

Farm Safety Series

Lighting Self-Propelled Farm Equipment

There are six features related to lighting self-propelled farm equipment, which includes tractors. Lights should be no lower than 3 feet from the ground or more than 10 feet high.

1. Headlights—Standard headlights should be mounted at the same height and spaced the same distance on either side of the centerline as far apart as possible.

2. Work lamps—The equipment should have operating work lamps that illuminate the equipment near the sides and front. Rear-facing work lamps should not be used while transporting the equipment on the highway.

3. Taillights—Two red taillights should be mounted the same distance from the centerline as far apart as possible at least 3 feet from the ground and not more than 10 feet high should be used.

4. Warning Lights—Extra-wide vehicles (12 feet or more) should have amber lights marking the sides of the vehicle. The

lamps should flash in unison at 60 to 85 times per minute.

5. Turn Indicators—These lights are in addition to the red taillights. When the turn indicator is on, the warning light on the side of the flashing turn indicator should flash faster, up to 110 times per minute, while the warning light on the opposite side of the turn should burn steady and not flash.

6. Seven-Terminal Receptacle—All self-propelled farm equipment, including tractors, that are transported at night on public highways, must have a seven-terminal receptacle as defined by the ASAE (American Society of Agricultural Engineers).

This fact sheet is only a summary of ASAE Standard S279.10. Consult the American Society for Agricultural Engineers at www.asae.net for full disclosure of the standard for lighting self-propelled farm equipment.

The laws and regulations regarding farm vehicle and equipment operation on

Alabama public roads can be reviewed on the Alabama Farmers Federation Web site: www.alfafarmers.org/ag_law/index.phtml. Click on “Operation of Vehicles and Equipment.”

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For more information, call your county Extension office. Look in your telephone directory under your county's name to find the number.

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