

SPECIAL IDENTIFICATION PLATE INFORMATION

The following vehicles are **REQUIRED** to display an identification plate if they are operated on California public highways (VC §5011). A “highway” is a way or place of whatever nature, publicly maintained and open to public use for purposes of vehicular travel. Highway includes street (VC §360).

1. **Special Construction Equipment (VC §§565 and 570)**—(a) Any vehicle used primarily off the highways for construction purposes and which moves only occasionally over the highways and which because of the length, height, width, or unladen weight may not move over the public highways unladen without the permit specified in VC §35780.

(b) Any vehicle which is designed and used primarily either for grading of highways, paving of highways, earth moving, and other construction work on highways, or for construction or maintenance work on railroad rights-of-way, and which is not designed or used primarily for the transportation of persons or property and which is only incidentally operated or moved over the highway. It includes, but is not limited to, road and railroad construction and maintenance machinery so designed and used such as portable air compressors, air drills, asphalt spreaders, bituminous mixers, bucket loaders, track-type tractors, crawler tractors, ditchers, leveling graders, finishing machines, motor graders, paving mixers, road rollers, scarifiers, earth moving scrapers and carryalls, lighting plants, welders, pumps, water wagons, power shovels and draglines, speed swings, skip loaders, weed mowers, self-propelled and tractor-drawn earth moving equipment and machinery, including dump trucks and tractor-dump trailer combinations which either (1) are in excess of 96 inches in width or (2) which, because of their length, height or unladen weight, may not be moved on a public highway without the permit specified in VC §35780, and which are not operated laden except within the boundaries of the job construction site, and other similar types of construction equipment.

Special construction equipment **does not include** any of the following: (a) A vehicle originally designed for the transportation of persons or property to which machinery has been attached unless specifically designated as such above. (b) **Dump trucks** originally designed to comply with the size and weight provisions of this code notwithstanding any subsequent modification which would require a permit, as specified in VC §35780, to operate such vehicles on a highway, **truck-mounted transit mixers, cranes, and shovels.**

2. **Special Mobile Equipment (VC §575)**— A vehicle, not self-propelled, not designed or used primarily for the transportation of persons or property, and only incidentally operated or moved over a highway, excepting implements of husbandry. Examples of “Special mobile equipment” are: roofer’s tar pot, portable welding machine, portable cement mixer, and emergency portable generators.
3. **Logging Vehicles (VC §379)**—A vehicle used exclusively in the conduct of logging operations and not designed for the transportation of persons or property on a highway.
4. **Cemetery Equipment (VC §4012)**—Any vehicle, implement, or equipment specifically designed or altered for and used exclusively in the maintenance or operation of cemetery grounds, which is only incidentally operated or moved on a highway is exempt from registration.
5. **Tow Dolly (VC §617)**—A vehicle towed by a motor vehicle and designed and used exclusively to transport another motor vehicle and upon which the front or rear wheels of the towed motor vehicle are mounted, while the other wheels of the towed motor vehicle remain in contact with the ground. Tow dolly **does not include** a portable or collapsible dolly carried in a tow truck or in a truck used by an automobile dismantler and used upon a highway exclusively for towing a disabled vehicle (VC §4014).
6. **Cotton Trailer (VC §36005n)**—Any trailer used exclusively to transport cotton from a farm to a cotton gin, and returned empty to such farm may be classified as a cotton trailer.
7. **Farm Trailer (VC §§36010 and 36109)**—A “farm trailer” **not exceeding 6000 lbs gross vehicle weight (GVW)**, is either: (a) A trailer or semitrailer owned and operated by a farmer in the conduct of agricultural operations, and used exclusively to transport agricultural products upon the highway to the point of first handling and return. (b) A trailer or semitrailer equipped with rollers on the bed, with a frame not taller than 10 inches high, and with a gross vehicle weight rating of 6,000 pounds or less, that is owned, rented, or leased by a farmer and operated by that farmer in the conduct of agricultural operations, used exclusively to the transport fruit and vegetables upon the highway to the point of first handling and return, and that was manufactured and in use prior to January 1, 1997. These vehicles may also be operated on the highways without a load for the purposes of delivering a rented or leased vehicle to the renting or leasing farmer’s farm, or returning empty to the owner’s premises.
8. **Automatic Bale Wagon (VC §36011)**—A motor vehicle capable of transporting property on a highway and equipped with apparatus specifically designed to pick up single bales of hay or straw from a field and to load and unload baled hay or straw.
9. **Oversize Feed And Seed Motor Vehicles (VC §36101 a)**—A motor vehicle of a size so as to require a permit under Section 35780 **owned and operated by a farmer**, designed and used exclusively for carrying or returning empty from carrying feed and seed products of farming, and used on a highway between one part of a farm to another part thereof or from one farm to another farm.
10. **Farm Vehicle VC §36102c)**—A motor vehicle which is designed for, and used exclusively to, haul feed for livestock and which is **owned and operated exclusively by a farmer or an employee of a farmer**, operated only on highways maintained by local authorities pursuant to a permit issued as provided in VC §35780 by the local authority for **a distance of not more than five continuous road miles** from one parcel of property owned, leased, or controlled by the farmer to another parcel of property owned, leased, or controlled by the farmer. Does not apply to transportation for compensation.
11. **Cotton Module Mover (VC §36012)**—A motortruck, semitrailer or truck tractor, in combination with a semitrailer that is equipped with a self-loading bed and which is designed and used exclusively to transport field manufactured cotton modules to a cotton gin.
12. **Water Tank Vehicle (VC §36101b)**—A vehicle equipped with a water tank **owned by a farmer** and used exclusively to service his or her own implements of husbandry.
13. **Water Tank Truck (VC §36101c)**—A water tank truck, which is **owned by a farmer**, not operated for compensation, and used extensively in the conduct of agricultural operations, when used exclusively (1) for sprinkling water on dirt roads providing access to agricultural fields or (2) transportation of water for irrigation of crops or trees.
14. **Trailer (VC §36101e)**— A trailer which is **equipped** with a **plenum chamber** for the drying of agricultural commodities.
15. **Trap Wagon (VC §36101f)**— A vehicle except as provided in VC §36005j, as defined in VC §36016, is a trailer or semitrailer used exclusively in conduct of agricultural operations to fuel, service, or repairing implements of husbandry which is equipped with a fuel tank or tanks. The fuel tank or tanks shall not exceed 3,000 gallons total capacity.

16. **Forklift truck (VC §36101g)** — operated by a farmer not for compensation. For purposes of this section, a hay-squeeze shall be deemed a forklift.
17. **Truck tractor or truck tractor and semitrailer combination (VC §36101h)** — A vehicle **owned by a farmer and operated** on the highways only incidental to a farming operation and not for compensation. This subdivision applies only to truck tractors with a manufacturer's **gross vehicle weight rating over 10,000 pounds** that are equipped with **all-wheel drive and off-highway traction tires** on all wheels, and only to semitrailers used in combination with such a truck tractor and exclusively in the **production or harvesting of melons**. The vehicles specified in this subdivision shall not be operated in excess of 25 miles per hour on the highways.
18. **Silage Motor Vehicle (VC §36101i)** — A vehicle specifically designed for, and used exclusively in, an agricultural operation for purposes of carrying, or returning empty from carrying, silage and is operated by a farmer, an employee of the farmer, or a contracted employee of the farmer between one part of a farm to another part of that farm or from one farm to another farm, on a highway for a distance not to exceed 20 miles from the point of origin of the trip. This subdivision does not include a vehicle that is used for the transportation of silage for retail sales. "Silage" includes field corn, sorghum, grass, legumes, cereals, or cereal mixes, either green or mature, converted into feed for livestock.

Application for an ID plate is OPTIONAL for the following list of vehicles, but would benefit the owner by enabling the property to be identified and recovered, should it be stolen.

An **implement of husbandry** is a vehicle which is used exclusively in the conduct of agriculture operations and **does not** include a vehicle if its existing design is primarily for the transportation of persons or property on a highway, unless specifically designated as such by some other provision of the Vehicle Code (**VC §36000**).

"Implement of husbandry" includes any farm tractor, otherwise an implement of husbandry used upon a highway to draw a farm trailer carrying farm produce, or to draw any trailer or semitrailer carrying other implements of husbandry, between farms, or from a farm to a processing or handling point and returning with or without the trailer (**VC §36015**).

Implements of husbandry which are only incidentally operated or moved over a highway and the implements of husbandry listed (#1 through 16) below may be issued identification plate.

- (1) A lift-carrier or other vehicle designed and used exclusively for the lifting and carrying of implements of husbandry or tools used exclusively for the production or harvesting of agricultural products, when operated or moved upon a highway (**VC §36005a**).
- (2) A trailer of the tip-bed type when used exclusively in the transportation of other implements of husbandry or tools used exclusively for the production or harvesting of agricultural products (**VC §36005b**).
- (3) A trailer or semitrailer having no bed, and designed and used solely for transporting a hay loader or swather (**VC §36005c**).
- (4) A spray or fertilizer applicator rig used exclusively for spraying or fertilizing in the conduct of agricultural operations. This subdivision does not apply to anhydrous ammonia fertilizer applicator rigs which have a transportation capacity in excess of 500 gallons (**VC §36005d**).
- (5) A trailer or semitrailer which has a maximum transportation capacity in excess of 500 gallons, but not more than 1,000 gallons, used exclusively for the transportation and application of anhydrous ammonia, if the vehicle is either equipped with operating brakes or is towed upon a highway by a motor truck with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of 3/4 ton or more. These vehicles are subject to Vehicle Code Section 24603 if the stop lamps of the towing vehicle are not clearly visible. A combination of vehicles is limited to two vehicles in tandem (**VC §36005e**).
- (6) A nurse rig or equipment auxiliary to the use of and designed or modified for the fueling, repairing, or loading of an applicator rig or an airplane used for the dusting, spraying, fertilizing, or seeding of crops (**VC §36005f**).
- (7) A row duster (**VC §36005g**).
- (8) A wagon or van used exclusively for carrying farm products from one part of a farm to another part thereof, or from one farm to another farm, and used solely for agricultural purposes, including any van used in harvesting alfalfa or cotton, which is only incidentally operated or moved on a highway as a trailer (**VC §36005h**).
- (9) A wagon or portable house on wheels used solely by shepherds as a permanent residence in connection with sheep raising operations and moved from one part of a ranch to another part thereof or from one ranch to another ranch, which is only incidentally operated or moved on a highway as a trailer (**VC §36005i**).
- (10) Notwithstanding subdivision VC §36101(f), a trap wagon, as defined in VC §36016, moved from one part of a ranch to another part of the same ranch or from one ranch to another, which is only operated or moved on a highway incidental to agricultural operations. The fuel tank or tanks of the trap wagon shall not exceed 1,000 gallons total capacity (**VC §36005j**).
- (11) Any vehicle which is operated upon a highway only for the purpose of transporting agricultural products and is in no event operated along a highway for a total distance greater than one mile from the point of origin of the trip (**VC §36005k**).
- (12) A portable honey-extracting trailer or semitrailer (**VC §36005l**).
- (13) A fertilizer nurse tank or trailer that is **not self-propelled** and which is moved unladen on the highway and auxiliary to the use of a spray or fertilizer applicator rig (**VC §36005m**).
- (14) Any cotton trailer when used on the highways for the exclusive purpose of transporting cotton from a farm to a cotton gin, and returning the empty trailer to such farm, except that Section 5014 shall apply to such trailers (**VC §36005n**).
- (15) A truck tractor or truck tractor and semitrailer combination specified in this subdivision which is **owned by a farmer and operated** on the highways, (1) only incidental to a farming operation, (2) not for compensation, and (3) for a distance of not more than two miles (on the highway) each way. This subdivision applies only to truck tractors with a **manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating over 10,000 pounds** that are equipped with **all-wheel drive and off-highway traction tires** on all wheels, and only to semitrailers used in combination with such a truck tractor and exclusively in **production or harvesting of tomatoes**. The vehicles specified in this section shall not be operated in excess of 25 miles per hour on the highways (**VC §36005o**).
- (16) A trailer or semitrailer **owned and used exclusively by a farmer** to haul his own implements of husbandry or a portable sanitary facility or tools used exclusively for the production or harvesting of agricultural products is exempt from registration (**VC §36105**).