

ARKANSAS STATUTES

“Emergency Vehicle”

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5-77-201. Blue light or blue lens cap sales.

(a)(1) It is unlawful to sell a blue light or blue lens cap to any person other than a law enforcement officer or a county coroner.

(2) It is unlawful for a person other than a law enforcement officer or a county coroner to buy a blue light or blue lens cap.

(b) Before selling a blue light or blue lens cap, the seller shall require the buyer to provide identification that legally demonstrates that the buyer is a law enforcement officer or a county coroner.

(c) Any sale of a blue light or blue lens cap shall be reported to the Department of Arkansas State Police on a form prescribed by the department.

(d) A violation of this section is a Class D felony.

(e) As used in this section, "blue light" means an operable blue light that:

(1) Is designed for use by an emergency vehicle, or is similar in appearance to a blue light designed for use by an emergency vehicle; and

(2) Can be operated by use of the vehicle's battery, the vehicle's electrical system, or a dry cell battery.

History. Acts 1997, No. 1281, § 1.

12-75-113. Emergency response vehicles.

(a) Due to the time-critical nature of response to the scene of a disaster or major emergency occurrence, the Director of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management is authorized to designate appropriate vehicles as requested in the staffing patterns of the state and local offices of emergency services and other state agency vehicles with an emergency service response requirement as emergency response vehicles.

(b) Designated state and local government emergency response vehicles under this chapter shall share the same privileges and immunities regarding traffic laws and ordinances as other emergency vehicles as defined by state law.

(c) Emergency vehicles authorized by this chapter shall be identified by a flashing light or rotating beacon which will be green in color.

(d) When responding to an emergency, the designated emergency vehicle shall have flashing lights or rotating beacon activated and must be equipped with and operating a siren device.

History. Acts 1973, No. 511, § 8; 1985, No. 687, § 6; 1985, No. 978, § 6; A.S.A. 1947, § 11-1941; Acts 1999, No. 646, § 19.

22-8-203. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Automobile" means a motorized vehicle equipped with pneumatic tires used for the transportation of persons, as commonly known and recognized by the Revenue Division of the Department of Finance and Administration, as a pleasure vehicle for licensing purposes as established by § [27-14-601\(a\)](#)(1);

(2) "Emergency vehicle" means an automobile or pickup truck used in law enforcement or for protection of the public peace and health of the citizens of Arkansas;

(3) "Pickup truck" means a motorized vehicle equipped with pneumatic tires which are regularly and commonly rated as having a load capacity not exceeding three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) ton, as recognized by the Revenue Division of the Department of Finance and Administration, for licensing purposes for trucks and trailers as established in § [27-14-601\(a\)](#)(3)(A);

(4) "State agency" means a state agency, board, commission, department, or institution of higher education which derives any financial support from the fund accounts enumerated in §§ [19-5-302](#) - [19-5-304](#), [19-5-306](#), [19-5-307](#), [19-5-1011](#), [19-6-404](#), [19-6-411](#), and [25-4-117](#);

(5) "State Vehicle Inventory and Control System" means an automated system maintained by the Department of Finance and Administration to record and control the size and composition of the state's vehicle fleet and to accumulate historical data on the costs associated with the vehicle fleet; and

(6) "Vehicle" or "motor vehicle" means an automobile or pickup truck as defined in this section, unless used out of context in implementing the purposes and intent of this subchapter.

History. Acts 1983, No. 493, § 3; A.S.A. 1947, § 14-530.

27-34-105. Exceptions.

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply when any one (1) of the following conditions exist:

(1) The motor vehicle is being used as an ambulance or other emergency vehicle;

(2) When an emergency exists that threatens:

(A) The life of any person operating a motor vehicle to whom this section otherwise would apply; or

(B) The life of any child who otherwise would be required to be restrained under this chapter; or

(3) If any child who would otherwise be required to be restrained under this chapter is physically unable because of medical reasons to use a child passenger safety seat system or seat safety belt.

History. Acts 1983, No. 749, § 3; A.S.A. 1947, § 75-2603; Acts 1995, No. 1274, § 3.

27-36-208. Special restrictions on lamps.

(a) Any lighted lamp or illuminating device upon a motor vehicle, other than headlamps, spot lamps, auxiliary lamps, flashing turn signals, emergency vehicle warning lamps, and school bus warning lamps, which projects a beam of light of an intensity greater than three hundred (300) candlepower shall be so directed that no part of the high intensity portion of the beam will strike the level of the roadway on which the vehicle stands at a distance of more than seventy-five feet (75') from the vehicle.

(b)(1) No person shall drive or move any vehicle or equipment upon any highway with any lamp or device thereon displaying a red, blue, or green light visible from directly in front of the center thereof.

(2) This subsection shall not apply to any vehicle upon which a red light visible from the front is expressly authorized or required by this subchapter.

(c) Flashing lights are prohibited except on an authorized emergency vehicle, school bus, or on any vehicle as a means of indicating a right or left turn, or the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, overtaking, or passing.

History. Acts 1937, No. 300, § 120; Pope's Dig., § 6780; Acts 1959, No. 307, § 50; A.S.A. 1947, § 75-718; Acts 2003, No. 539, § 1.

27-37-202. Horns and warning devices - Flashing lights on emergency vehicles.

(a)(1)(A) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than two hundred feet (200').

(B) No horn or other warning device shall emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle.

(2) When reasonably necessary to ensure safe operation, the driver of a motor vehicle shall give audible warning with his or her horn but shall not otherwise use the horn when upon a public street or highway.

(b)(1) No vehicle shall be equipped with, nor shall any person use upon a vehicle, any siren, whistle, or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section.

(2) It is permissible, but not required, that commercial vehicles may be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal.

(3)(A) Every authorized emergency vehicle shall be equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than five hundred feet (500') and of a type approved by the department.

(B) The warning device shall not be used except when the vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law; in which event, the driver of the vehicle shall sound the warning device when necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the approach thereof.

(c)(1) Every authorized emergency vehicle shall be equipped with signal lamps in addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings required by this subchapter. These lamps shall be mounted as high and be as widely spaced laterally as practicable. The vehicle shall be capable of displaying to the front two alternately flashing red lights located at the same level and to the rear two alternately flashing red lights located at the same level.

(2) These lights shall have sufficient intensity to be visible at five hundred feet (500') in normal sunlight.

(d) A police vehicle, when used as an authorized emergency vehicle, may, but need not, be equipped with alternately flashing red lights specified in this section.

(e) The use of the signal equipment described in this section shall impose upon drivers of other vehicles the obligation to yield right-of-way and to stop as prescribed in § [27-51-901](#).

History. Acts 1937, No. 300, § 125; Pope's Dig., § 6785; Acts 1959, No. 307, § 47; A.S.A. 1947, § 75-725; Acts 2003, No. 1155, § 1.

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(b)(1) No vehicle shall be equipped with, nor shall any person use upon a vehicle, any siren, whistle, or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section.

(2) It is permissible, but not required, that commercial vehicles may be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal.

(3)(A) Every authorized ➡ emergency vehicle ➡ shall be equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than five hundred feet (500') and of a type approved by the department.

(B) The warning device shall not be used except when the vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law; in which event, the driver of the vehicle shall sound the warning device when necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the approach thereof.

(c)(1) Every authorized ➡ emergency vehicle ➡ shall be equipped with signal lamps in addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings required by this subchapter. These lamps shall be mounted as high and be as widely spaced laterally as practicable. The vehicle shall be capable of displaying to the front two (2) alternately flashing red lights located at the same level and to the rear two (2) alternately flashing red lights located at the same level.

(2) These lights shall have sufficient intensity to be visible at five hundred feet (500') in normal sunlight.

(d) A police vehicle, when used as an authorized emergency vehicle, may, but need not, be equipped with alternately flashing red lights specified in this section.

(e) The use of the signal equipment described in this section shall impose upon drivers of other vehicles the obligation to yield right-of-way and to stop as prescribed in § [27-51-901](#).

History. Acts 1937, No. 300, § 125; Pope's Dig., § 6785; Acts 1959, No. 307, § 47; A.S.A. 1947, § 75-725; Acts 2003, No. 1155, § 1.

27-51-202. Restrictions not applicable to emergency vehicles.

(a) The prima facie speed limitations set forth in this subchapter shall not apply to authorized emergency vehicles when responding to emergency calls when the driver thereof is operating the vehicle's emergency lights and is also operating an audible signal by bell, siren, or exhaust whistle if other vehicles are present.

(b) This section shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the street, nor shall it protect the driver of any emergency vehicle from the consequence of a reckless disregard of the safety of others.

(c) For purposes of this section, "emergency calls" means legitimate emergency situations which call for the operation of an emergency vehicle, including a police vehicle.

History. Acts 1937, No. 300, § 55; Pope's Dig., § 6713; A.S.A. 1947, § 75-606; Acts 2001, No. 332, § 1; 2001, No. 1415, § 1.

27-51-204. Maximum and minimum speed limits - Exceptions.

(a)(1) The State Highway Commission shall determine, based upon studies of the engineering and traffic characteristics thereof, the maximum and minimum desirable speeds for all traffic facilities in the state highway system.

(2) These regulatory speeds shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected.

(b)(1) The maximum and minimum speed limits posted shall apply to all vehicles using the facility except authorized emergency vehicles on emergency trips, such as police vehicles on duty, fire vehicles on calls, and ambulances; oversize/overweight vehicles moving under special permit issued by the

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department or its lawfully delegated agents; and other specific vehicles for which special limits may be posted in particular situations or under particular conditions.

(2) This exemption shall not relieve any driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from his lawful responsibility to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons upon or using the highway facility, nor shall it protect the operator of any such vehicle from the consequence of a reckless disregard for the safety of others.

History. Acts 1971, No. 61, § 2; A.S.A. 1947, § 75-601.2.

27-51-901. Operation of vehicles and streetcars on approach of authorized emergency vehicles.

(a) Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle, when the driver is giving audible signal by siren, exhaust whistle, or bell, the driver of every other vehicle shall yield the right-of-way and shall immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the right-hand edge or curb of the highway clear of any intersection and shall stop and remain in such position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

(b) Upon the approach of an authorized emergency vehicle, as stated in subsection (a) of this section, the motorman of every streetcar shall immediately stop the car clear of any intersection and keep it in that position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

(c) This section shall not operate to relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway.

History. Acts 1937, No. 300, § 74; Pope's Dig., § 6732; A.S.A. 1947, § 75-625.