

TRACTOR SKILLS AND SAFETY FOR EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

QUICK TIPS

OPERATING ON PUBLIC ROADS



Any time you operate a tractor on a public road, you must ensure the tractor is properly equipped with a slow-moving vehicle emblem and the required lights and reflectors, depending on the time of day and visibility conditions.

Before operating a tractor on a public road, make sure you know the safety requirements for both the tractor and any towed equipment.

Additional safety tips:

- ✓ Avoid traveling on public roads when traffic is heavy. High speed for a tractor is still a slow speed for most vehicles traveling on the roadway.
- ✓ If possible, avoid operating a tractor on a public road at night or in bad weather. Poor lighting and reduced visibility greatly increase the risk of an accident.
- ✓ Never operate a tractor in four-wheel drive when traveling on a paved road.
- ✓ If your tractor has individual wheel brakes, lock the brakes together before traveling on a public road.
- ✓ Always travel at a speed that allows you to maintain control of the tractor at all times. Slow down on curves and when turning. Use the tractor's turn signals or hand signals to indicate your intentions to other drivers.
- ✓ Always use a low gear when traveling up or down a hill.
- ✓ When towing an implement on a public highway, the hitch must include safety chains.
- ✓ Enter and exit roadways cautiously. Don't pull out or turn in front of oncoming traffic.
- ✓ Obey all traffic laws and signs, and be extra courteous with other drivers and pedestrians on the road.
- ✓ Stay alert for hazards such as soft shoulders, narrow bridges, loose gravel, bumps, potholes, and deep ruts.