



**INFORMATION TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND CHANGES IN  
FARM TRANSPORTATION PROVISIONS OF THE  
PENNSYLVANIA VEHICLE CODE ENACTED IN 2012**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Last year's enactment of legislation contained in Acts 209 (Senate Bill 390), 174 (House Bill 2372), and 173 (House Bill 2371) provided positive and needed changes to the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code to expand and facilitate farmers' legal ability to use their implements of husbandry, registration-exempt farm trucks, farm trailers and multipurpose agricultural vehicles (MAVs) in local transportation. All of the changes enacted under this legislation have gone into effect, as of February 22, 2013.**

**The following is a summary of standards for use and operation of agricultural vehicles that now apply in areas of the Vehicle Code that were amended by Acts 173, 174 and 209.**

**This document contains general statements, based on what Pennsylvania Farm Bureau believes to be the standards that apply in the particular areas amended by the 2012 legislation. Future interpretations and clarifications by state officials and by court decisions may affect the accuracy and completeness of statements contained in this document.**

**Readers should not assume this document identifies all of the allowances, restrictions or requirements that Pennsylvania Vehicle Code provides or imposes on the use or operation of agricultural vehicles, and should not rely exclusively on this document in understanding all of the privileges or obligations that may apply.**

**IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY**  
**(AMENDMENTS TO SECTIONS 1301 AND 4921)**

**1. Farm Implements Exempt from Registration – Authorized Distance and Use:**

Implements of husbandry may be operated anywhere within 50 miles of any farm owned or operated by the owner of the implement to facilitate agriculture. The 2012 legislation deleted provisions in previous law that restricted the use of registration-exempt implements to specific tasks. The new law now provides a more general and less restrictive requirement that the implement be used for “agricultural operations.” This change in legislation should allow a farmer who owns a registration-exempt implement to operate the implement for the purpose of providing agricultural services for not only his or her farms but also for another farmer’s farm within the authorized zone of use.

**2. Special Width Allowances for Farm Use of Implements of Husbandry:**

**a. Implements of Husbandry Greater than 8 Feet but Not Greater than 14 Feet 6 Inches in Width:**

**Daytime Use**

Implements may be driven, hauled or towed on roads other than freeways within 50 miles of any farm owned or operated by the owner of the implement to facilitate agriculture. Changes made to previous law in the 2012 legislation should allow daytime use of implements at this width not only between farms of the implement owner but also between the implement owner’s farm and an agribusiness center and between the implement owner’s farm and another’s farm located within 50 miles.

**Nighttime Use**

Implements may be driven, hauled or towed on roads other than freeways within 50 miles of any farm owned or operated by the owner of the implement to facilitate agriculture. Changes made to previous law in the 2012 legislation should allow nighttime use of implements at this width not only between farms of the implement owner but also between the implement owner’s farm and an agribusiness center and between the implement owner’s farm and another’s farm located within 50 miles. However, use of the implement at this width is not authorized unless both of the following requirements are met:

1. The implement has and operates at least one yellow revolving, flashing or strobe light visible to drivers from any direction.
2. The implement has and operates hazard signal lights.

**b. Implements of Husbandry Greater than 14 Feet 6 Inches but Not Greater than 16 Feet in Width:**

**Daytime Use**

Implements may be driven, hauled or towed on roads other than freeways in the same areas and manner as authorized for daytime use of implements 14 feet 6 inches and less in width (see summary on page 2). However, use of the implement at this width is not authorized unless all four of the following requirements are met:

1. The implement owner has liability insurance coverage on the implement normally required for other vehicles (coverage under the owner's general farm liability policy will meet this requirement).
2. The implement has and operates at least one yellow revolving, flashing or strobe light visible to drivers from any direction.
3. The implement has and operates hazard signal lights.
4. A pilot vehicle is escorting the implement in front, and this pilot vehicle displays an "oversize vehicle" sign on the front of the vehicle and has and operates hazard signal lights.

**Nighttime Use**

Implements may be driven, hauled or towed on roads other than freeways in the same manner as for daytime use of implements 14 feet 6 inches and less in width (see summary on page 2). But it is important to note that the areas of authorized use are limited to those within 25 miles of a farm owned or operated by the owner of the implement. However, use of the implement at this width is not authorized unless all seven of the following requirements are met:

1. The implement owner has liability insurance coverage on the implement normally required for other vehicles (coverage under the owner's general farm liability policy will meet this requirement).
2. The implement has and operates at least one yellow revolving, flashing or strobe light visible to drivers from any direction.
3. The implement has and operates hazard signal lights.
4. The implement has reflective edgemarks or lights to identify the outermost edges of the rear and front.
5. The implement is not operated or moved at a speed greater than 25 m.p.h.
6. The driver of implement or vehicle moving the implement is at least 18 years of age.
7. A vehicle is escorting the implement at the rear of the implement, and this escort vehicle displays an "oversize vehicle" sign on the rear of the vehicle and has and operates hazard signal lights.

**FARM VEHICLES EXEMPT FROM REGISTRATION**  
**(AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 1302)**

**1. Types of Farm Vehicle Exemptions Available to Trucks and Truck Tractors:**

- **Type A Exemption**, for vehicles with a weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less. No requirement for periodic inspection.
- **Type B Exemption**, for vehicles with a weight rating of 10,001 to 17,000 pounds. No requirement for periodic inspection.
- **Type C Exemption**, for vehicles with a weight rating of greater than 17,000 pounds that will not be subject to requirement for periodic inspection.
- **Type D Exemption**, for vehicles with a weight rating of greater than 17,000 pounds that will be subject annual inspection requirements.

**2. Type A Farm Vehicle Exemption (10,000 Pounds or Less) – Authorized Times Distances and Purposes of Use:**

- Farm vehicle may only be operated during daytime.
- Farm vehicle may only be operated
  1. On roads that adjoin a farm owned or operated by the owner of vehicle;
  2. Between farms owned or operated by the vehicle owner not more than 50 miles apart;
  3. Between one farm of the vehicle owner and a place of business not more than 50 miles away for the purpose of buying ag supplies or selling ag products; and
  4. Between one farm of the vehicle owner and a place of business not more than 50 miles away for the purpose of servicing or repairing the farm vehicle or trailer or semitrailer towed by the farm vehicle.
- No other uses are authorized.

**3. Type B Farm Vehicle Exemption (10,001 - 17,000 Pounds) – Authorized Times, Distances and Purposes of Use:**

- Farm vehicle may only be operated during daytime.
- Farm vehicle may only be operated
  1. On roads that adjoin a farm owned or operated by the owner of vehicle;
  2. Between farms owned or operated by the vehicle owner not more than 25 miles apart;
  3. Between one farm of the vehicle owner and a place of business not more than 25 miles away for the purpose of buying ag supplies or selling ag products; and

4. Between one farm of the vehicle owner and a place of business not more than 50 miles away for the purpose of servicing or repairing the farm vehicle or trailer or semitrailer towed by the farm vehicle.

- No other uses are authorized.

**4. Type C Farm Vehicle Exemption (Greater than 17,000 Pounds Not Subject to Periodic Inspection Requirement) – Authorized Times, Distances and Purposes of Use:**

- Farm vehicle may only be operated during daytime.
- Farm vehicle may only be operated
  1. On roads that adjoin a farm owned or operated by the owner of vehicle;
  2. Between farms owned or operated by the vehicle owner not more than 10 miles apart;
  3. Between one farm of the vehicle owner and a place of business not more than 10 miles away for the purpose of buying ag supplies or selling ag products; and
  4. Between one farm of the vehicle owner and a place of business not more than 25 miles away for the purpose of servicing or repairing the farm vehicle or trailer or semitrailer towed by the farm vehicle.

- No other uses are authorized.

**5. Type D Farm Vehicle Exemption (Greater than 17,000 Pounds Subject to Annual Inspection Requirements) – Authorized Times, Distances and Purposes of Use:**

- Farm vehicle may be operated during both daytime and nighttime.
- Farm vehicle may only be operated
  1. On roads that adjoin a farm owned or operated by the owner of vehicle;
  2. Between farms owned or operated by the vehicle owner not more than 50 miles apart;
  3. Between one farm of the vehicle owner and a place of business not more than 50 miles away for the purpose of buying ag supplies or selling ag products; and
  4. Between one farm of the vehicle owner and a place of business not more than 50 miles away for the purpose of servicing or repairing the farm vehicle or trailer or semitrailer towed by the farm vehicle.

- No other uses are authorized.

**TRAILERS USED ON FARMS**  
**(AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 1302 AND 4921)**

**1. Trailers Qualifying for Farm Exemption from Registration:**

A trailer being towed in accordance with the restrictions in authorized distance and use applicable to farm trailers exempt from registration (see summary immediately below) is automatically exempt from registration. The 2012 legislation eliminated the requirement for prior determination of a trailer by PennDOT as exempt from registration in order for the exemption to apply.

**2. Authorized Distance and Purposes of Use for Trailers Subject to Farm Exemption from Registration:**

A trailer exempt from registration may be used within 50 miles of any farm owned or operated by the owner of the vehicle. The 2012 legislation deleted provisions in previous law that restricted the use of registration-exempt trailers to specific tasks. The new law provides a more general and less restrictive requirement that the trailer be used for “agricultural operations.” This change in legislation should allow a farmer who owns a trailer subject to the exemption to use the trailer to provide agricultural services for not only his or her farms but also for another farmer’s farm within the authorized zone of use.

**3. Special Width Allowances for Farm Trailers Greater than 8 Feet in Width:**

***Trailers Towed by Implements of Husbandry Exempt from Registration:***

A trailer towed by an implement of husbandry exempt from registration on roads other than freeways may up to 14 feet 6 inches in width. Any trailer wider than 8 feet that is towed at night by an exempt implement must have and operate at least one yellow revolving, flashing or strobe light visible to drivers from any direction and hazard signal lights.

***Trailers or Vehicles Transporting Crops or Manure:***

A trailer may be used to transport crops or manure on roads other than freeways at a width of up to 12 feet during daytime and up to 14 feet 6 inches at night. The 2012 legislation expands the scope of “crops” whose transport may qualify for this special width allowance; recognizes transportation of manure as qualifying for this special width allowance; and expands the type of nighttime transportation that qualifies for this special width allowance. If the trailer is transporting crops or manure at night and is wider than 8 feet, the trailer must also have and operate at least one yellow revolving, flashing or strobe light visible to drivers from any direction and hazard signal lights.

Vehicles other than trailers and implements of husbandry may also qualify for this special width allowance when transporting crops and manure. These vehicles would also be subject to the additional lighting requirements when used at night.

**MULTIPURPOSE AGRICULTURAL VEHICLES**  
**(AMENDMENTS TO SECTIONS 102 AND 1302)**

**1. Maximum Width and Weight of Vehicles that May Qualify as a Multipurpose Agricultural Vehicle:**

A vehicle may now qualify as an multipurpose agricultural vehicle if it is 62 inches or less in width and 2,000 pounds or less in dry weight (increased from 60 inches and 1,200 pounds provided in previous law).

**2. Distance Between Farms that Multipurpose Agricultural Vehicles May Be Operated on Roads:**

A multipurpose agricultural vehicle may be operated on roads between farms owned or operated by the vehicle owner that are not more than 5 miles apart (increased from the distance of 2 miles between farms authorized in previous law).

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