

Under the Motor Vehicle Act, there are a number of regulations that apply to farm vehicles. This fact sheet gives a brief description of some of these regulations. More detailed information can be found in the booklet *Transportation Guidelines for Nova Scotia Farmers*, produced by the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. It is currently available on the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture website: <http://www.nsfafane.ca/transportation-guidelines-nova-scotia-farmers>

Driver's Licenses

An ordinary Class 5 licence allows you to operate most types of farm vehicles on highways and tow implements with a combined weight of up to 4,500 kg. A Condition 15 endorsement on your Class 5 licence is required to tow loads on highways with a combined weight between 4,500 kg and 14,000 kg. A Class 3 licence is required for vehicles or loads with a combined weight in excess of 14,000 kg, including farm vehicles.

A Class 8 driver's licence allows those 14 years old and up to drive farm tractors on highways. A Class 8 licence only lets you drive farm tractors – nothing else. In order to pull farm implements on highways, Class 8 licence holders must take the Tractor Safety Course offered by the Centre for Continuing & Distance Education of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. This course is endorsed by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. Upon successful completion of this course, Class 8 licence holders will receive a Condition 15 endorsement on their licence, allowing them to drive a tractor pulling farm implements with a combined weight up to 14,000 kg. This endorsement will be carried through to their Class 5 licence. For more information, contact the Centre for Continuing & Distance Education at 902-893-6666 or www.nsac.ca/cde

Class 5 licence holders should contact Access Nova Scotia to find out how to obtain an Endorsement 15 on their licence: 1-800-670-4357 or <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/access/default.asp>

Slow Moving Vehicles

The slow moving vehicle sign is a day-glow orange triangle with a red border. You must have this sign displayed on the back of farm tractors, vehicles being towed by farm tractors and vehicles that cannot go faster than 40 km/hr (25 mph). Any vehicle displaying a slow-moving vehicle sign must not go faster than 40 km/hr. Slow moving vehicle signs can be purchased at farm machinery dealerships and hardware stores.

Farm Truck Licence Plates

Registered farms can apply for farm truck licence plates, which have a cheaper registration fee. The truck, with or without farm implement, farm trailer or farm wagon attached, can be operated on a highway to transport the owner's farm products and farm supplies only. The use of tax-free gasoline in this truck is prohibited. For more information, contact the Registry of Motor Vehicles at 1-800-898-7668 or visit:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/RMV/registration/register.asp#Farm>

Tax Free Fuel

Registered farms are exempt from taxes on fuel (gasoline, propane and diesel) used to operate machinery and apparatus used in a commercial farming operation. Farm machinery includes farm tractors, chainsaws, and generators, but does not include any kind of motor vehicle (i.e. cars, trucks, etc.). Farmers can receive the tax exemption by purchasing marked fuel or by purchasing retail fuel and applying for a refund. For more information, including more detailed information about what kinds of machinery tax free fuel can be used in, see Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations Guide 2002 R6: <http://gov.ns.ca/snsmr/pdf/ans-taxcomm-revenue-taxguide-2002.pdf>

Secure Loads

Every vehicle that carries a load on a highway must have its load secured. This includes farm vehicles. Loads must be secured so that they stay in the same place inside the vehicle, using sides, sideboards, stakes, endgates, endboards, or tiedowns. Loads that are lightweight, made of fine particles that are loosely packed, liquid or semi-liquid must be secured with a tarp.

Transportation of Livestock

When transporting livestock, the process of loading, transit and unloading must not cause injury or undue suffering to the animals. The federal requirements for animal transport are covered under the *Health of Animals Regulations, Part XII* and are enforced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

For more information on acceptable and unacceptable practices for transporting animals, see the CFIA brochure *Livestock Transportation Requirements in Canada*:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/trans/broche.pdf>

Transportation of Dangerous Goods

Farmers are generally exempt from regulations involving the transportation of dangerous goods for agricultural pesticides and fertilizers if those goods weigh 1,500 kg or less, the goods are transported using a farm truck or farm tractor, they are to be used for agricultural purposes only, and they are transported less than 100 km. If you do not meet the terms of this exemption, see the *Transportation Guidelines for Nova Scotia Farmers* booklet for more information on the regulations for transporting dangerous goods.

Farm Vehicle Insurance

All farm vehicles and implements that drive or are transported on highways must be insured. This includes tractors, self-propelled machinery like combines, trailers, wagons, plows, mowers, and all other tow-behind farm implements. Insurance policies on tractors may also cover implements but be sure to check with your insurer to make sure this is the case.

Off-Highway Vehicles

Many farmers keep off-highway vehicles (OHVs) such as all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), dirt bikes, snowmobiles, and Gators™ for farm and/or recreational purposes. OHVs are regulated by the *Off-Highway Vehicles Act* and enforced by the Department of Natural Resources. The *Off-Highway Vehicles Regulations* stipulate that all off-highway vehicles must be registered with the Registry of Motor Vehicles. In addition, all operators must wear approved safety helmets and must have safety training. For more information, contact the Department of Natural Resources at 1-877-OHV-LINE (1-877-648-5463).

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