



Wisconsin Farmers on the Road Safety

Current as of March 2010

Hazardous material

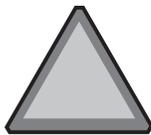
Every motor vehicle containing hazardous material must be driven and parked in compliance with laws, ordinances and regulations of the jurisdiction in which it is being operated or the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) laws, whichever is most strict.

Whenever there is unintentional release of a hazardous material during transportation or temporary storage or incidents such as a spill, accident or fire occurs during the transportation of hazardous materials, the carrier is required to report the incident to WisDOT.

In case of an accident, call **Chemical Transportation Emergency Center (Chemtrec)**, (800) 424-9300 which is available 24 hours a day for assistance. Advice will be provided to those at the scene of the incident and Chemtrec will promptly contact the shipper of the chemicals involved for more detailed assistance and appropriate follow-up.

A bill of lading, shipping paper or invoice must be carried at all times for any hazardous materials being transported. This document must thoroughly describe the material and must be readily available to and recognizable by authorities in the event of an incident or inspection. The hazardous material must be on a bill by itself or, if part of a mixed load, it must be highlighted by distinguishable color, tabbed or must appear first in any group of papers. The paper must always be within the normal reach of the driver. If the driver must leave the vehicle, the shipping paper documents must be left upon the driver's seat or in a holder mounted on the driver's door.

Equipment



No person may operate on a highway at any time any vehicle, equipment or machinery (including animal-drawn vehicles) which usually travels at speeds less than 25 miles per hour, unless there is displayed on the most practicable visible rear area of the vehicle or combination of vehicles a Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblem or yellow/amber flashing light.

No person shall operate or park a farm tractor or other self-propelled farm implements upon the highway during hours of darkness unless the vehicle is displaying lighted parking lamps as required by other vehicles under similar circumstances. All towed vehicles must display a minimum of one reflective SMV emblem or red lamp visible from a distance of 50 feet from each side of the vehicle.

Non-registered farm implements should be securely coupled to the towing vehicle. Pins attaching towed vehicles must be safely secured. All other vehicles must be coupled by means of safety chains, leveling bars or cables. There shall be only enough slack in these systems to permit the proper turning of the units while still preventing the coupling device from dropping to the ground, should a disconnection occur. No person shall operate a vehicle on the highway unless it is constructed and loaded as to prevent its contents from dropping, sifting, leaking or otherwise escaping from the vehicle.

There is no tarp requirement in Wisconsin Statutes, although local ordinances may require tarps.

Federal regulations

All vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) or actual weight over 10,000 pounds are subject to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR's) on equipment and lighting, regardless of whether the unit is traveling within Wisconsin or going out-of-state. **Farmers are not exempt from these rules.** Contact *Wisconsin State Patrol Motor Carrier Enforcement Information System* at (608) 267-9762 if you have specific questions.

If you are operating an articulated (combination) motor vehicle over 10,000 pounds GVWR and are operating out-of-state, you must have proof of a current medical certificate in your possession. If the trip is over 100 air miles one way, you must also have a current record of duty status.

If you operate any vehicle or combination of vehicles over 26,000 pounds GVWR within Wisconsin, you must possess a current medical certificate. If your trip is in excess of 100 air miles one way, you must also have a current record of duty status.

Tractor safety

Farm tractors and other machinery sometimes need to be operated on public roads for short distances. It is important to remember these units are not designed for on-road operation and thus generate potential dangers. All precautions and due regard must be used for any and all on-road operations. While some operators may not have valid driver's license and limited knowledge of all traffic laws, it is imperative they be made aware of the need to operate in a safe manner. Safety First must be the rule applied during all times of operation.



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Tractor and machinery training and certification program

Several formal classroom and on-tractor safety training programs are available through the University of Wisconsin Extension and vocational schools. These programs vary from 10–25 hours depending on the skills being taught. Upon successful completion, a certificate is granted that allows persons 14 to 15 to operate tractors and farm equipment for other farm operations other than their parents' farm(s). WisDOT strongly recommends the attendance of these training courses for **all** youth and adult farm vehicle operators. The programs are designed to teach the basics of safe and responsible tractor and machinery operation.

Contact your local *UW-Extension Office* at www.uwex.edu or (800) 442-6459 for more information.

Tractor and machinery safety programs are offered throughout the state. Videos teaching tractor and machinery safety are also available from your local UW Extension agent.

Parking on highways

You **may not** park any vehicle on the roadway when it is possible to park off the roadway. You **may** park it in the right-of-way, off the roadway, **IF**:

- » You leave at least 15 feet of unobstructed roadway, **and**
- » Your parked vehicle is visible to other drivers from a distance of at least 500 feet in either direction