

§ 31-1-8. Farm vehicle

"Farm vehicle" means every vehicle which is designed for and used for agricultural purposes and used by the owner of the vehicle or family member(s) or employee(s) or designees of the owner, in the conduct of the owner's agricultural operations, which use shall include the delivery of agricultural products produced by the farmer but shall not include commercial hire for nonagricultural uses, including, but not limited to, hauling of sand and gravel, snow plowing, land clearing for other than agricultural purposes or directly on the vehicle owner's farm, and landscaping. For an owner to qualify as having agricultural purposes, the owner shall provide evidence that he or she meets the requirements of § 44-18-30.

History of Section.

(P.L. 1950, ch. 2595, art. 1, § 7; G.L. 1956, § 31-1-8; P.L. 2002, ch. 404, § 1.)

§ 31-3-31 Registration of farm vehicles. – (a) Farm vehicles, as defined in § 31-1-8, equipped with rubber tires while being used in farming and operated on highways shall be registered on a form furnished by the administrator of the division of motor vehicles and shall be assigned a special number plate* with a suitable symbol or letter indicating the usage of the farm vehicle.

(b) The director of the department of revenue shall promulgate rules and regulations for the inspection of farm vehicles.

(c) Farm plates may not be utilized on: (1) Vehicles eligible for registration as private passenger automobiles; provided, however, that any vehicle eligible for registration as a private passenger and registered with farm plates prior to July 1, 2002, may continue to be registered with farm plates by the owner to whom the farm plates were issued; or (2) On any vehicle that is not a farm vehicle as defined in § 31-1-8.

(d) Farm plates may be displayed on vehicles used in the delivery of agricultural products produced by the farmer; however, farm plates shall not be displayed on vehicles used for deliveries by persons, as defined in § 31-1-17(g), that do not raise agricultural products.

(e) Any farm vehicle, as defined in § 31-1-8, that is not required to be registered and that is covered by an insurance policy applicable to farm property and operations and that includes liability coverage, shall be deemed to have liability insurance as required by § 31-3-3(c) and to meet liability insurance requirements set forth in this title as long as such a policy is in effect. Documentation of such insurance, including the name of the carrier, policy, number, and effective date, may be required by the division for the registration of said vehicle and for the renewal of such registration.

History of Section. (P.L. 1950, ch. 2595, art. 11, § 1; G.L. 1956, § 31-3-31; P.L. 1984, ch. 287, § 1; P.L. 2002, ch. 404, § 2; P.L. 2008, ch. 98, § 4;

P.L. 2008, ch. 145, § 4; P.L. 2014, ch. 66, § 1; P.L. 2014, ch. 72, § 1; P.L. 2016, ch. 387, § 1; P.L. 2016, ch. 399, § 1.)

Please note: Only one (1) plate is issued.

The five mile limit was removed in 1984. There is no longer a limit on the number of miles within which the farm plated vehicle may be used.

SIZE, WEIGHT & LOAD LIMITS LAW

§ 31-25-2. Vehicles exempt from limitations.

(a) The provisions of this chapter governing size, weight, and load shall not apply to:

(1) Road machinery;

(2) Farm vehicles, including farm tractors, temporarily moved upon a highway;

§ 31-10.3-16. Persons exempt from licensing.

The following persons shall be exempt from the commercial licensing requirements under this chapter:

(1) Any active duty military personnel, members of the military reserves, members of the National Guard on active duty, including personnel on full-time National Guard duty, personnel on part-time National Guard training, and National Guard military technicians (civilians who are required to wear military uniforms), and active duty U.S. Coast Guard personnel while operating a motor vehicle for military purposes.

(2) Any person eighteen (18) years or older who satisfies the exemptions set forth in 49 CFR 391.67, as may from time to time be amended, while driving or operating any farm tractor, implement of husbandry temporarily operated or moved on a highway, or any farm vehicle, which would otherwise require the driver to be the holder of a commercial driver's license, provided that said farm vehicle is under seventy-six thousand six hundred (76,600) lbs. registered weight and is not a truck-tractor, semi-trailer combination as defined by § 31-1-5(e), and further provided that the farm vehicle is used to transport either agricultural products, farm machinery, farm supplies, or both to or from a farm.

FARM VEHICLE REGULATION

Section 8.0 Size, Weight & Load Limits

8.1 Farm Vehicle Exception All farm vehicles temporarily moved upon the highways of this state shall be exempt from the provisions of Chapter 31-25 of the General Laws entitled "Size, Weight and Load Limits." *

However, nothing shall be construed to exempt farm vehicles from operating below the legal limit on bridges with maximum weights posted.

***Farm vehicles are exempt from Chapter 31-25-10: Fastening of load and covering.**