

INFORMATION BULLETIN



July 20, 2021

SLOW-MOVING VEHICLE EMBLEM

The purpose of this Information Bulletin (IB) is to provide information regarding the required or permitted uses of the slow-moving vehicle emblem. Excessive use and misuse of the slow-moving vehicle emblem reduces public recognition of its purpose, which is to warn motorists they are approaching the rear of a vehicle traveling at 25 miles per hour (MPH) or less.

The specifications and display requirements for the slow-moving vehicle emblem are contained in Section 24615 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC). The slow-moving vehicle emblem shall be:

- A truncated equilateral triangle having a minimum height of 14 inches with a red reflective border not less than 1 3/4 inches in width and with a fluorescent orange center.
- Mounted on the rear of the vehicle with the base down and at a height of not less than 3 feet nor more than 5 feet from the ground to the base.



Figure 1. Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblem



A slow-moving vehicle emblem is required to be displayed on the rear of any vehicle or combination of vehicles designed to be operated at a speed of 25 MPH or less when operated upon a highway. The following vehicles are exempted from this requirement while engaged in work at a jobsite upon a highway:

- Vehicles used by a publicly or privately owned utility for the construction, maintenance, or repair of its own facilities.
- Vehicles used by highway authorities or bridge or highway districts for highway maintenance, inspection, survey, or construction work.

Any other vehicle or combination of vehicles, including those specifically exempted from the display requirement, may display a slow-moving vehicle emblem when operated at a speed of 25 MPH or less. When the display of the slow-moving vehicle emblem is other than required or permitted, a violation of Section 24615 CVC exists.

The following are examples of required, permitted, or prohibited displays of the slow-moving vehicle emblem:

- A farm tractor designed to be operated at a speed of no more than 25 MPH is being driven upon a highway without the slow-moving vehicle emblem displayed on the rear of the vehicle. The slow-moving vehicle emblem is required to be displayed on the rear of this vehicle; therefore, a violation of Section 24615 CVC exists.
- A street sweeper is driven at freeway speed to a location to sweep streets while displaying a slow-moving vehicle emblem on the rear of the vehicle. Upon arrival at the location, the vehicle is operated at a speed of 25 MPH or less while sweeping the streets. The display of the slow-moving vehicle emblem on the vehicle while driven at freeway speed is prohibited; however, the display during the sweeping operation is permitted by Section 24615 CVC.
- A combination of vehicles operated by a lawn maintenance company consists of a pickup truck and trailer. The trailer has a slow-moving vehicle emblem displayed on the rear of the trailer as the combination is driven at freeway speed. This display of the slow-moving vehicle emblem is prohibited by Section 24615 CVC.
- A truck tractor and flatbed trailer combination transporting implements of husbandry (IOH) is driven upon a highway at 50 MPH. The IOH on the rear of the trailer is displaying a slow-moving vehicle emblem to the rear of the combination. This display of the slow-moving vehicle emblem is prohibited by Section 24615 CVC.



- A three-axle flatbed truck is transporting a piggyback forklift at the rear. The forklift is displaying a slow-moving vehicle emblem on the rear of the vehicle as the vehicle is driven on a city street at 40 MPH. This display of the slow-moving vehicle emblem is prohibited by Section 24615 CVC.
- An IOH is being operated at a speed of 15 MPH while displaying a slow-moving vehicle emblem with the base up on the rear of the vehicle. This slow-moving vehicle emblem is not displayed with the base down as required; therefore, a violation of Section 24615 CVC exists.

Section 36508 CVC requires new IOHs designed and intended to be operated or moved at a speed of 25 MPH or less and sold after July 1, 1970, to be equipped by the manufacturer with a slow-moving vehicle emblem as prescribed by Section 24615 CVC. The slow-moving vehicle emblem is required to be displayed and maintained on the IOH.

Questions regarding this IB may be directed to Commercial Vehicle Section, at (916) 843-3400.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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