Slow-Moving Vehicle Restrictions

Under New York State law, self-propelled agricultural equipment can be operated on public roadways after dark and when visibility is reduced to less than 1,000 feet, regardless of time of day, only if:

▲ The vehicle is equipped with the following devices in good working condition and visible from the front and rear:
  • Signaling devices properly mounted
  • Two red reflectors mounted at the same height on the rear as far apart as possible

▲ The vehicle is equipped with lamps that are lighted:
  • Two white colored head lights on the front
  • One red tail lamp on the rear as far left as possible
  • Two amber lamps at least 42 inches high visible from the front and rear

For more information about slow-moving vehicles and the slow-moving vehicle emblem please visit the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee web site at: SafeNY.ny.gov or dmv.ny.gov

SafeNY.ny.gov
**Slow-Moving Vehicles**

Slow-Moving Vehicles (SMVs) are all vehicles that operate at 25 mph or less, including:

- Tractors
- Self-propelled farm equipment
- Road construction and maintenance machinery
- Animal-powered vehicles

**Slow-Moving Vehicle Season**

Motorists will encounter more agricultural slow-moving vehicles from late April through mid-October, when farmers are more apt to be planting and harvesting crops. Please be aware of these vehicles and use caution when sharing the road with them.

**Sharing the Road with Slow-Moving Vehicles**

When motorists encounter a slow-moving vehicle on the roadway they should:

- Slow down immediately when you see a vehicle or equipment with a SMV emblem in the road
- Increase following distance to create a safety cushion
- Be alert and watch for turns into fields
- Drive courteously
- Pass with care only when it is safe and legal to do so
- Be aware that animal-powered vehicles may make unanticipated movements
- Remember SMV operators may have poor visibility due to loads and equipment in tow
- Be aware that equipment in tow may sway on the road

**Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblem**

NYS law requires vehicles that travel 25 mph or less to have a Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblem:

- Placed in the middle of the back end
- Located two to six feet above the road
- Kept clean and replace when faded

Each piece of agricultural equipment, whether self-propelled or used in combination, shall separately display a slow-moving vehicle emblem.

It is illegal to put SMV emblems on stationary objects – such as mailboxes or driveway posts.