

Farm Equipment on the Road

And the Highway Traffic Act

- Definitions
- Rules of the Road
- Driving Age/Driver's Licenses
- Length, Width, Height & Weight
- Load security
- SMV Signs
- Towing Implements & Wagons
- Safety Chains
- Lights
- Self-propelled Implements of Husbandry



The Ontario Highway Traffic Act (HTA)

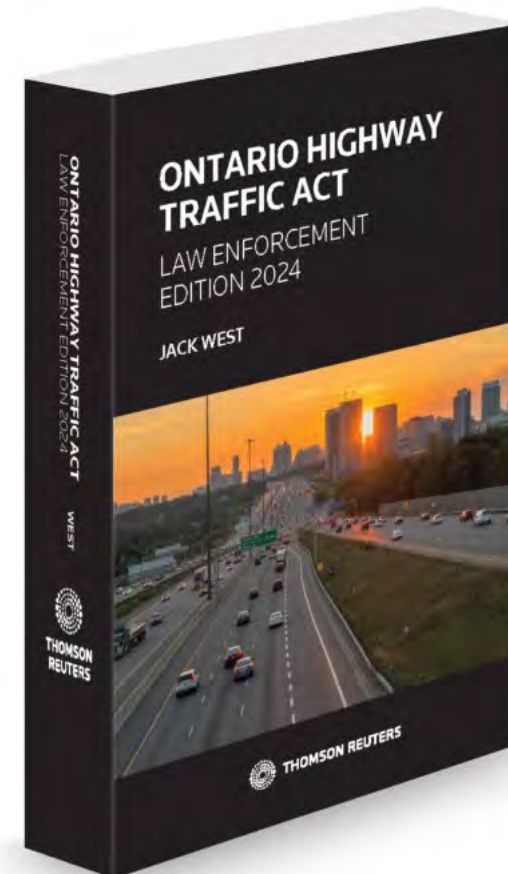
Highway is any highway, or common roadway, bridge, overpass or underpass, and all areas between property lines. **Roadway** is the travelled portion of a highway.

Night, refers to the time between ½ hour *before* sunset to ½ hour *after* sunrise, and when insufficient light or poor conditions reduce visibility at 150 metres.

Farm Tractors, implements and SPIHs are vehicles, but they are not motor vehicles.

Farm Trucks are commercial motor vehicles.

Highway Tractors are power units designed to pull semi-trailers.



Highway Traffic Act

1. Is the road in front of your farm a highway?

Yes. A highway is any public road

Roadway - refers to the travelled portion; all lanes

Highway - refers to the full right-of-way; fence line
to fence line

Highway Traffic Act

Vehicle includes *motor vehicle*, trailer, *farm tractor*, bicycle, and **any vehicle drawn, propelled or driven by any kind of power**, including muscular power, but excludes snow mobiles and streetcars

Farm Tractor means self-propelled *vehicle* designed and use primarily as a *farm implement* for drawing ploughs, mowing machines and other implements of husbandry and not designed for carrying a load (not a *motor vehicle*)

Farm Implement means any equipment or machinery designed and used for agricultural or horticultural use and includes attachments (Farm Implements Act)



Definitions

2. Your tractor/combine has a seatbelt.
Are you legally required to wear it on the road?

No.

Farm tractors and farm implements are not motor vehicles (cars & trucks). Seat belt rules apply to motor vehicles.

Since farm tractors and SPIHs are not motor vehicles, seat belt use is not mandatory.



Rules of the Road That DO Apply To Farm Equipment

- Stop signs
- Traffic signals
- Yield to vehicles with right-of-way;
- Yield ½ roadway
- Use of turn signal, headlights & taillights
- Impaired driving
- Hand-held devices (*i.e.*, cell phone) ban

Rules That DO NOT Apply To Farm Equipment

- Driving too slowly,
- Driving on the shoulder,
- Brakes on towed farm implements,
- Seat belt use:

Seat belt rules apply to motor vehicles (cars & trucks).



WHERE TO DRIVE FARM EQUIPMENT

Always drive on the travelled portion.

It is not illegal to drive on the shoulder, however

- The shoulder may not support the equipment weight or accommodate equipment size
- Narrow shoulders could have steep grading; a 30% slope will flip a tractor

Yield $\frac{1}{2}$ roadway to oncoming traffic

- You cannot drive in part of oncoming lane (wide loads see HTA 108, 109, 113)
- If you need to use part of the shoulder, watch for obstructions, posts, recycle bins, mailboxes

If traffic backs up, you may move right to let them pass.

- If you give up your lane, be cautious re-entering the road (you have no right-of-way)



AGE TO DRIVE FARM EQUIPMENT

HTA Section 37

- Driver's License not required
- Minimum age 16 to drive along a highway
- Under age 16; only directly across
- No one may drive farm equipment, ATVs, etc., on the roads if their license is suspended for impaired
- Separate ATV & ORV rules (farm use and other)



FARM EQUIPMENT LENGTH, WIDTH, HEIGHT



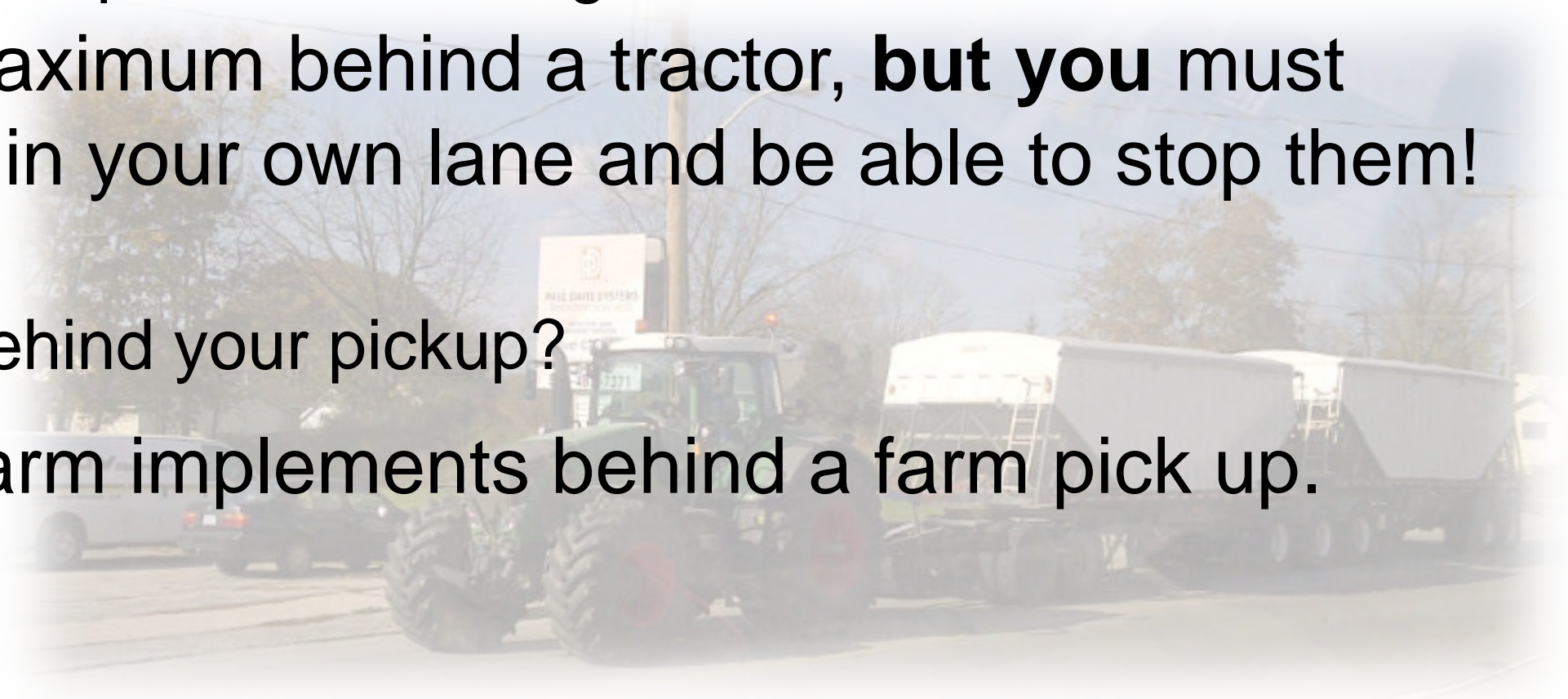
Farm equipment is exempt from length, width, and height rules (HTA Part VII; S113)

1. How many implements or wagons can a tractor tow?

No legal maximum behind a tractor, **but you** must keep them in your own lane and be able to stop them!

How many behind your pickup?

Up to two farm implements behind a farm pick up.





Secure Your Load

Whether towing loads on implements or with you farm truck



Load Security – Farm Equipment

Is this a secured load?



Loads on implements towed with trucks, must be loaded, bound, secured, contained or covered so that no portion of the load becomes dislodged, falls, leaks, spills or blows from the implement. **Load Security – Farm Equipment HTA 111(2)**

Review load security requirements for trucks and trailers for guidance. **Security of Loads Ont. Reg 363/04**



Slow-moving Vehicle (SMV) Signs

SMV SIGNS “**shall be attached**” to a slow-moving vehicle. SMVs are either;

- Farm tractors and self-propelled implements of husbandry,
- Vehicles not capable of 40 kmph,
- Motor vehicles towing farm implements, or
- Road-building machines.

Please avoid driving with a passenger, even inside an enclosed cab, unless there is a second seat provided for training.



SMV sign and high-speed tractors

- 76.(1) No person **shall** operate a slow-moving vehicle on a highway unless an SMV sign is attached
- 76.(2) The following **are** slow moving vehicles; farm tractors and self-propelled implements of husbandry
- 76.(6.1) No person **shall** operate a slow-moving vehicles with a slow-moving vehicle sign attached ... at a speed **greater than 40 kilometers/hour**





Towing Implements HTA 1, 113, 161

Tractors, SPIH and trucks are permitted to tow more than one implement on the road.

Wagons (and other farm implements) **do not become trailers:** when towed by trucks

- not subject to trailer requirements relating to brakes, size, annual safety inspections, etc.
- are subject to SMV and 40 kmph limit, lighting and secondary attachments requirements.

A wagon, if used for non-farm purposes can become a trailer when towed behind a truck.

A plated or un-plated trailer is an implement when towed by a tractor or SPIH.

Trailers do not become wagons:

Highway trailers, such as utility, gooseneck and float trailers, when towed with a truck, do not become farm wagons simply because they are carrying farm products, including livestock or equipment.



Driver's Licenses

Q. You have a G DL. Can you **legally** tow a bale wagon behind your pickup?

Weight means weight of towed loads **plus** weight of towed vehicles (implements, trailers, livestock trailers, utility trailers).

With a **Class G** driver's license, the maximum towed vehicle plus load weight is capped at 4,600 kg

With a **Class A** driver's license, any combination of towed vehicles plus loads may exceed 4,600 kg.

Class AR driver's license: only 1 trailer can be towed, and no air brakes allowed.

Answer: Good to go.

Hay wagon + 11 4x4 round bales @ 275 kg/bale
= 3,025 kg + the wagon if it is under 1,575KG
265KG for the wagon...





Driver's Licenses

Q. You have a G DL. Can you **legally** tow livestock trailer and six horses?

6 horses at 600 kg each is about 3,600 kg

Empty trailer maximum of 1,000 kg to operate by a G licenced driver

Over 4,600 kg for total weight needs A or AR licenced driver

Remember, trailers do not become wagons simply because they are carrying livestock





Turn Signals (HTA S.142)

Must signal every intention to turn, slow down, or stop.
Electrical, mechanical or hand signal, clearly visible
from 30 m.

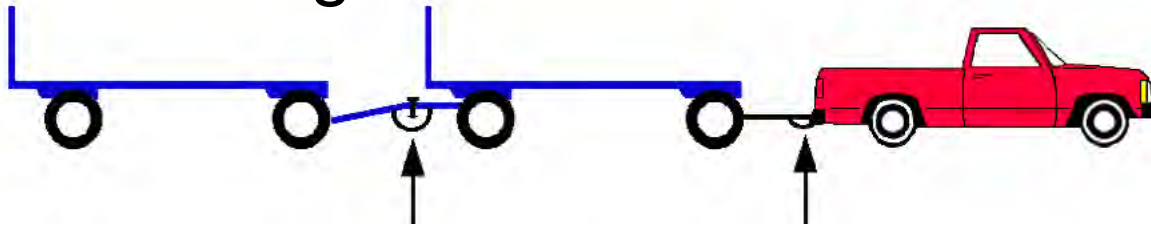
If signals blocked because you are towing vehicle(s), or
signals on towed items are blocked, you **must** use
electrical or mechanical solution.



2 Separate Means of Attachment HTA (80)

You must use a 3-point hitch, or a hitch AND a safety chain or cable, capable of holding total weight being towed (implements + loads).

Multiple wagons; must have secondary attachment between each wagon.





Head & Tail lamps (HTA S.62)

From ½ hour **before** sunset to ½ hour **after** sunrise, and whenever persons and vehicles not clearly visible from 500 ft. (150 m), you need:

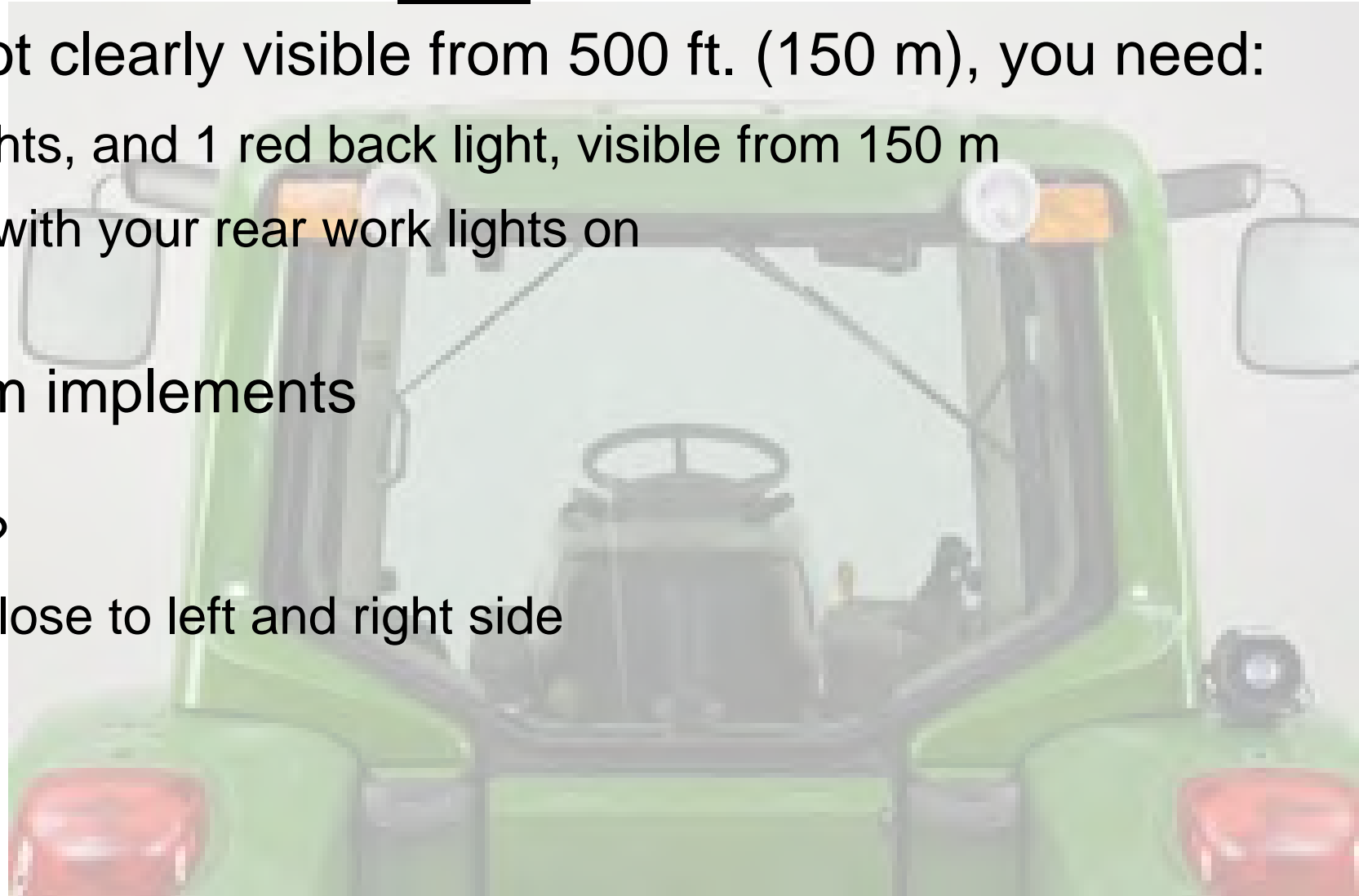
- Minimum 2 white front lights, and 1 red back light, visible from 150 m
- Do not drive on the road with your rear work lights on

Towed vehicles and farm implements

- at least 1 red back light

Over 2.6 m (8 ½ ff.) wide?

- 2 red lights at the back, close to left and right side





Side Marker Lights (HTA S. 62)

Whenever the combined length of vehicle(s) is over 6.1 m (20 ft),

- Use amber or green lights at the front, and red lights at the rear, or
- use approved reflectors in place of lights.

This ***includes*** any farm tractor and implement combinations;





Over-dimensional Farm Equipment (O. Reg. 603)

2.6 m – 3.8 m (8½ ft. to 12 ½ ft.) wide

Day: no additional lighting requirements.

Night: 2 front + 2 rear flashing amber lights no more than 15 cm from outer edges.

>2.6 metres PROHIBITED from operating on sections of 400 series Highways, Highway 2A, QEW, and Conestoga PKWY





Over-dimensional Farm Equipment (O. Reg. 603)

3.8 – 4.8m (12½ ft. to 15 ¾ ft.) wide

Day: 2 flashing amber; front & rear **or** a rotating amber roof beacon.

Night: 2 flashing amber; front & rear, **and** a rotating amber roof beacon or escort vehicles with 4-way flashers) or rotating amber roof beacon





Over-dimensional Farm Equipment (O. Reg. 603)

Over 4.8m (15 ¾ ft.) wide

Day: 2 flashing amber; front & rear, **or** amber roof beacon.

Night: 2 flashing amber; front & rear **and** rotating amber roof beacon **and**

2 escort vehicles 60 m ahead & behind.

Escorts must use 4-way flashers or rotating amber roof beacon





Self-Propelled Implements of Husbandry (HTA 1(1))

Self-propelled vehicle manufactured or designed for specific farming use or redesigned, converted or reconstructed (former road truck, etc.) for specific farming use





Redesigned, Converted or Reconstructed?

Undergone readily apparent, and significant outward physical change to **cargo-carrying** portion of vehicle. Modifications lend themselves to ‘specific use in farming’ - does not mean single use. Acceptable conversions include replacing a truck cargo box with a grain gravity box, potato slinger, or a feed mixer



Unacceptable vehicle conversions include removing doors, windows, seats and/or cab of a vehicle to carry crops or welding a dump truck’s tailgate shut.





SPIHS continued

Plated unless going farm to farm, or to or from a shop to repair the vehicle

HTA 7(2): Subsection 7(1)





Farmer ATV/ORV Use

Off-Road Vehicles Act (ORVA) regulates three vehicle types:

1. ATVs,
2. Utility Vehicles, and
3. ARGOs, off-road motorcycles, dune buggies.

ORVA and O. Reg. 863 (General) permit ATVs and utility vehicles to be driven on-road by; “farmer for agricultural purposes”, or “licensed trapper, for trapping purposes”





ATVs, 4-wheelers, Quads

ATVs, also known as 4-wheelers and quads, have 4 wheels in contact with the ground, handlebar steering, and are straddled by the driver.

They are either designed as

- i. driver only; no passenger, or
- ii. driver + passenger if originally designed for 2 (i.e., “2-up” ATV).





Multi-purpose Off-highway Utility Vehicles

Such as a JD GATOR, Kubota RTV, Kawasaki Mule, etc.

- i. 4 or more wheels; wheels in direct contact with ground,
- ii. Steering wheel steering,
- iii. Bench seat, and
- iv. Minimum cargo capacity; 350 lbs. (159 kg.)





6 Requirements for Farmer On-road Use

1. Vehicle insured under **auto policy**; driver carry proof of insurance [auto policy provides **automatic accident benefits**],
2. Licensed driver; driver carrying DL,
3. Driver & passenger(s) wearing approved helmet,
4. Driver & passenger(s) wearing seatbelts, if equipped
5. Vehicle is registered (*i.e.*, ORV plate), and
6. SMV sign on the rear.





General ATV/ORV Use

On-road ORV use: HTA and O. Reg. 316/03 Operating ORVs on Highways.

Must be least 16, with at least M2/G2 driver's license; Under 16, no operation on or across a highway. Any passenger must be at least 8 years old.

Off-road ORV use: Off-Road Vehicles Act (ORVA).

Must be at least 12 to operate, unless under close supervision or driving on land occupied by ORV owner. There is no minimum age of passengers, minimum age to operate with passenger, and no restrictions for passenger on single-rider ORVs.

Looking at increasing age requirements:

- 18 years old to carry passengers on- and off-road
- 12 years old to be a passenger on- and off-road
- 14 years old to operate off-road;





1. Can I tow two trailers of grain to the elevator with the farm pick-up? HTA S.161
2. You have a tandem truck used to transport grain to a local dryer. What do you need related to CVOR?



Questions and Comments



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