

Lighting and Marking Requirements

Lighting and marking of implements of husbandry (IoH) are valuable safety features when operating on public roads. New regulations will take effect November 1, 2015 but may be followed at the present time. Many pieces of farm machinery have already been manufactured with the lighting and marking requirements that are now reflected in the law.



Definitions:

Wide implement of husbandry (wide IoH) is a new definition for IoH with a total width in excess of 15 feet or that partly extends, when operated primarily on the right half of the roadway, over the center of the roadway into any lane intended for travel in the opposite direction. Wide IoH regulations will take effect November 1, 2015 but may be followed at the present time.

Hours of Darkness is the period of time from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise and all other times when there is not sufficient natural light to render clearly visible to any person or vehicle upon a highway at a distance of 500 feet.

Current Marking Requirements

A slow-moving vehicle (SMV) emblem is a required marking on any type of IoH, including animal drawn, that *usually* travels at speeds less than 25 mph. It is to be displayed at all times on the most visible rear area of the vehicle or combination of vehicles. If a SMV emblem on a power unit is visible from rear and in compliance, then the towed units are not required to have an SMV emblem. It is allowable for two or three vehicle combinations to have more than one SMV emblem.

These emblems should be mounted pointing upward perpendicular to route of travel, with the lower edge 2 to 6 feet off the ground, and either centered or as near to the left of center of the equipment as practical. SMV emblems must be bright and clean, and should be replaced if faded.

Current Lighting Requirements

Lights or lamps in the table below must be activated when operating on the road or parked in the right-of-way during hours of darkness.

Self-propelled IoH including tractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 white headlights • At least 1 red tail lights If purchased with 2 red tail lights both must be working. Tail lights are to be mounted 20-72 inches off the ground. • Work lights are prohibited for use on road or when parked in right-of-way.
Towed IoH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 red tail lights or 2 red reflectors on the rear. (If manufactured before 1984, these IoHs are allowed to have only 1 lamp or 2 red reflectors on the rear.) • Towed IoH that is more than 4 feet wide to the left side of the hitch must have an amber reflector at the widest point on the left side facing forward to warn on-coming traffic.
3-vehicle trains	1 red light or red or amber reflector must be located on each side of every vehicle in the train visible from a minimal distance of 500 feet.
Animal-drawn vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 white lamp visible from the front • 2 red lamps or lanterns visible from the rear marking the width of the vehicle visible for 500 feet and mounted to indicate extreme width of the vehicle.

Operators have the responsibility at all times to warn or signal motorists of their intent to turn. Turn signal lights are acceptable but not required. Hand signals are also acceptable.

New Wide IoH Lighting and Marking Requirements

In addition to the current requirements for lighting and marking, the following requirements apply based on the width of the IoH:

Self-propelled IoH including farm tractors in excess of 12 feet:

Must be equipped with a 360-degree yellow or amber rotating strobe or beacon light, mounted at the highest practicable point or 2 flashing amber lights visible to the front and rear and activated at any time when operated on the road or parked in the right-of-way.

At all times when operating on highway wide IoH in excess of 15 feet or that extend over the center line—must have:

- At least 2 amber flashing warning lamps, visible from both the front and rear. Must be mounted, as nearly as practicable, to indicate the extreme width but not more than 16 inches from the lateral extremities.
- Red retroreflective material¹, visible to the rear and mounted within 25 inches of the extreme left and extreme right of the IoH, spaced as evenly as practicable.
- At least 2 strips of yellow retroreflective material² visible to the front. On left and right sides of IoH, the outer edge of this material shall be mounted within 16 inches of the extreme left and extreme right of the IoH.
- At least 2 red tail lamps mounted to the rear of the IoH, or as close to the rear as practicable. These lamps are not required to be wired to light when headlamps or other lamps are activated. This provides for the use of battery powered tail lamps.
- Slow-moving vehicle (SMV) emblem is required.

In addition, IoH wider than 22 feet traveling greater than 1/2 mile , must have an escort vehicle with hazard lights activated, on a highway with:

- one lane of travel in each direction, the escort vehicle shall operate ahead of the wide IoH
- more than one lane for travel in each direction or on a 3-lane highway, escort vehicle shall operate behind wide IoH

At times other than hours of darkness' a wide IOH, may be operated on highway if all of the following apply:

- Is accompanied by an escort vehicle operating with hazard lights activated.
- 2 orange or red flags, not less than 12 inches square, are attached to the rear of the wide IoH, or as close to

Ag Train (3 vehicle combination) operating during hours of darkness are now allowed to use amber lights or reflectors. Ag trains, effective November 1, 2015, will be required to have one of the following on each side of each vehicle in the train:

- One red or amber light
- One red or amber reflector
- One SMV emblem

The use of a red or orange flag has been rescinded.

