Farm Vehicle Regulations

Reference guide provided by Kentucky Farm Bureau



In coordination with the Kentucky State Police

Important Contact Information

State of Kentucky

Kentucky State Police (KSP)
Headquarters502.782.1800
KSP Division of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement
www.kentuckystatepolice.org/commercial-vehicle-enforcement
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Regional Locations
KSP CVE West Region270.766.5078
KSP CVE Central Region502.782.1029
KSP CVE East Region
101 012 200(10g)011111111111111111111111111111111
Kentucky Division of
Motor Carriers
www.drive.ky.gov

Kentucky Division of
Motor Vehicle Licensing502.564.1257
KSP Emergency
Toll Free800.222.5555
Federal Motor Carrier Safety
Administration (FMCSA)502.223.6779
,,
FMCSA Infoline800.832.5660
www.fmcsa.dot.gov
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Sources

KRS TITLE XVI: Chapter 186, Chapter 189 KRS TITLE XXI: Chapter 246 KRS TITLE XXIV: Chapter 281

601 KAR 1:005: Section 1 and 3 601 KAR 1:018: Section 1, 2, 9, and 10 601 KAR 1:019

Regulatory Guidance for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs):

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Information Memorandum - "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st century (MAP-21)". Dated February 17, 2016.

Note: This publication, printed July 2020, may also be viewed online and printed by clicking on the Federation tab at kyfb.com.

Foreword

Kentucky Farm Bureau is pleased to provide our membership this *Farm Vehicle Regulations* publication that highlights the guidelines, regulations, exemptions, registration fee schedules and other information needed when operating farm vehicles or implements on Kentucky's highways.

Many times it is difficult to decipher the statutes and regulations dealing with farm vehicles. We hope this publication will help. We urge our members to take this publication and keep it in the farm vehicles that will be traveling on federal, state and county highways. It is intended to be used as a quick reference guide.

Note: The provisions included in this publication pertain to Kentucky Statutes (Intrastate) unless noted as being Federal Guidelines (Interstate).

Special Thanks

Kentucky Farm Bureau would like to thank the Kentucky State Police Division of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) for their help and cooperation in providing and reviewing information included in this publication. Their efforts have helped to ensure the accuracy and validity of this publication.



Requirements for Moving Farm Implements

ESCORT REQUIREMENTS

- 1. General escort vehicle requirements:
 - (a) A lead escort vehicle operating on a two (2) highway may serve as a tow vehicle.
 - (b) The distance requirement for an escort vehicle to lead or trail an overweight or overdimensional farm equipment shall be 300 feet (91.44 meters), but the distance may vary if necessary due to safety or road conditions.
 - (c) An escort vehicle shall keep its headlights on during an escort.
 - (d) A single vehicle and load that do not exceed fortyfive (45) miles per hour operating on a four (4) lane highway shall have at least one (1) trail escort.
- 2. A single vehicle and load in excess of twelve (12) feet in width:
 - (a) Operating on a two (2) lane highway, shall at least one (1) lead escort vehicle (a lead escort vehicle may also serve as a tow vehicle); and
 - (b) Operating on a four (4) lane highway, shall have at least one (1) trail escort vehicle.
- 3. A single vehicle and load in excess of eighty-five (85) feet in length operating on a two (2) lane highway, shall have at least one (1) lead vehicle.
- 4. A single vehicle and load 120 feet in length or more operating on a four (4) lane highway, shall have at least one (1) trail vehicle.
- 5. Convoy More than one (1) farm equipment vehicle and load, exceeding twelve (12) feet in width or exceeding eighty-five (85) feet in length, being operated as a convoy on a two (2) lane highway, shall have at least one (1) lead vehicle for the total convoy.

Requirements for Moving Farm Implements

601 KAR 1:019

When escorts are required, escort vehicles must post appropriate signage or shall use lights or flashers or flags.

<u>Flags.</u> A flag shall be: (a) Red or fluorescent orange; (b) At least eighteen (18) inches square; (c) Displayed at the widest point of the load or on the escort vehicle.

<u>Signage.</u> A sign shall: (a) Be at least six (6) to eight (8) feet in width; (b) State "Oversize Load"; (c) Have black letters on a yellow background. The black letters shall be at least eighteen (18) inches tall and 1.44 inches wide.

<u>Lights.</u> Lights shall be: (a) Amber oscillating or (b) Flashing and (c) Visible from the rear.

PERMIT EXEMPTIONS

Farm Implements — unless movement occurs on fully-controlled access highway, a permit shall not be required for transport of overweight or overdimensional farm implements for the following trips:

- (a) From one farm to another;
- (b) From a farm to a repair shop or dealer; or
- (c) From a repair shop or dealer to a farm.

Note: A non-permitted move shall comply with safety requirements of this administrative regulations.

State and Federal Guidelines Requirements

 Federal DOT Number – Farm vehicles may travel within 150 air-mile radius without a DOT number if the vehicle is 26,001 lbs or less. Vehicles 26,001 lbs and above must have federal DOT number. (DOT number may be obtained from the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA) website at www.fmcsa.dot.gov).

Note: Based on manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating or actual weight, license plate weight designation does not determine actual weight or gross vehicle weight rating.

- 2. Classifications and weight limits on state roads.
 - · Class A allows 44,000 lbs gross weight
 - Class AA allows 62,000 lbs gross weight
 - · Class AAA allows 80,000 lbs gross weight
 - County road maximum weight is 36,000 lbs

Note:

A vehicle hauling building materials (agriculture products as defined in KRS 189.2226) shall be allowed to travel the most direct route, in the opinion of the operator, to the vehicle's point of destination, provided that any road traveled as the most direct route shall not be further than fifteen (15) miles from a state road that is classified to carry the registered weight of the vehicle.

If a vehicle is traveling a road classified by the Transportation Cabinet as a single "A" highway, the vehicle or its load cannot exceed ninety-six (96) inches in width. If a vehicle or its load exceed ninety-six (96) inches in width, the operator shall be required to obtain the appropriate overdimensional permit required by this chapter to travel the proposed route. The operator of a vehicle hauling building materials under this section shall have in his or her possession a bill of lading.

State and Federal Guidelines Exemptions

- Exempt from additional fuel usage tax in Kentucky (IFTA and KIT).
- 2. Exempt from weight distance tax in Kentucky (KYU).
- 3. Exempt from medical certificate if within a 150 air-mile radius (intrastate).
- Exempt from periodic annual inspection if within a 150 airmile radius (intrastate).
- 5. Exempt from <u>axle weights</u> (gross highway weight rates still apply) if licensed as a farm vehicle and not traveling on an interstate highway.
- Do not have to be 21 years of age if driving within 150 miles of the farm (minimum age 18).
- Exempt from periodic inspection requirements in 49 C.F.R. 396.7 (if within 150 miles of the farm).
- Not required to have commercial driver's license (intrastate unless transporting a type or quantity of hazardous materials that requires the vehicle to be placarded).
- 9. A motor vehicle which is used exclusively in intrastate commerce and exclusively in farm-to-market agriculture transportation, when operated during daylight hours, shall not be required to comply with 49 C.F.R. 393.9 to 393.33, relative to lighting device requirements. (Still required to have working stop lamps and mechanical turn signals.)

State and Federal Guidelines Exemptions

- 10. Not required to keep Hours of Service (HOS) Record of Duty Status (log book) if transporting agriculture commodities or farm supplies for agriculture purposes if such transportation:
 - (a) Is limited to an area within a 150 air-mile radius from the source of the commodities or distribution point for farm supplies.

Kentucky Registration Fee Schedule

KRS 186.050 is the statute that sets forth registration fees for motor vehicles.

Subsection (4)(a) 1 and 2 states that any farmer owning a truck having a gross weight of twenty-six thousand (26.000) pounds or less or; any farmer owning a truck having a gross weight of twenty-six thousand one (26,001) pounds to thirtyeight thousand (38,000) pounds may have it registered as a farmer's truck and obtain a license for eleven dollars and fifty cents (\$11.50). The applicant's signature upon the certificate of registration and ownership shall constitute a certificate that he/she is a farmer engaged in the production of crops, livestock, or dairy products, that he/she owns a truck of either twenty-six thousand (26,000) pounds or less or; any farmer owning a truck having a gross weight of twenty-six thousand one (26,001) pounds to thirty-eight thousand (38,000) pounds (whichever is applicable) and that during the next twelve (12) months the truck shall not be used in for-hire transportation and may be used in transporting persons, food, provender, feed, machinery, livestock, material, and supplies necessary for his/her farming operation, and the products grown on his/her farm. (b) Any farmer owning a truck having a declared gross weight in excess of thirty-eight thousand (38,000) pounds shall not be required to pay the fee set out in subsection (3) of this section and in lieu thereof, shall pay forty percent (40%) of the fee set out in subsection (3) of this section and shall be exempt from any fee charged under the provisions of KRS 281.752.

The applicant's signature upon the registration receipt shall be considered to be a certification that he/she is a farmer engaged solely in the production of crops, livestock, or dairy products and that during the current registration year the truck will be used only in transporting persons, food, provender, feed, and machinery used in operating his/her farm and products grown on his/her farm.

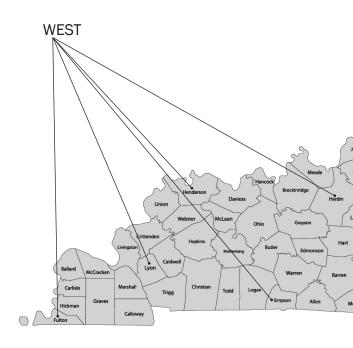
Kentucky Registration Fee Schedule

Subsection (3) states that the fees will be as follows:

Declared gross weight of vehicle and any towed unit (weight in pounds)	Registration Fee	Farm Rate at 40%
38,000 and less	\$11.50	N/A
38,001 - 44,000	\$474.00	\$189.00
44,001 - 55,000	\$669.00	\$267.60
55,001 - 62,000	\$1,007.00	\$402.80
62,001 - 73,280	\$1,250.00	\$500.00
73,281 - 80,000	\$1,410.00	\$564.00

^{*} KFB has calculated this at the 40% farm rate. Rate is not printed in KRS 186.050.

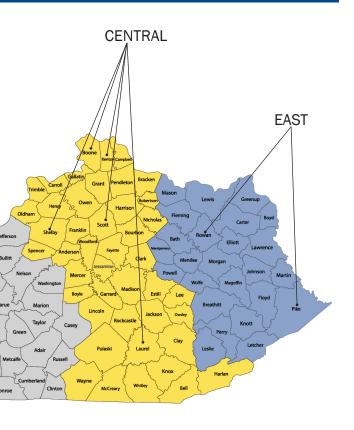
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Regional Map - Scale Facility



KSP CVE West Region:

Henderson Office	270.831.9888
Henderson Scales	812.425.1853
Fulton Scales	270.472.1910
Lyon Scales	270.388.2979
Louisville Office	270.766.5078
Elizabethtown Scales	270.769.1037
Simpson Scales	502.782.8137

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Regional Map - Scale Facility



KSP CVE Central Region:

Georgetown Office/Scales	502.782.1029
Boone Scales	859.485.6778
Kenton Scales	. 859.356.1111
Shelby Scales	. 502.633.2924
London Office/Scales	606.330.2116

KSP CVE East Region:

Morehead Office/Scales	502.782.7378
Pikeville Office/Scales	606.433.4081

1. How do I obtain DOT numbers?

DOT numbers can be obtained online from the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA) website at www.fmcsa.dot.gov.

2. Do trailers have to be licensed?

If the trailer is being towed by a vehicle that is licensed with the **Farm Plate**, the trailer is **NOT required** to be licensed if engaged exclusively in agriculture. If the trailer is being towed by a vehicle licensed with the **Farm Limited Plate**, then it **IS required** to be licensed.

3. What about farm license plates?

There are 3 designations of farm plates in Kentucky:

• Farm Plate (0-26,000 lbs.) or (0-38,000 lbs.)

The Farm Plate is typically found on pickups and straight trucks. This plate can be used for the farmer's general travel and hauling supplies and equipment for the farm, as well as for private business. YOU CANNOT HAUL FOR-HIRE ON ANY FARM PLATE. It must be for a farm or for your private use. Kentucky statutes require the individual to sign the registration receipt attesting that they are a farmer engaged in the production of crops or livestock and for the next 12 months the vehicle will not be used in a for-hire operation.

• Farm Limited Plate (44,000-80,000 lbs.)

This is typically found on larger trucks and tractor trailers. Kentucky statutes require that this plate only be used by the farmer to haul farm supplies and equipment to and from his/her farm.

4. Is there an additional 10% weight allowance for vehicles hauling agricultural products?

Yes. In addition to the provisions of KRS 189.2226, vehicles with a gross weight of up to eighty thousand (80,000) pounds

may travel on any state highway in the Commonwealth without obtaining a special permit, if the weight does not exceed any limits mandated by federal law or regulation, any posted bridge weight limit, or the weight limits for the size and type of vehicle, and if the vehicle is transporting any of the following:

- (a) Meats or agricultural crop products originating from a farm to first market:
- (b) Livestock or poultry from their point of origin to first market:
- (c) Primary forest products, including, but not limited to, sawdust, wood chips, bark, slabs, or logs originating from their points of origin to first market; or
- (d) Supplies, materials, or equipment necessary to carry out a farming operation engaged in the production of agricultural crop products, meats, livestock, or poultry.

The following vehicles registered under KRS 186.050 may exceed the gross weight provisions by a weight tolerance of ten percent (10%), except on the interstate highway system:

- (a) Vehicles that are engaged exclusively in the transportation of items listed above in (a), (b), and (c); and
- (b) Vehicles that are engaged exclusively in the transportation of feed for livestock or poultry.

Except on the interstate highway system, vehicles engaged exclusively in the transportation of crushed stone, fill dirt and rock, soil, bulk sand, coal, phosphate muck, asphalt, concrete, solid waste, tankage or animal residues, livestock, feed for livestock or poultry, and agricultural products shall be permitted a tolerance of ten percent (10%) of the axle weight provisions before a carrier is deemed to be overweight.

Note: I-69 and I-65 are still each classified as a "Parkway" and the 10% exemption applies to that corridor as long as you are hauling appropriate products as listed above.

5. Is there an additional 10% weight allowance for vehicles exclusively transporting feed for livestock or poultry?

Yes, vehicles exclusively engaged in transporting feed for livestock or poultry must obtain an annual permit pursuant to KRS 189.2718, which states:

- (1) A motor carrier exclusively engaged in transporting feed for livestock or poultry in divisible or nondivisible loads may apply for an annual certificate pursuant to subsection (1) of this section. A certificate issued under this section shall be:
 - (a) Specific to a single truck;
 - (b) Valid twenty-four (24) hours a day; and
 - (c) Kept in the vehicle during all times of operation.
- (2) The cost of an annual certificate issued under this section shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150), paid to the cabinet.
- (3) The administrative regulations promulgated by the department under this section may require motor carriers to meet specific Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) safety ratings and FMCSA safety measurement system scores before issuance of a certificate under this section.

Note: The annual permit is only required for individuals engaged exclusively in transporting feed for livestock or poultry. Ex: A large feedmill or poultry integrator.

6. If I am stopped by an enforcement officer while hauling livestock during extreme temperatures, will I be allowed to offload my livestock?

Enforcement officers may allow you to take one of several actions:

- (a) Allow you to continue to your destination to offload if the destination is close.
- (b) Allow you to call for another vehicle, which meets proper specifications, to transfer the livestock from your vehicle.

(c) Allow you to move to a shaded area if you are an excessive distance from your destination.

Note: This is not a formal law but does fall under policy guidelines which call for humane treatment of animals being transported in vehicles.

Additional Information

List of items needed to be present in farm trucks:

- Registration
- · Proof of insurance

The following are required:

- Fire extinguisher (charged)
- Safety warning triangles
- DOT Number

Compliance Tips

- Make sure your farm vehicle is in compliance with weight and mechanical standards
- Ensure that you have all items (listed above) required to be in larger farm trucks
- Review the Requirements, Frequently Asked Questions and Definitions sections
- Make sure you understand the difference between agriculture and non-agriculture hauling. (Agriculture "custom hauling" operations may be considered commercial instead of agricultural hauling.)
- If traveling across state lines, contact respective state for their specific farm vehicle compliance guidelines.

Definitions

Agriculture - the business of raising or producing:

- (a) Crops, the products of which are used for food, feed, fiber, energy, or pharmaceuticals;
- (b) Horticulture products;
- (c) Tobacco;
- (d) Aquaculture products;
- (e) Livestock, poultry, and ratite birds and eggs;
- (f) Milk and milk products;
- (g) Eggs and egg products;
- (h) Bees and bee products;
- (i) Timber.

Covered farm vehicle -

- 1. Means a straight truck or articulated vehicle:
 - (a) Registered in a State with a license plate or other designation issued by the State of registration that allows law enforcement officials to identify it as a farm vehicle;
 - (b) Operated by the owner or operator of a farm or ranch, or an employee or family member of an owner or operator of a farm or ranch;
 - (c) Used to transport agricultural commodities, livestock, machinery or supplies to or from a farm or ranch; and
 - (d) Not used in for-hire motor carrier operations; however, for-hire motor carrier operations do not include the operation of a vehicle meeting the requirements of paragraphs (1)(a) through (c) of this definition by a tenant pursuant to a crop share farm lease agreement to transport the landlord's portion of the crops under that agreement.
- 2. Meeting the requirements of paragraphs (1)(a) through (d) of this definition:
 - (a) With a gross vehicle weight or gross vehicle weight rating, whichever is greater, of 26,001 pounds or less may utilize the exemptions in § 390.39 anywhere in the United States; or

Definitions

(b) With a gross vehicle weight or gross vehicle weight rating, whichever is greater, of more than 26,001 pounds may utilize the exemptions in §390.39 anywhere in the State of registration or across State lines within 150 air miles of the farm or ranch with respect to which the vehicle is being operated.

Daylight hours – the period of time one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise through one-half (1/2) hour after sunset.

Farmer – any person who operates a farm or directly involved in the cultivation of land, crops or livestock which:

- (a) Are owned by that person; or
- (b) Are under the direct control of that person.

Farm implement or equipment – machinery, equipment or vehicle used exclusively in a farm or agriculture operation including those items which are not required by KRS Chapter 186 to be registered.

Farm Vehicle Driver – a person who drives only a commercial motor vehicle that is:

- (a) Controlled and operated by a farmer as a private motor carrier of property;
- (b) Being used to transport either:
 - (1) Agricultural products;
 - (2) Farm machinery, farm supplies, or both, to or from a farm;
 - (3) Not being used in the operation of a for-hire motor carrier:
 - (4) Not carrying hazardous materials of a type or quantity that requires the commercial motor vehicle to be placarded; and
 - (5) Being used within 150 air miles of the farmer's farm.

Definitions

Fully-controlled access highway - a highway which:

- (a) Gives preference to through traffic;
- (b) Has access only at selected public roads or streets; and
- (c) Has no highway grade crossing or intersection.

Interstate commerce – trade, traffic, or transportation in the United States:

- (a) Between a place in a state and a place outside such state (including a place outside the United States);
- (b) Between two places in a state through another state or a place outside of the United States; or
- (c) Between two places in a state as part of trade, traffic, or transportation originating or terminating outside the state or the United States.

Intrastate commerce – trade, traffic, or transportation in any State which is not described in the term "interstate commerce."

Kentucky's harvesting season and Kentucky's planting season – January 1 to December 31 of each year. (year round)

Disclaimer

This is not a legally-binding publication. The State and Federal Regulations are subject to change at any time. This publication is not necessarily all inclusive and there may be additional guidelines and regulations that are not listed.

Annual Vehicle Inspection Report Example Only

INSPECTOR'S NAME (PRINT OR TYPE)

THIS INSPECTOR MEETS THE QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS IN SECTION 396.19.

Annual Vehicle Inspection Report

MOTOR CARRIER OPERATOR

ADDRESS

Vehicle History Record			
Report Number	FLEET UNIT NUMBER		
DATE			

				YES			
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE		VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION (✓) AND COMPLETE ☐ LIC. PLATE NO. ☐ VIN ☐ OTHER					
VEHICLE TYPE		INSPECTION AGENCY/LOCATION (OPTIONAL)					
VEHICLE COMPONENTS INSPECTED							
ITEM	ОК	NEEDS REPAIR	REPAIRED DATE	ITEM	ОК	NEEDS REPAIR	REPAIRED DATE
1. BRAKE SYSTEM				7. STEERING MECHANISM			
a. Service Brakes				a. Steering Wheel Free Play			
b. Parking Brake System				b. Steering Column			
c. Brake Drums or Rotors				c. Front ade beam and ALL steering components other			
d. Brake Hose				than steering column d. Steering Gear Box	-		
e. Brake Tubing				a. Steering Gear Box e. Pitman Arm			
f. Low Pressure Warning Device						_	
g. Tractor Protection Valve				f. Power Steering			
h. Air Compressor				g. Ball and Socket Joints			
i. Electric Brakes				h. Tie Rods and Drag Links	-		
j. Hydraulic Brakes				i. Nots			
k. Vacuum Systems				j. Steering System	-	_	
2. COUPLING DEVICES				SUSPENSION Any U-bolt(s), spring hanger(s), or other axie			
a. Fifth Wheels				 a. Any U-bon(s), spring nanger(s), or other axe positioning part(s) cracked, broken, loose or missing resulting in shifting of an axle from its normal position. 			
b. Pintle Hooks	_			b. Spring Assembly			
c. Drawbar/Towbar Eye	_			c. Torque, Radius, or Tracking Components			
d. Drawbar/Towbar Tongue				9. FRAME			
e. Safety Devices	-			a. Frame Members			
f. Saddle-Mounts				b. Tire and Wheel Clearance			
3. EXHAUST SYSTEM	_			c. Adjustable Axle Assemblies (Sliding Subframes)			
 a. Any exhaust system determined to be leaking at a point forward of or directly below the driver/sleeper compartment. 				10. TIRES			
 A bus exhaust system leaking or discharging to the atmosphere in violation of standards (1), (2), or (3). 				a. Tires on any steering axle of a power unit.			
c. No part of the exhaust system of any motor vehicle				b. All other tires.			
shall be so located as would be likely to result in burning, charring, or damaging the electrical wiring, the fuel supply, or any combustible part of the motor vehicle.				11. WHEELS AND RIMS			
				a. Lock or Side Ring			
4. FUEL SYSTEM				b. Wheels and Rims			
a. Visible leak	_			c. Fasteners			
b. Fuel tank filler cap missing				d. Welds			
c. Fuel tank securely attached	\vdash			12. WINDSHIELD GLAZING			
5. LIGHTING DEVICES				Requirements and exceptions as stated pertaining to any crack, discolaration or vision reducing matter (reference			
All lighting devices and reflectors required by Section 393 shall be operable.				393.60 for exceptions).			
6. SAFE LOADING				13. WINDSHIELD WIPERS			
a. Part(s) of vehicle or condition of loading such that the spare tire or any part of the load or dunnage can fall onto the roadway.				Any power unit that has an inoperative wiper, or missing or damaged parts that render it ineffective. List any other condition which may prevent safe operation			
b. Protection against shifting cargo				of this vehicle.			

Instructions: Mark column entries to verify inspection: X_OK, X_NEEDS REPAIR, NA_IF ITEMS DO NOT APPLY, _____ REPAIRED DATE.

CERTIFICATION: THIS VEHICLE HAS PASSED ALL THE INPECTION ITEMS FOR THE ANNUAL VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH 49 CFR 396.

Notes

Notes



Kentucky Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization dedicated to serving our membership family and their communities.
As the Voice of Agriculture, we identify problems, develop solutions, promote economic success, and enhance the quality of life for all.

For further information, contact:

Public Affairs Division Kentucky Farm Bureau 9201 Bunsen Parkway Louisville, KY 40220 (502) 495-5000 kyfb.com