

TITLE 75  
THE VEHICLE CODE

CHAPTER 1  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Enactment. Chapter 1 was added June 17, 1976, P.L.162, No.81, effective July 1, 1977.

Section 101. Short title.

This title shall be known and may be cited as the "Vehicle Code."

Section 102. Definitions.

Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent provisions of this title which are applicable to specific provisions of this title, the following words and phrases when used in this title shall have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

\* \* \*

"Driver." A person who drives or is in actual physical control of a vehicle.

"Driver's license." A license or permit to drive a motor vehicle issued under this title.

"Emergency vehicle." A fire department vehicle, police vehicle, sheriff vehicle, ambulance, blood-delivery vehicle, hazardous material response vehicle, armed forces emergency vehicle, one vehicle operated by a coroner or chief county medical examiner and one vehicle operated by a chief deputy coroner or deputy chief county medical examiner used for answering emergency calls, or any other vehicle designated by the State Police under section 6106 (relating to designation of emergency vehicles by Pennsylvania State Police), or a privately owned vehicle used in answering an emergency call

when used by any of the following:

- (1) A police chief and assistant chief.
- (2) A fire chief, assistant chief and, when a fire company has three or more fire vehicles, a second or third assistant chief.
- (3) A fire police captain and fire police lieutenant.
- (4) An ambulance corps commander and assistant commander.
- (5) A river rescue commander and assistant chief.
- (6) A county emergency management coordinator.
- (7) A fire marshal.
- (8) A rescue chief and assistant chief.

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"Hazardous material." Any explosive, blasting agent, flammable liquid, combustible liquid, flammable solid, flammable or nonflammable compressed gas, corrosive material, poison, poison gas, irritant, oxidizer, organic peroxide, radioactive material, etiologic agent, cryogenic liquid, hazardous waste, hazardous substance or other material which the department by procedure prescribed in Chapter 83 (relating to hazardous materials transportation) declares to be a hazardous material.

"Highway." The entire width between the boundary lines of every way publicly maintained when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel. The term includes a roadway open to the use of the public for vehicular travel on grounds of a college or university or public or private school or public or historical park.

\* \* \*

"Motor vehicle." A vehicle which is self-propelled except one which is propelled solely by human power or by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon rails.

(3) Class C.—A Class C license shall be issued to those persons 18 years of age or older, except as provided in section 1503 (relating to persons ineligible for licensing), who have demonstrated their qualifications to operate any single vehicle, except those vehicles requiring a Class M qualification, with a gross vehicle weight rating of not more than 26,000 pounds or any combination of vehicles, except combination vehicles involving motorcycles, that does not meet the definition of either Class A or Class B of this section.

(i) Where required under this title, appropriate endorsements must be obtained.

(ii) Any firefighter who is the holder of a Class C license and who has a certificate of authorization from his fire chief shall be authorized to operate any fire or emergency vehicle registered to the fire department or, municipality regardless of the other requirements of this section as to the class of license required. No fire chief, fire department, including any volunteer fire company, or municipality shall be liable for any civil damages as a result of the issuance of a certificate authorized under this paragraph unless such act constituted a crime, actual fraud, actual malice or willful misconduct.

(iii) Any member of a rescue or emergency squad who is the holder of a Class C license and who has a certificate of authorization from the head of the rescue or emergency squad shall be authorized to operate any rescue or emergency vehicle equipped with audible and visual signals registered to the rescue or emergency squad or municipality, regardless of the other requirements of this section as to the class of license required. No head of a rescue or emergency squad, the rescue or emergency squad or municipality shall be liable for any civil damages as a result of the issuance of a certificate of authorization under this paragraph unless such issuance constituted a crime, actual fraud, actual malice or willful misconduct.

(iv) The holder of a Class C license shall also be authorized to drive a motor-driven cycle with an automatic transmission and cylinder capacity not exceed 50 cubic centimeters or a three-wheeled motorcycle equipped with an enclosed cab, but not a motorcycle unless the license is endorsed, as provided in this title.

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Section 1606. Requirement for Commercial Driver's License

\* \* \*

(b) Exemptions.—The following persons are not required to obtain a commercial driver's license in order to drive the commercial motor vehicle specified:

\* \* \*

(3) A person who is a volunteer or paid firefighter with a Class C license and who has a certificate of authorization from his fire chief while operating a fire or emergency vehicle registered to the fire department or municipality.

(4) Any member of a rescue or emergency squad who is the holder of a Class C license and who has a certificate of authorization from the head of the rescue or emergency squad while operating any rescue or emergency vehicle equipped with audible and visual signals registered to the rescue or emergency squad or municipality.

CHAPTER 19  
FEES

Section 1901. Exemption of entities and vehicles from fees.

(a) Governmental and quasi-governmental entities.—Except as otherwise specifically provided in this title, no fees shall be charged under this title to any of the following:

- (1) The Commonwealth.
- (2) Political subdivisions.
- (3) State and local authorities.
- (4) The Federal Government.
- (5) Other states.

(b) Title and registration fees.—No fee shall be charged for titling or registration of any of the following:

\* \* \*

(2) Vehicles registered by volunteer fire, rescue and ambulance associations.

\* \* \*

(d) Limitations.—

(1) Vehicles titled and registered under the provisions of this section shall be operated and used exclusively for the purpose for which the vehicles were entitled to the exemptions from fees.

\* \* \*

(e) Penalty.—Any person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a summary offense.

#### Section 2105. Exemptions.

(a) General rule.—The requirements of this chapter and Chapter 96 (relating to motor carriers road tax) do not apply to the following vehicles:

\* \* \*

(b) Regulations.—The Department of Revenue may promulgate regulations to implement this section.

#### Section 3105. Drivers of emergency vehicles.

(a) General rule.—The driver of an emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, but subject to the conditions stated in this section.

(b) Exercise of special privileges.—The driver of an emergency vehicle may:

(1) Park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this part.

(2) Proceed past a red signal indication or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation, except as provided in subsection (d).

(3) Exceed the maximum speed limits so long as the driver does not endanger life or property, except as provided in subsection (d).

(4) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

(c) Audible and visual signals required.—The privileges granted in this section to an emergency vehicle shall apply only when the vehicle is making use of an audible signal and visual signals meeting the requirements and standards set forth in regulations adopted by the department, except that an emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle need not be equipped with or display the visual signals. An ambulance which is transporting a patient may use either the lights or the audible warning system, or both, as determined by the driver of the ambulance. 1986 Amdt. Act 51 amended section c.

(d) Ambulances and blood-delivery vehicles.—The driver of an ambulance or blood-delivery vehicle shall comply with maximum speed limits, red signal indications and stop signs. After ascertaining that the ambulance or blood-delivery vehicle will be given the right-of-way, the driver may proceed through a red signal indication or stop sign.

(e) Exercise of care.—This section does not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

(May 9, 1986, P.L.158, No.51, eff. 60 days)

(f) Pedalcycles.—No part of this title shall be construed to restrict the operation of a pedalcycle used by a police officer during the course of performing official duties.

(May 9, 1986, P.L.158, No.51, eff. 60 days; Dec. 15, 1995, P.L.655, No.72, eff. 60 days)

### Section 3325. Duty of driver on approach of emergency vehicle.

(a) General rule.—Upon the immediate approach of an emergency vehicle making use of an audible signal and visual signals meeting the requirements

(b) Police, fire and coroner or medical examiner vehicles.--

(1) Police, coroner, medical examiner or fire police vehicles may in addition to the requirements of subsection (a) be equipped with revolving or flashing blue lights. The combination of red and blue lights may be used only on police, coroner, medical examiner or fire police vehicles.

\* \* \*

(3) Police and fire vehicles may be equipped with a mounted rack containing one or more emergency warning lights or side mounted floodlights or alley lights or all such lights.

\* \* \*

(d) Vehicles prohibited from using signals.--Except as otherwise specifically provided in this part, no vehicle other than an emergency vehicle may be equipped with revolving or flashing lights or audible warning systems identical or similar to those specified in subsections (a) and (b).

(e) Authorized period of use.--The lights and warning systems specified by this section may be used only during an emergency or in the interest of public safety and by police officers in enforcement of the law. An ambulance which is transporting a patient may use either the lights or the audible warning system, or both, as determined by the driver of the ambulance.

(f) Conformity with department regulations.--All equipment authorized or required by this section shall conform to department regulations.

**Section 4572. Visual signals on authorized vehicles.**

(a) Flashing or revolving blue lights.--Ambulance personnel, volunteer firefighters and owners and handlers of dogs used in tracking humans may each equip one motor vehicle with no more than two flashing or revolving blue lights.

(1) In order to be eligible to display lights on their vehicles under this subsection, the names of the ambulance personnel and volunteer firefighters shall be submitted to the nearest station of the Pennsylvania State Police on a list signed by the chief of the ambulance or fire department or company and each dog owner and handler shall register

at the nearest Pennsylvania State Police station.

(2) The manner in which the lights are displayed and their intensity shall be determined by regulation of the department.

(3) The lights shall be operable by the driver from inside the vehicle.

(4) The lights may be used only while in route to or at the scene of a fire or emergency call.

(5) The lights shall be removed from the vehicle within ten days of receipt of notice from the chief of the ambulance or fire department or company to remove the lights upon termination of the person's status as an active volunteer firefighter or ambulance person or upon termination of the person's active status as a dog owner or handler, or when the vehicle is no longer used in connection with the person's duties as a volunteer firefighter or ambulance person or dog owner or handler.

(6) This subsection does not relieve the driver from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons nor exempt the driver from complying with all provisions of this title.

(b) Flashing or revolving yellow lights.—Vehicles authorized pursuant to the provisions of section 6107 (relating to designation of authorized vehicles by department) may be equipped with no more than two flashing or revolving yellow lights. The manner in which the light shall be displayed and the intensity shall be determined by regulation of the department.

(c) Vehicles prohibited from using lights.—No vehicle other than a duly authorized vehicle may be equipped with lights identical or similar to those specified in subsections (a) and (b).

#### Section 4702. Requirement for periodic inspection of vehicles.

(a) Annual safety inspection.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the department shall establish a system of annual safety inspection of vehicles, including emergency vehicles, farm vehicles with a gross weight of gross vehicle weight rating of greater than 17,000 pounds for which a Type I biennial certificate of exemption has been issued and private noncommercial vehicles used to transport students.

(b) Semiannual safety inspection of certain vehicles.—The following