

MARYLAND STATUTES

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Source:

Maryland Code/TRANSPORTATION /TITLE 22. VEHICLE LAWS - EQUIPMENT OF VEHICLES/SUBTITLE 4. OTHER EQUIPMENT /§ 22-412.4. Seat belts or restraining devices in emergency vehicles.

§ 22-412.4. Seat belts or restraining devices in emergency vehicles.

(a) *Definitions.-*

(1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Vehicle" means an emergency vehicle purchased or leased by the State, a county, municipality, or volunteer fire department or rescue squad and operated by a:

(i) State, county, or municipal fire department;

(ii) Volunteer fire department; or

(iii) Rescue squad.

(3) "Seat belt" means a restraining device described under [§ 22-412 of this](#) subtitle.

(b) *Required.-* A vehicle registered in the State and manufactured and assembled after January 1, 1990 shall be equipped with a seat belt or safety restraining device approved by the local authority having jurisdiction for each position on the vehicle that may be lawfully occupied by a passenger.

(c) *Failure to use; evidence; civil actions.* -

(1) The failure of a person to use a seat belt or restraining device required under this section may not:

(i) Be considered evidence of negligence;

(ii) Be considered evidence of contributory negligence;

(iii) Limit liability of a party or an insurer;

(iv) Diminish recovery for damages arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or operation of a motor vehicle; or

(v) Be considered a moving violation for purposes of [§ 16-402 of this](#) article.

(2) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (3) of this subsection, a party, witness, or counsel may not make reference to a seat belt during a trial of a civil action that involves property damage, personal injury, or death if the damage, injury, or death is not related to the design, manufacture, installation, supplying, or repair of a seat belt required under this section.

(3) (i) Nothing contained in this subsection may be construed to prohibit the right of a person to institute a civil action for damages against a dealer, manufacturer, distributor, factory branch, or other appropriate entity arising out of an incident that involves a defectively installed or defectively operating seat belt.

(ii) In a civil action in which 2 or more parties are named as joint tort-feasors, interpleaded as defendants, or impleaded as defendants, and 1 of the joint tort-feasors or defendants is not involved in the design, manufacture, installation, supplying, or repair of a seat belt, a court shall order separate trials to accomplish the ends of justice on a motion of any party.

[1989, ch. 435; 1990, ch. 6, § 2.]

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Maryland Code/COURTS AND JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS /TITLE 5. LIMITATIONS, PROHIBITED ACTIONS, AND IMMUNITIES/SUBTITLE 6. IMMUNITIES AND PROHIBITED ACTIONS - HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY /§ 5-639. Negligent operation of emergency vehicle.

§ 5-639. Negligent operation of emergency vehicle.

(a) *Definitions.*-

(1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Emergency service" has the meaning stated in § [19-103 of the Transportation Article](#).

(3) "Emergency vehicle" has the meaning stated in § [11-118 of the Transportation Article](#).

(b) *Liability of operator.*-

(1) An operator of an emergency vehicle, who is authorized to operate the emergency vehicle by its owner or lessee, is immune from suit in the operator's individual capacity for damages resulting from a negligent act or omission while operating the emergency vehicle in the performance of emergency service.

(2) This subsection does not provide immunity from suit to an operator for a malicious act or omission or for gross negligence of the operator.

(c) *Liability of owner or lessee.*-

(1) An owner or lessee of an emergency vehicle, including a political subdivision, is liable to the extent provided in subsection (d) of this section for any damages caused by a negligent act or omission of an authorized operator while operating the emergency vehicle in the performance of emergency service.

(2) This subsection does not subject an owner or lessee to liability for the operator's malicious act or omission or for the operator's gross negligence.

(3) A political subdivision may not raise the defense of governmental immunity in an action against it under this section.

(d) *Limitation on liability.*- Liability under this section for self-insured jurisdictions is limited to the amount of the minimum benefits that a vehicle liability insurance policy must provide under § [17-103 of the Transportation Article](#), except that an owner or lessee may be liable in an amount up to the maximum limit of any basic vehicle liability insurance policy it has in effect exclusive of excess liability coverage.

(e) *Effect of judgment.*- A judgment under this section against the owner or lessee of an emergency vehicle constitutes a complete bar to any action or judgment deriving from the same occurrence against the operator of the emergency vehicle.

[1990, ch. 546, § 3; 1997, ch. 14, § 9.]

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Maryland Code/TRANSPORTATION /TITLE 11. VEHICLE LAWS - DEFINITIONS; GENERAL PROVISIONS/SUBTITLE 1. DEFINITIONS /§ 11-118. Emergency vehicle.

§ 11-118. Emergency vehicle.

"Emergency vehicle" means any of the following vehicles that are designated by the Administration as entitled to the exemptions and privileges set forth in the Maryland Vehicle Law for emergency vehicles:

- (1) Vehicles of federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies;

- (2) Vehicles of volunteer fire companies, rescue squads, fire departments, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, and the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute;

- (3) State vehicles used in response to oil or hazardous materials spills;

- (4) State vehicles designated for emergency use by the Commissioner of Correction;

- (5) Ambulances; and

(6) Special vehicles funded or provided by federal, State, or local government and used for emergency or rescue purposes in this State.

[An. Code 1957, art. 661/2, § 1-103; 1977, ch. 14, § 2; ch. 222; 1983, chs. 309, 361; 1989, ch. 291, § 2; ch. 343; 1993, ch. 543; 2004, ch. 368.]

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Maryland Code/TRANSPORTATION /TITLE 16. VEHICLE LAWS - DRIVERS' LICENSES/SUBTITLE 1. ISSUANCE, EXPIRATION, AND RENEWAL OF LICENSES /§ 16-102. Persons exempt from licensing requirements; penalty for violation.

§ 16-102. Persons exempt from licensing requirements; penalty for violation.

(a) *In general.*- The licensing requirements of this title do not apply to:

(1) An officer or employee of the United States while driving on official business a motor vehicle other than a commercial motor vehicle owned or operated by the United States;

(2) Except for members elected from this State, a member of the United States Congress who resides in this State during his term of office in the Congress;

(3) An individual while driving any road machine, farm tractor, or farm equipment temporarily driven on a highway in this State, or dock equipment at Dundalk or Locust Point marine terminals which does not require registration under the provisions of this article;

(4) An individual who, while driving a mobile crane on a highway to or from a construction site in this State, has with him a valid Class A, B, or C license issued to him under [§ 16-104.1 of this](#) subtitle or a Class A or B commercial driver's license issued to him under this title;

(5) A nonresident student enrolled in an accredited school, college, or university of this State or of a bordering state or serving a medical internship in this State, if:

(i) The state of which the student is a resident extends the same privileges to the residents of this State;

(ii) The student has with him a license to drive issued to him by the state of which he is a resident; and

(iii) The license authorizes the student to drive in the state of which he is a resident vehicles of the class he is driving in this State;

(6) A new resident of this State during the first 60 days of residency, if:

(i) The individual has a valid license issued by the state of which the individual formerly was a resident;

(ii) The license authorizes the individual to drive in the state of former residence vehicles of the class the individual is driving in this State; and

(iii) The individual is at least the same age as that required for a resident to drive a vehicle of the same class the individual is driving in this State;

(7) A member of the armed forces of the United States or of the United States Public Health Service who is serving on active duty and any dependent of the member, if:

(i) The driver has with him a license to drive issued to him by his state of domicile; and

(ii) The license authorizes the driver to drive in his state of domicile vehicles of the class he is driving in this State;

(8) For not more than 30 days after he returns to the United States, a member of the armed forces of the United States who is returning from active duty outside the United States and any dependent of the member who is returning from residence with the member outside the United States; if:

(i) The driver has with him a license to drive issued to him by the armed forces of the United States in a place outside the United States; and

(ii) The license authorizes the driver to drive vehicles of the class he is driving in this State;

(9) A nonresident of this State if:

(i) He has with him a license to drive issued to him by the state of his residence;

(ii) His license authorizes him to drive in that state vehicles of the class he is driving in this State; and

(iii) He is at least the same age as that required of a resident for the vehicle he is driving in this State;

(10) A nonresident of the United States if:

(i) The individual has a valid license to drive issued to the individual by the country of residence;

(ii) The individual's license authorizes him to drive in that country vehicles of the class he is driving in this State;

(iii) The individual is at least the same age as that required of a resident for the vehicle he is driving in this State; and

(iv) Except as provided for in Subtitle 8 of this title, the vehicle is not a commercial motor vehicle;

(11) A member of the Maryland National Guard or a National Guard military technician if:

(i) The driver is driving a military vehicle in the performance of duty; and

(ii) The driver has with him an operator's identification card issued by the Maryland National Guard for the type of military vehicle being driven; and

(12) A member or employee of a fire department, rescue squad, emergency medical services unit, or volunteer fire company while driving an emergency vehicle if the driver:

(i) Holds a valid Class C license issued to the driver under [§ 16-104.1 of this](#) subtitle;

(ii) Has been authorized by the political subdivision that operates a fire department, rescue squad, emergency medical services unit, or volunteer fire department to operate the type of emergency vehicle being driven; and

(iii) Is driving the emergency vehicle in the performance of the official duties of the driver in or out of this State.

(b) *Regulations.*-

(1) The Administration shall adopt regulations that establish mandatory training and testing requirements that a political subdivision that operates a fire department, rescue squad, emergency medical services unit, or volunteer fire department must implement before the political subdivision may authorize an individual to operate an emergency vehicle in accordance with subsection (a)(12) of this section.

(2) The Administration shall adopt the regulations required under this subsection in consultation with:

(i) The Maryland Firemen's Association;

(ii) The Maryland Fire Chief's Association;

(iii) The Professional Firefighters Association of Maryland;

(iv) The Metropolitan Fire Chief's Council; and

(v) The Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute of the University of Maryland.

(c) *Penalty for violation.*- An individual who is subject to the provisions of this section and who fails to comply with the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

[An. Code 1957, art. 661/2, §§ 6-102, 6-102.1; 1977, ch. 14, § 2; 1979, ch. 133; 1981, ch. 743; 1982, ch. 38; 1989, ch. 291, § 2; 2002, ch. 128; 2003, ch. 274; 2005, ch. 167, § 1.]

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Source:

Maryland Code/TRANSPORTATION /TITLE 16. VEHICLE LAWS - DRIVERS' LICENSES/SUBTITLE 8. MARYLAND COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE ACT /§ 16-803. Definitions.

§ 16-803. Definitions.

(a) *In general.*- In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) *Commerce.*- "Commerce" means:

(1) Trade, traffic, and transportation within the jurisdiction of the United States between a place in a state and a place outside of the state, including a place outside the United States; and

(2) Trade, traffic, and transportation in the United States which affects any trade, traffic, and transportation within the jurisdiction of the United States between a place in a state and a place outside of the state, including a place outside the United States.

(c) *Commercial motor vehicle (CMV).*-

(1) "Commercial motor vehicle (CMV)" means a motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles used to transport passengers or property, if the motor vehicle:

(i) Has a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds inclusive of a towed unit;

(ii) Has a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds;

(iii) Is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver; or

(iv) Is of any size and is used in the transportation of materials found to be hazardous for the purposes of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act and which requires the motor vehicle to be placarded under hazardous materials regulations (49 CFR Part 172, Subpart F).

(2) "Commercial motor vehicle (CMV)" does not include a vehicle that is:

(i) 1. Controlled and operated by a farmer;

2. Used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery, or farm supplies to or from a farm;

3. Not used in the operations of a common or contract motor carrier; and

4. Used within 150 miles of the person's farm;

(ii) An emergency vehicle:

1. Equipped with audible and visual signals; and

2. Operated by a member of or a person in the employ of a volunteer or paid fire or rescue organization;

(iii) A vehicle owned or operated by the United States Department of Defense if it is controlled and operated by:

1. Any active duty military personnel;

2. Any member of the military reserves or National Guard on active duty, including personnel on full-time National Guard duty and personnel on part-time training; or

3. Any National Guard military technician; or

(iv) A motor vehicle designed and constructed primarily to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use.

(d) *Conviction.*- "Conviction" means a final unvacated adjudication of guilt, or a determination that an individual has violated or failed to comply with the law in a court of original jurisdiction or by an authorized administrative tribunal, an unvacated forfeiture of bail or collateral deposited to secure the person's appearance in court, a plea of guilty or nolo contendere accepted by the court, the payment of a fine or court cost, a probation before judgment finding, or violation of a condition of release without bail, regardless of whether or not the penalty is rebated, suspended, or probated.

(e) *Employer.*- "Employer" means any individual, including the United States, a state, or a political subdivision of a state, who owns or leases a commercial motor vehicle or assigns drivers to operate such a vehicle. An individual who employs himself as a commercial motor vehicle driver is considered to be both an employer and a driver for the purposes of this subtitle.

(f) *Endorsement.*- "Endorsement" means an authorization to an individual's commercial driver's license required to permit the individual to operate certain types of commercial motor vehicles.

(g) *Gross combination weight rating (GCWR).*- "Gross combination weight rating (GCWR)" means:

(1) The value specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a combination or articulated vehicle; or

(2) In the absence of a value specified by the manufacturer, GCWR shall be determined by adding the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of the power unit and the total weight of the towed unit and its load.

(h) *Gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR).*- "Gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR)" means the value specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle.

(i) *Hazardous materials.*- "Hazardous materials" means any material that has been designated as hazardous under 49 U.S.C. § 5103 and is required to be placarded under Subpart F of 49 CFR Part 172 or any quantity of a material listed as a select agent or toxin in 42 CFR Part 73.

(j) *Serious traffic violation.*-

(1) "Serious traffic violation" means:

(i) Excessive speeding, as defined by the United States Secretary of Transportation by regulation;

(ii) Reckless driving;

(iii) A violation of any state or local law relating to operating a motor vehicle, other than a parking violation, arising in connection with an accident or collision resulting in death to any individual;

(iv) Driving a commercial motor vehicle without obtaining a commercial driver's license;

(v) Driving a commercial motor vehicle without a commercial driver's license in the driver's possession;

(vi) Driving a commercial motor vehicle without the proper class of commercial driver's license;

(vii) Driving a commercial motor vehicle without the proper endorsements; or

(viii) Any other violation of a state or local law which the United States Secretary of Transportation determines by regulation to be serious.

(2) Serious traffic violation does not include vehicle weight and vehicle defect violations.

(k) *Tank vehicle.*-

(1) "Tank vehicle" means any commercial motor vehicle that is designed to transport any liquid or gaseous material within a tank that is either permanently or temporarily attached to the vehicle or chassis.

(2) Tank vehicles include cargo tanks and portable tanks.

(3) Tank vehicle does not include portable tanks having a rated capacity under 1,000 gallons.

(l) *United States.*- "United States" means the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

[1989, ch. 291, § 2; 1991, ch. 55, § 1; 2005, ch. 167, § 1.]

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Maryland Code/TRANSPORTATION /TITLE 19. VEHICLE LAWS - CIVIL LIABILITY OF GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES/§ 19-103. Liability for negligent operation of emergency vehicle.

§ 19-103. Liability for negligent operation of emergency vehicle.

(a) *Definitions.*-

(1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Emergency vehicle" has the same meaning as in [§ 11-118 of this](#) article.

(3) "Emergency service" means:

(i) Responding to an emergency call;

(ii) Pursuing a violator or a suspected violator of the law; or

(iii) Responding to, but not while returning from, a fire alarm.

(b) *Liability of operator.*- An operator of an emergency vehicle, who is authorized to operate the emergency vehicle by its owner or lessee while operating the emergency vehicle in the performance of emergency service as defined in subsection (a) of this section shall have the immunity from liability described under § 5-639(b) of the [Courts and Judicial Proceedings](#) Article.

(c) *Liability of owner or lessee.*-

(1) An owner or lessee of an emergency vehicle, including a political subdivision, is liable to the extent provided in § 5-639(c) of the [Courts and Judicial Proceedings](#) Article for any damages caused by a negligent act or omission of an authorized operator while operating the emergency vehicle in the performance of emergency service as defined in subsection (a) of this section.

(2) An owner or lessee of an emergency vehicle, including a political subdivision, shall have the immunity from liability described under § 5-639(c) of the [Courts and Judicial Proceedings](#) Article.

(d) *Liability for self-insured jurisdiction.*- A self-insured jurisdiction shall have the immunity from liability under this section as described under § 5-639(d) of the [Courts and Judicial Proceedings](#) Article.

[1983, ch. 539; 1990, ch. 546, § 3; 1997, ch. 14, § 20; 2003, ch. 21, § 1.]

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Maryland Code/TRANSPORTATION /TITLE 21. VEHICLE LAWS - RULES OF THE ROAD/SUBTITLE 1. DEFINITIONS; GENERAL PROVISIONS /§ 21-106. Emergency vehicles.

§ 21-106. Emergency vehicles.

(a) *Circumstances for which privileges granted.*- Subject to the conditions stated in this section, the driver of an emergency vehicle registered in any state may exercise the privileges set forth in this section while:

- (1) Responding to an emergency call;
- (2) Pursuing a violator or suspected violator of the law; or
- (3) Responding to, but not while returning from, a fire alarm.

(b) *Enumeration of privileges.*- Under the circumstances stated in subsection (a) of this section, the driver of an emergency vehicle may:

- (1) Park or stand without regard to the other provisions of this title;
- (2) Pass a red or stop signal, a stop sign, or a yield sign, but only after slowing down as necessary for safety;
- (3) Exceed any maximum speed limit, but only so long as the driver does not endanger life or property; and
- (4) Disregard any traffic control device or regulation governing direction of movement or turning in a specified direction.

(c) *Use of audible and visual signs required.*-

(1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the privileges set forth in this section apply only while the emergency vehicle is using audible and visual signals that meet the requirements of [§ 22-218 of this](#) article, except that an emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle need not be equipped with or display the visual signals.

(2) The privileges set forth in subsection (b) (1) of this section apply only while the emergency vehicle is using visual signals that meet the requirements of [§ 22-218 of this](#) article.

(3) (i) The driver of an emergency vehicle may not use flashing lights or a bell, siren, or exhaust whistle while returning from an emergency call or fire alarm, except that fire apparatus carrying standing firemen may use flashing lights that are visible only to the rear.

(ii) The driver of an emergency vehicle, while parking or backing the emergency vehicle, may use flashing lights within 100 feet of the entrance ramp to a:

1. Fire station; or

2. Rescue station.

(d) *Driver not relieved from duty of care.*- This section does not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

[An. Code 1957, art. 661/2, § 11-106; 1977, ch. 14, § 2; 1982, ch. 815; 1999, ch. 353; 2001, ch. 490.]

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Maryland Code/TRANSPORTATION /TITLE 21. VEHICLE LAWS - RULES OF THE ROAD/SUBTITLE 4. RIGHT-OF-WAY /§ 21-405. Operation of vehicles on approach of emergency vehicles.

§ 21-405. Operation of vehicles on approach of emergency vehicles.

(a) *In general.*- On the immediate approach of an emergency vehicle using audible and visual signals that meet the requirements of [§ 22-218 of this](#) article or of a police vehicle lawfully using an audible signal, the driver of every other vehicle, unless otherwise directed by a police officer, shall yield the right-of-way.

(b) *Duty of driver upon approach of emergency vehicle.*- On the immediate approach of an emergency vehicle using audible and visual signals that meet the requirements of [§ 22-218 of this](#) article or of a police vehicle lawfully using an audible signal, the driver of every other vehicle, unless otherwise directed by a police officer, shall drive immediately to a position parallel to and as close as possible to the edge or curb of the roadway, clear of any intersection.

(c) *Stopping until emergency vehicle passes.*- On the immediate approach of an emergency vehicle using audible and visual signals that meet the requirements of [§ 22-218 of this](#) article or of a police vehicle lawfully using an audible signal, the driver of every other vehicle, unless otherwise directed by a police officer, shall stop and stay in this position until the emergency vehicle has passed.

(d) *Passing emergency or police vehicle.*- A driver, when proceeding in the same direction as an emergency or police vehicle, may not pass an emergency vehicle using audible and visual signals that meet the requirements of [§ 22-218 of this](#) article or a police vehicle lawfully using an audible signal unless:

- (1) The emergency vehicle has stopped; or
- (2) Otherwise directed by a police officer.

(e) *Driver of emergency vehicle not relieved from duty of care.*- This section does not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

[An. Code 1957, art. 661/2, § 11-405; 1977, ch. 14, § 2; 1980, ch. 825; 1981, ch. 169; 1986, ch. 472, § 1.]

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Maryland Code/TRANSPORTATION /TITLE 21. VEHICLE LAWS - RULES OF THE ROAD/SUBTITLE 5. PEDESTRIANS' RIGHTS AND RULES /§ 21-510. Pedestrians to yield right-of-way to emergency vehicles.

§ 21-510. Pedestrians to yield right-of-way to emergency vehicles.

(a) *In general.*- A pedestrian who crosses a roadway shall yield the right-of-way to any approaching emergency vehicle that is using audible and visual signals that meet the requirements of [§ 22-218 of this](#) article.

(b) *Police vehicles using audible signal.*- A pedestrian who crosses a roadway shall yield the right-of-way to any approaching police vehicle that is lawfully using an audible signal.

(c) *Driver not relieved from duty of care.*- This section does not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

[An. Code 1957, art. 661/2, § 11-501.1; 1977, ch. 14, § 2; 1986, ch. 472, § 1.]

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Maryland Code/TRANSPORTATION /TITLE 21. VEHICLE LAWS - RULES OF THE ROAD/SUBTITLE 11. MISCELLANEOUS RULES /§ 21-1109. Following fire apparatus prohibited; passing parking or backing emergency vehicles prohibited.

§ 21-1109. Following fire apparatus prohibited; passing parking or backing emergency vehicles prohibited.

(a) *Fire apparatus.*- Unless he is on official business, the driver of a vehicle may not:

(1) Follow within 500 feet of any fire apparatus traveling in response to a fire alarm; or

(2) Drive or park within 300 feet of any fire apparatus stopped in response to a fire alarm.

(b) *Passing parking or backing emergency vehicles.*- The driver of a vehicle may not pass an emergency vehicle within 100 feet of an entrance ramp of a fire or rescue station when the emergency vehicle is in the process of parking or backing.

[An. Code 1957, art. 661/2, § 11-1109; 1977, ch. 14, § 2; 2001, ch. 490.]

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Maryland Code/TRANSPORTATION /TITLE 22. VEHICLE LAWS - EQUIPMENT OF VEHICLES/SUBTITLE 2. LAMPS AND OTHER LIGHTING EQUIPMENT /§ 22-218. Audible and visual signals on vehicles.

§ 22-218. Audible and visual signals on vehicles.

(a) *Sirens, exhaust whistles, or bells on emergency vehicles.*- Every emergency vehicle, in addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings required by this subtitle, shall be equipped with a siren, exhaust whistle, or bell capable of giving an audible signal.

(b) *Flashing red lights on emergency vehicles; warning lights on school vehicles.*-

(1) Every emergency vehicle, in addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings required by the Maryland Vehicle Law, shall be equipped with signal lamps mounted as high as practicable, which shall be capable of displaying to the front and to the rear a flashing red light or lights. These lights shall have sufficient intensity to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight.

(2) Every school vehicle meeting the requirements established by the Administrator shall be equipped with alternately flashing warning lights in accordance with the standards adopted under [§ 22-228 of this](#) subtitle.

(c) *Oscillating, blinking, etc., lights on certain vehicles.*-

(1) A person may not drive or move on any highway any vehicle or equipment that is equipped with or displays any light or signal device designed to emit an oscillating, rotating, blinking, or other type of emission of light, unless designated and authorized by the Administrator as indicated in paragraphs (2) through (10) of this subsection. The provisions of this section do not prohibit the display and use of any lighting device that may be permitted or required elsewhere in the Maryland Vehicle Law.

(2) Vehicles of the police department and other city, county, State, or federal law enforcement agencies may be equipped with and display red, white, or blue lights or signal devices.

(3) (i) Vehicles of city, county, State, or federal fire departments or duly constituted volunteer fire departments or rescue squads, or the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System, may be equipped with or display red and/or white lights or signal devices.

(ii) In each volunteer fire company, no more than five of the following officers may have their privately owned vehicles equipped with red lights or signal devices which may be displayed only while on route to or at the scene of an emergency:

1. The fire chief or the highest ranking fireline officer;
2. One or more of the assistant chiefs or deputy chiefs, whichever rank is second in command; and
3. The emergency medical services commander.

(iii) 1. The fire police of each volunteer fire company may have their privately owned vehicles equipped with red lights or signal devices designed to emit an oscillating, rotating, blinking, or other type of emission of light.

2. The lights or signal devices may be flashed or oscillated or otherwise used only while the vehicle is at the scene of an accident, flood, or other emergency to which the volunteer fire company is responding.

(4) Ambulances may be equipped with or display red and/or white lights or signal devices.

(5) State vehicles used in response to oil or hazardous materials spills may be equipped with or display red and/or white lights or signal devices.

(6) Service vehicles, rural letter carrier vehicles, slow moving farm vehicles, and tow trucks may be equipped with or display yellow or amber lights or signal devices.

(7) State vehicles designated for emergency use by the Commissioner of Correction may be equipped with or display red lights or signal devices.

(8) (i) Except as provided in subparagraphs (ii) and (iii) of this paragraph, the blue, red, or white lights or signal devices may be flashed or oscillated or otherwise used only while on route to or at the scene of an emergency, and their use does not relieve an emergency vehicle from otherwise giving an audible warning as required elsewhere in the Maryland Vehicle Law.

(ii) The driver of an emergency vehicle may use flashing lights within 100 feet of the entrance ramp of a fire or rescue station while parking or backing the emergency vehicle.

(iii) The driver of an emergency vehicle of a fire department or rescue squad shall, at the discretion of the officer in charge, flash or oscillate or otherwise use red and white lights or signal devices while stopped, standing, or parked on the roadway at the scene of an emergency.

(9) The yellow or amber lights or signal devices permitted on vehicles under paragraph (6) of this subsection may be flashed or oscillated or otherwise used only in the course of official duties, to indicate to the public that the vehicle is a slow moving vehicle or otherwise is impeding traffic.

(10) (i) An emergency vehicle of any foreign state may be equipped with any lights or signals:

1. As provided by this subsection; or

2. As permitted by the state in which the vehicle is registered.

(ii) 1. The use of any lights or signals permitted under this paragraph is limited to an emergency vehicle, as defined in [§ 11-118 of this](#) article, responding to an emergency or pursuing a violator, and equipped with an audible signal as provided in this section.

2. Foreign vehicles, as defined in [§ 11-124 of this](#) article, which are privately owned by members of volunteer fire companies, ambulance or rescue squads, fire departments, and law enforcement agencies may be equipped with lights or signals as permitted by the state in which the vehicle is registered, but such lights or signals may be used while the vehicle is in this State only by those personnel and under the circumstances authorized under paragraph (3) of this subsection.

(iii) In addition to the penalties provided in Title 27 of this article, any person convicted of a violation of this section may have his driving privileges suspended for a period of 30 days, and the registration of the vehicle may be suspended for a period of 30 days, notwithstanding that the owner of the vehicle may not be the operator at the time of the offense, unless the owner proves to the satisfaction of the Administration that he had no control over the use or display of a light or signal device and could not prevent the violation of this section.

(d) *Police vehicle used as emergency vehicle.*- A police vehicle when used as an emergency vehicle may, but need not be, equipped with the flashing red and/or blue lights specified in this section.

(e) *Flashing lighting not to be used except as authorized.*- Except as provided in subsection (c) (3) of this section, the flashing lighting described in subsections (b) and (c) of this section may not be used on any vehicle other than an emergency vehicle, service vehicle, or school vehicle.

(f) *Drivers to yield right-of-way and stop.*- The use of the signal equipment described in this section imposes on drivers of other vehicles the obligation to yield the right-of-way and stop as required in Title 21 of this article.

(g) *Flashing green lights on taxicabs.*- On taxicabs, the flashing green lights known as emergency hold-up lights may be mounted on the roof or outside rear and front of the vehicle.

[An. Code 1957, art. 661/2, § 12-218; 1977, ch. 14, § 2; ch. 222; 1980, ch. 779; 1982, ch. 815; 1983, chs. 309, 361; 1994, chs. 374, 663; 1996, ch. 218; 2001, ch. 490; 2002, chs. 19, 515.]

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Source:

Maryland Code/TRANSPORTATION /TITLE 22. VEHICLE LAWS - EQUIPMENT OF VEHICLES/SUBTITLE 2. LAMPS AND OTHER LIGHTING EQUIPMENT /§ 22-227. Special restrictions on lamps.

§ 22-227. Special restrictions on lamps.

(a) *Certain lamps other than headlamps, spot lamps, auxiliary lamps, warning lamps, and signals.*- During the times specified in [§ 22-201.1 of this](#) subtitle, any lighted lamp or illuminating device on a motor vehicle (other than headlamps, spot lamps, auxiliary lamps, flashing turn signals, emergency vehicle and service vehicle warning lamps, and school vehicle warning lamps) that projects a beam of light of an intensity greater than 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 75 feet from the vehicle.

(b) *Red or blue light visible from front.*- Except as required or permitted in [§ 22-218 of this](#) subtitle or in the rules governing the operation of emergency vehicles and school vehicles, a person may not drive or move any vehicle or equipment on any highway with any lamp or device on it that displays a red or blue light visible from directly in front of its center.

(c) *Flashing lights.*- Flashing lights are prohibited except as required or permitted in the Maryland Vehicle Law.

(d) *White light visible from rear.*- Except as authorized elsewhere in this subtitle, a person may not drive or move any vehicle or equipment on any highway with any lamp or device on it that displays a white light visible directly from its rear.

(e) *Driving or moving vehicle displaying flashing light.*- Except as authorized elsewhere in this subtitle, a person may not drive or move any vehicle or equipment on any highway while the vehicle or equipment displays any flashing light.

(f) *Color of lights on rear of vehicle.*- All lighting devices and reflectors mounted on the rear of any vehicle shall display or reflect a red color, except the stoplight or other signal device, which may be red, amber, or yellow, and except that the light illuminating the registration plate shall be white and the light emitted by a backup lamp shall be white or amber.

[An. Code 1957, art. 661/2, § 12-227; 1977, ch. 14, § 2.]

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Source:

Maryland Code/TRANSPORTATION /TITLE 22. VEHICLE LAWS - EQUIPMENT OF VEHICLES/SUBTITLE 4. OTHER EQUIPMENT /§ 22-401. Horns and warning devices.

§ 22-401. Horns and warning devices.

(a) *Adequacy of horns.*- Every motor vehicle when operated on 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 200 feet, but no horn or other warning device may emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle.

(b) *When to be used.*- The driver of a motor vehicle shall, when reasonably necessary to insure safe operation, give audible warning with his horn, but may not otherwise use the horn when on a highway.

(c) *Sirens, whistles, and bells prohibited.*- No vehicle may be equipped with nor may any person use on a vehicle any siren, whistle, or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section.

(d) *Theft alarm signal device.*- It is permissible, but not required, that any vehicle be equipped with a theft alarm signal device that is so arranged that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal.

(e) *Sirens, whistles, or bells on emergency vehicles.*- Every 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 500 feet. However, the siren may 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 latter events the driver of the vehicle shall sound the siren when reasonably necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the approach of the vehicle.

[An. Code 1957, art. 661/2, § 12-401; 1977, ch. 14, § 2; 1986, ch. 472, § 1; 1999, ch. 645.]