used in the storage or preservation of an agricultural commodity; farm machinery and farming equipment and parts and tools used in the maintenance or repair of such machinery or equipment; and any waste material or residual material resulting from the maintenance, repair, construction or reconstruction of any farm building, road, machinery or equipment. The term shall also include groceries, household supplies and items for the repair and maintenance of the private dwelling of the farmer that is located on the farm. The term does not include any materials, supplies or equipment to be used in another business that may be operated on the farm premises, such as woodworking, ceramics, crafts, etc..
3. An “agricultural commodity” shall include any of the following raised, grown or produced on the farm or farms owned or operated by the vehicle registrant:
  - a. any field crop, including but not limited to corn, wheat, oats, rye barley, hay, potatoes and dry beans;
  - b. any fruit, including but not limited to apples, peaches, grapes, cherries and berries;
  - c. any vegetable, including but not limited to tomatoes, snap beans, cabbage, carrots, beets, onions and mushrooms;
  - d. any horticultural specialty, including but not limited to nursery stock, ornamental shrubs, ornamental trees and flowers, ornamental sod and live and cut Christmas trees.
  - e. any agricultural seed, vegetable seed, tree and shrub seed and flower seed;
  - f. any livestock or livestock product or any poultry or poultry product which is raised or produced for human or animal consumption;
  - g. any fish or other aquatic animal, plant or byproduct; and
  - h. any residual material resulting from the production of any commodity identified in subparagraphs (a) through (g) of this paragraph, including animal waste and crop residue.

The term does not include animals for their fur or trees raised or produced for timber, firewood or wood products.

4. The following activities shall be considered to be performed “for the purpose of buying or selling agricultural supplies or commodities”:
  - a. The operation of a vehicle from a farm to a place of business in order to conduct at the place of business negotiations, pricings, inspections, marketing inquiries and similar preliminary activities related to the purchase or receipt of an agricultural supply or the sale of an agricultural commodity by the vehicle registrant.
  - b. The hauling or towing of an agricultural supply from the place of business where the supply is received to the farm in which such supply is intended to be utilized;

- c. If applicable, the hauling or towing of an agricultural supply utilized on the farm for the purpose of returning such supply to the place of business providing the supply;
- d. The hauling or towing of an agricultural commodity from a farm to a place of business engaged in auctioning or similar centralized bulk marketing of agricultural products generally for the purpose of selling such commodity;
- e. The hauling or towing of any agricultural commodity which is unsuccessfully attempted to be marketed at a place of business identified in paragraph (C) (4) (d) from such place to the farm;
- f. The hauling or towing of an agricultural commodity from the farm to a place of business after sale of such agricultural commodity to such business;
- g. The hauling or towing of an agricultural commodity to a farmer's market operated in whole or part by the vehicle registrant of the purpose of direct retail marketing of such commodity at the market location; and, if applicable, the hauling or towing of any agricultural commodity unsuccessfully attempted to be marketed from such market location to the farm;
- h. The hauling or towing of any waste or residual agricultural supply or commodity from the farm to a place of business for disposal;
- i. The operation of a vehicle from the farm to the place of business or from the place of business to the farm, whichever applicable, upon completion of the activity described in subparagraphs (a) through (h).

5. Delivery of commodities are not permitted unless:

- a. The delivery is made in accordance with subparagraph (B) (4) to the place of delivery designated by the purchaser pursuant to the purchase of such commodities at a place of business engaged in auctioning or similar centralized bulk marketing of agricultural products; or
- b. To a place of business, as defined in paragraph (c) (1).

- 6. The operation of a registered farm vehicle for hauling any material, machinery or equipment intended to be used on a premises other than a farm owned or operated by the vehicle registrant (such as landscaping on private homes) is specifically prohibited.
- 7. The operation of a registered farm vehicle for hauling or towing agricultural commodities that have not been produced on farms owned or operated by the vehicle registrant or for hauling or towing supplies that are not intended to be utilized on the farm or farms owned or operated by the vehicle registrant is specifically prohibited.

D. The requirement that a registered farm vehicle be operated "on highways between" a farm owned or operated by the vehicle registrant and another location specified in Section 1344(a) is not intended to be interpreted as requiring the use of the most direct highway route between such authorized points. An operator of such vehicle is authorized to use an alternative route, provided that such alternative route is not such a deviation from the most direct route as to be indicative of a use of such vehicle which is not authorized under Section 1344(a).