



SHARING the ROAD with SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES



Instructor's notes:

Display this slide as the audience enters the room.

Slow-Moving Vehicles



Are all vehicles that operate at 25 mph or less, including:

- Tractors
- Self-propelled agricultural equipment
- Road construction & maintenance machinery
- Animal-powered vehicles



Instructor's notes:

The slide contains the examples of slow-moving vehicles. The Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) defines a slow moving vehicle in 375 Section 36(b) as: "Farm machinery and implements of husbandry and other machinery including road construction and maintenance machinery designed to operate at twenty-five miles per hour or less, traveling on a public highway during day or night, whether self-propelled or used in combination, shall each separately display a slow-moving vehicle emblem as specified in paragraph (a) of this subdivision."

Slow-Moving Vehicle Season



- From late April through mid-October.
- Due to planting and harvesting crops.
- Use caution when sharing the road with slow-moving vehicles.



Instructor's notes:

Slow-moving Vehicle season is when more of these types of vehicles will be on the roads. There may be a smaller presence of slow-moving vehicles during certain months of the year, but in some communities slow-moving vehicles are on the road year round.

New York State Law

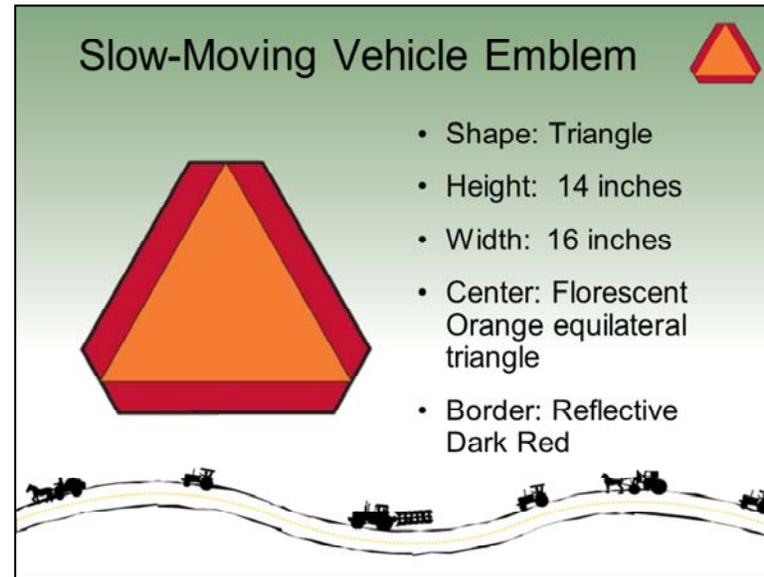


- Requires slow-moving vehicle emblems (SMVEs) on all vehicles traveling 25 mph or less.
- Place SMVE in the middle of the back end.
- Located 2 to 6 feet above the road.
- Kept clean and replaced when faded.



Instructor's notes:

Discuss the items on the slide with the group. This Law is found in Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) 375 section 36.



Instructor's notes:

Cover the specifics of the sign from the slide. Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) 375 section 36 states: "(a) The slow-moving vehicle emblem as developed by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers shall be recognized as the official state slow moving vehicle emblem. The commissioner of motor vehicles shall adopt standards and specifications for design, creation and use, in conformance with those recommendations of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers for the size, design and mounting of said slow-moving vehicle emblem."

Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblem



- Slow-moving vehicle emblem must be mounted 2 to 6 feet in height off the ground in the center rear.



Instructor's notes:

Many know the law about the slow-moving vehicle emblem (SMVE) but they should be encouraged to replace all faded and broken signs. Some agricultural workers have their SMVE on a pipe or post and remove it when they go into the fields and put it back on the tractor or implement when they get back on the roadway. This is to ensure the sign remains clean and undamaged.

SMVE Law



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



Instructor's notes:

Stress that each piece of equipment, even those in tow, needs to have a slow-moving vehicle emblem (SMVE) on it.

Proper Use of SMVE



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



Instructor's notes:

The posting of slow-moving vehicle emblems is a direct misrepresentation of the intended meaning and purpose of the sign.

VTL 375 Section 36 (c) states: "(c) The use of such emblem shall be in addition to any lighting devices, flags or other equipment required by law. Such emblem shall be used only on farm machinery and implements of husbandry on road construction and maintenance machinery, and on such other vehicles, machinery and equipment as may be specified in regulations issued by the commissioner. All use shall be in accordance with such regulations. Use of such emblem as a clearance marker or on stationary objects on the highways is prohibited."

Slow-Moving Vehicle Restrictions

- Under NYS Law, self-propelled agricultural equipment can be operated on public roadways after dark and when visibility is reduced to less than 1,000 feet if they meet the following requirements:



Instructor's notes:

Please emphasize the restriction is for those operators whose slow-moving vehicle is not equipped with the items listed on the following slides.

Slow-Moving Vehicle Restrictions



- The vehicle is equipped with lamps in good working order and are lighted:
 - **Head lights:** 2 white colored on the front
 - **Tail lamps:** 1 red colored at the rear and far left as possible
 - **Hazard flashers / turn indicators:** 2 amber lamps at least 42 inches high; visible from the front and rear



Instructor's notes:

This slide lists the requirements needed to legally operate an agricultural SMV when visibility is reduced to less than 1000 feet in either direction or in use one half hour after sunset up to one half hour before sunrise.

Head Lights



- 2 white colored head lights on the front



Instructor's notes:

Point out the two head lights on the front of the tractor. Remember they need to be turned on when the tractor is in use one half hour after sunset up to one half hour before sunrise and when visibility is reduced to less than 100 feet in either direction no matter what time of day.

Tail Lamps



- 1 red colored tail lamp at the rear and far left as possible



Instructor's notes:

Point out the arrow in the photo of the red tail lamp.

Hazard Flashers/Turn Indicators



- 2 amber lamps at least 42 inches high- visible from the front and rear



Instructor's notes:

The law states these flashers and turn indicators need to be in good working order. Remember to replace all blown out bulbs and cracked lenses.

Reflectors



- 2 red colored mounted at the same height on the rear

Instructor's notes:

Point out the arrow on the photo to the reflectors on this tractor. Remind SMV operators to replace broken reflectors.

Sharing the Road With SMVs



- Motorists should:
 - Slow down immediately
 - Increase following distance
 - Be alert and watch for turns
 - Drive courteously
 - Pass with care



Instructor's notes:

Motorists need to follow the suggestions on the slide for their own personal safety and to ensure the safety of the SMV operator. It is always right to slow down, increase following distance and stay alert when encountering any motorist on the roadways, especially SMV operators.

Stress the importance of following the legal passing procedures when you are trying to pass a slow-moving vehicle.

The road signs on this slide are approved signs from the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). They are warning signs alerting motorists of other highway users.

Sharing the Road With SMVs



- Motorists should:
 - Be aware that animal-powered vehicles may make unanticipated movements
 - Remember that SMVs operators may have poor visibility due to loads and equipment in tow
 - Be aware the equipment in tow may sway



Instructor's notes:

In certain parts of the state, there are larger populations of people who prefer animal-powered vehicles. Stress the importance of knowing your traffic environment, patterns and community highway users.

When it is haying season, many farmers are unable to see behind them due to a fully loaded wagon of hay bails. At times, the equipment in tow may sway as it is being towed down the road. Encourage motorists to use caution when passing slow-moving vehicles especially when they have equipment in tow.



For more information about slow-moving vehicles
and the slow-moving vehicle emblem visit the
Governor's Traffic Safety Committee
web site at:

SafeNY.ny.gov
or
DMV.ny.gov

Instructor's notes:

Please stress the web sites listed on the screen. These sites will provide the new Vehicle and Traffic Laws pertaining to slow-moving vehicles. They also contain free educational materials, like brochures and PowerPoint presentations, to be used at presentations and meetings.



Instructor's notes:

List all the agencies which participated in creating the slow-moving vehicle public outreach campaign. These agencies are great resources for slow-moving vehicle issues. They would be more than happy to assist in answering questions from the field.



Instructor's notes:

Remind the audience that "safety" begins with them driving safely as they share the road with slow-moving vehicles. Thank the group for their attention during the presentation.