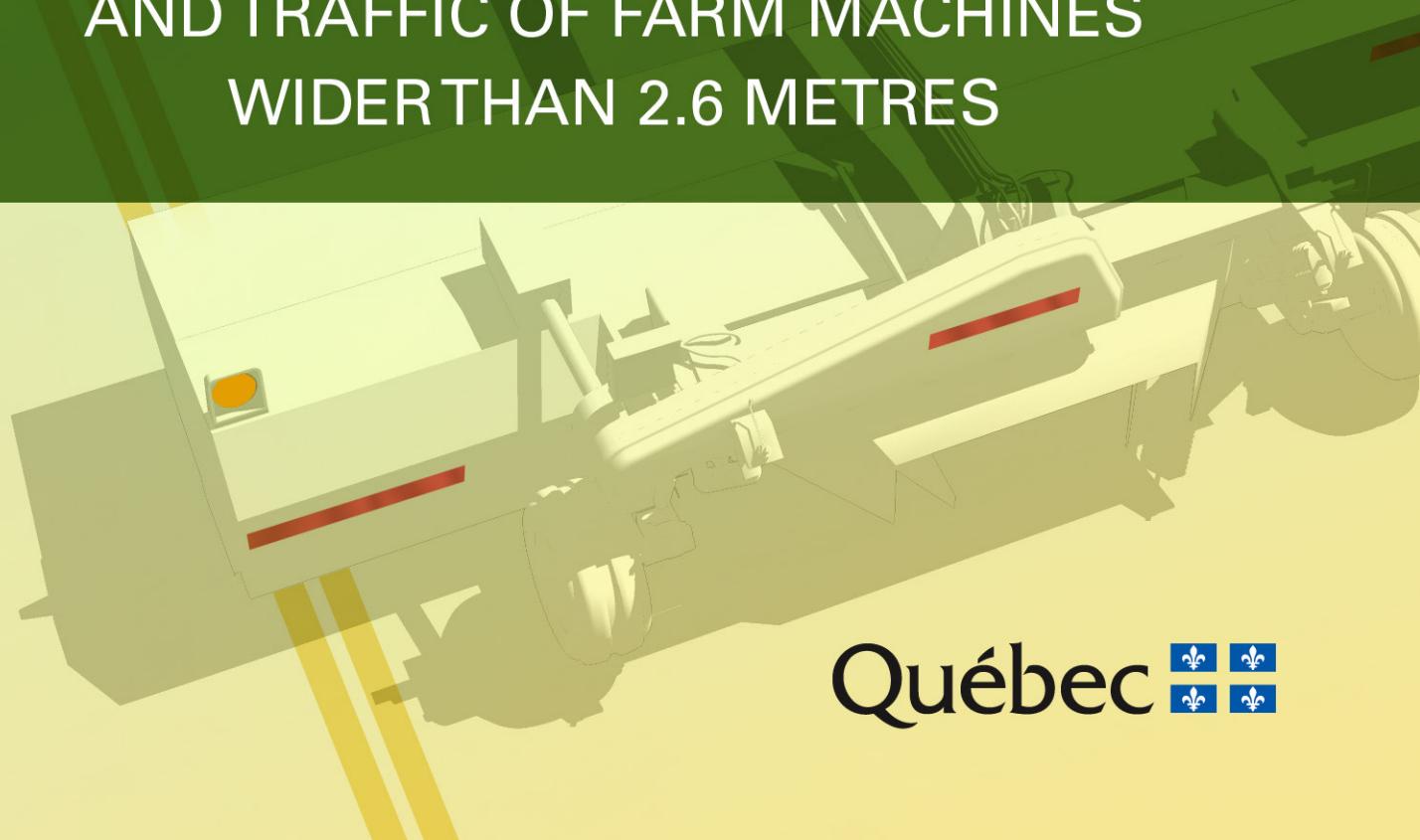




# GUIDE TO THE REGULATION RESPECTING THE VISIBILITY AND TRAFFIC OF FARM MACHINES WIDER THAN 2.6 METRES



Québec 

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**Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec**

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# GUIDE TO THE REGULATION RESPECTING THE VISIBILITY AND TRAFFIC OF FARM MACHINES WIDER THAN 2.6 METRES

## Foreword

This guide is addressed to farmers who own farm machinery or combinations of farm vehicles wider than 2.6 m. It includes all of the provisions of the Regulation, explained and illustrated, making it a complete and easy-to-consult reference tool.

This guide was based on the *Regulation respecting the visibility and traffic of farm machines wider than 2.6 m.*

Please see the Regulation for any reference of a legal nature.

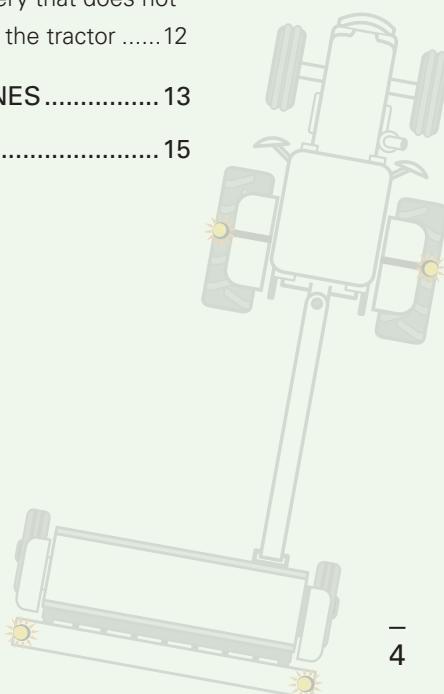
We would like to thank the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA), the ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ) and **Contrôle routier Québec** (CRQ) for their help in producing this guide.

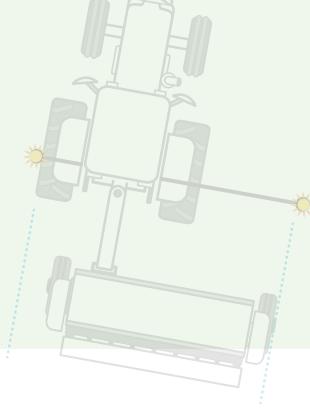
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## FARM MACHINERY AND COMBINATIONS OF FARM VEHICLES COVERED

The Regulation applies specifically to farm machinery and combinations of farm vehicles (**vehicles covered**) that:

- **belong to a farmer;**
- are wider than 2.6 metres (but not wider than 7.5 m);
- are operated on roads (other than highways).

The Regulation does not apply:

- when the use of such a vehicle is limited to crossing a public roadway;
- to vehicles that are considered outsize vehicles under the *Vehicle Load and Size Limits Regulation*.

Farm machinery and combinations of farm vehicles wider than 2.6 m **that do not belong to a farmer** are not subject to the *Regulation respecting the visibility and traffic of farm machines wider than 2.6 m* because they are considered outsize vehicles. Before operating an outsize vehicle on a public roadway, it is recommended that you check the information regarding special travel permits on the Transports Québec Web site (under Companies, in the Trucking section and the Special Permits page). Laws and regulations already in effect require that outsize vehicles receive a special travel permit<sup>1</sup> before being allowed to travel on public roads.

## DEFINITIONS

### Farmer

A natural person who is a member of an association certified under the *Farm Producers Act* (chapter P-28), a person who is the owner or the lessee of a farm and whose principal activity is agriculture, or an agricultural cooperative governed by the *Cooperatives Act* (chapter C-67.2) whose object is the use of agricultural equipment by its members;

### Strip of retroreflective material

Strip made of a material that meets the requirements of clause 3.3 of CSA Standard M669-F11 and that is at least 50 mm wide and 230 mm long.

### Combination of farm vehicles

A combination consisting of a farm machine or vehicle within the meaning of the *Regulations respecting road vehicle registration* pulling a farm machine or one or two farm trailers.

### Flashing amber warning light

Amber light whose effective projected luminous area is not less than 77.5 cm<sup>2</sup>, that flashes at a rate of not less than 60 and not more than 120 flashes per minute and is bidirectional (visible from the front and from behind) and that meets Standard J974 *Flashing Warning Lamp for Agricultural Equipment*, revised in April 2011 or Standard J845 *Optical Warning Devices for Authorized Emergency, Maintenance, and Service Vehicle*, revised in December 2007. If it meets Standard J845, the amber light must be at least Class 2. An amber light that meets Standard J845 bears the mark **SAE W3-1** or **SAE W3-2**.

### Rotating amber beacon or amber strobe light

A 360-degree rotating amber light that flashes at a rate of not less than 60 and no more than 90 flashes per minute and that has a lens not less than 10 cm high or an equivalent light bar<sup>3</sup>.

### Farm machine

Equipment, whether motorized or not, designed and used solely for agricultural purposes.

### Farm tractor

A farm machine equipped with pneumatic tires or rubber caterpillar tracks that is designed to draw farm equipment and owned by a farmer who uses it for any purpose whatsoever or used for personal ends by an owner who is a natural person other than a farmer.

1 Example of a special travel permit: [www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca/portal/page/portal/Librairie/Publications/fr/camionnage/permis/lien149.pdf](http://www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca/portal/page/portal/Librairie/Publications/fr/camionnage/permis/lien149.pdf)

2 The strip also meets requirements if it is marked with the letters DOT-C.

3 A signal bar that is the equivalent of an amber beacon or amber strobe light must include more than one rotating amber light that meets the determined parameters.

## Escort vehicle

- a vehicle whose gross vehicle weight rating is less than 4,500 kg, except a moped, motorized scooter, motorcycle or a three-wheel vehicle;
- or
- a vehicle whose gross vehicle weight rating is 4,500 kg or more and whose net mass is 4,000 kg or less that originally had an open truck box and a tailgate or is a sport utility vehicle.

## Farm motor vehicle

A motor vehicle that is a truck, pick-up truck or small van type owned by a farmer and used mainly for the transportation of farm produce or material required in its production.

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Note: The **vehicles covered** by this guide are farm machines and combinations of farm vehicles wider than 2.6 metres that belong to farmers and are operated on roads.

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Note: Farm machinery or combinations of farm vehicles do not need to be equipped with strips of retroreflective material or flashing amber lights that meet the standards set out in regulation if they were equipped with strips or lights that provide equivalent visibility before the coming into force of this Regulation.

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## TRAFFIC RULES AND STANDARDS

The contents of the Regulation are presented in accordance with the width of farm machinery or combinations of farm vehicles.

### Measuring the width of a farm machine or combination of farm vehicles

All the accessories that are part of the vehicle must be included when measuring, including the sides of the tires. Only rearview mirrors and lights are excluded.

### Farm machinery or combinations of farm vehicles wider than 2.6 metres

Vehicles subject to the Regulation that are wider than 2.6 metres must be equipped with at least one of the two following warning devices:

- two simultaneously flashing amber lights;
- or
- a rotating amber beacon or amber strobe light or an equivalent light bar.

If flashing amber lights are used, they must be placed:

- at each lateral extremity of the machine, as symmetrically as possible (or, if that is impossible, no more than 40 cm from the extremities);  
and
- at a height between 1 and 3.7 metres from the ground.

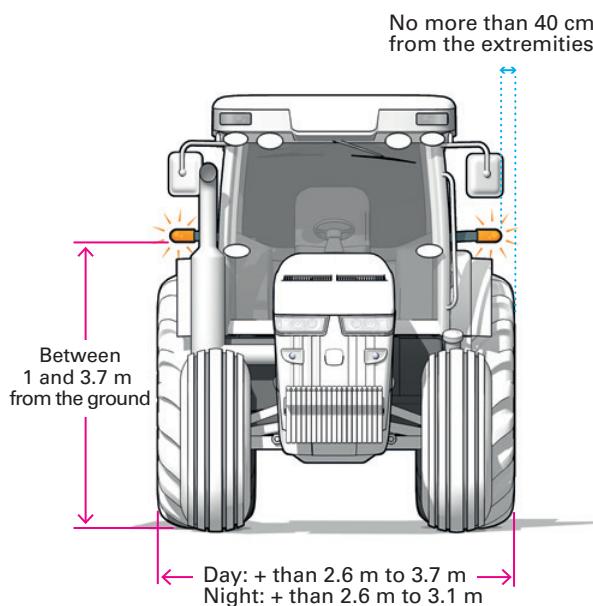


Figure 1: using flashing amber lights.

If a light bar, rotating amber beacon or amber strobe light are used, they must be mounted on top of the vehicle, or as near to the top as possible.

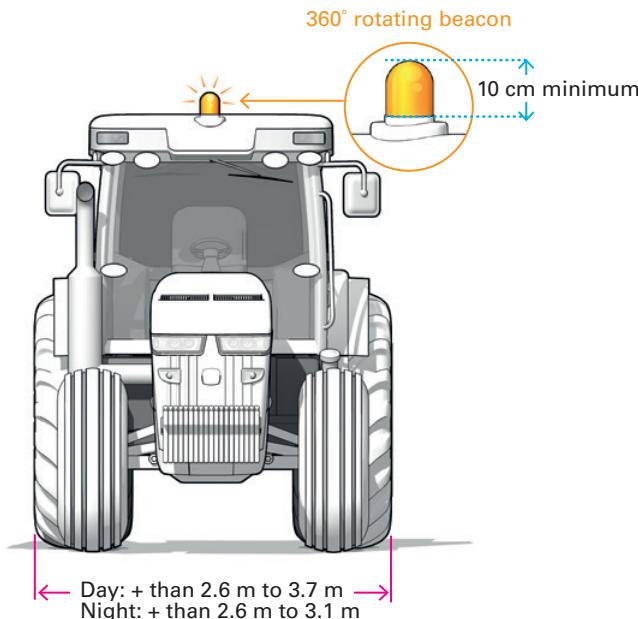


Figure 2: using a rotating amber beacon.

Regardless of the warning device used, it must be visible to the driver of a road vehicle approaching from the front or rear at a distance between 300 m and 30 m.

### **■ Farm machinery or combinations of farm vehicles wider than 3.1 metres (operated at night) or wider than 3.7 metres (operated during the daytime)**

Vehicles covered by the Regulation that are wider than 3.1 metres and are operated on a public roadway at night or those that are wider than 3.7 metres and are operated on a public roadway during the daytime must be equipped with the following:

- 1- two simultaneously flashing amber lights, as described in the previous section;
- 2- at least two strips of a yellow retroreflective material visible from the front;
- 3- strips of a red retroreflective material visible from the rear.

### **Mandatory use of bidirectional flashing amber lights (visible from the front and rear)**

The two simultaneously flashing amber lights are mandatory for vehicles covered by the Regulation when they are wider than 3.1 m (operation at night) and 3.7 m (operation during the daytime). These lights may under no circumstances be replaced by a rotating amber beacon or amber strobe light or a light bar.

Farm vehicles that are part of a combination of farm vehicles and farm machinery may be mounted with a rotating amber beacon, amber strobe light or light bar on top, as long as the farm machine or combination of farm vehicles is equipped with two flashing amber lights and retroreflective strips.

### **Yellow strips**

The retroreflective yellow strips must be visible at the front of the farm machine and be placed as horizontally as possible, at no more than 40 cm from the lateral extremities.

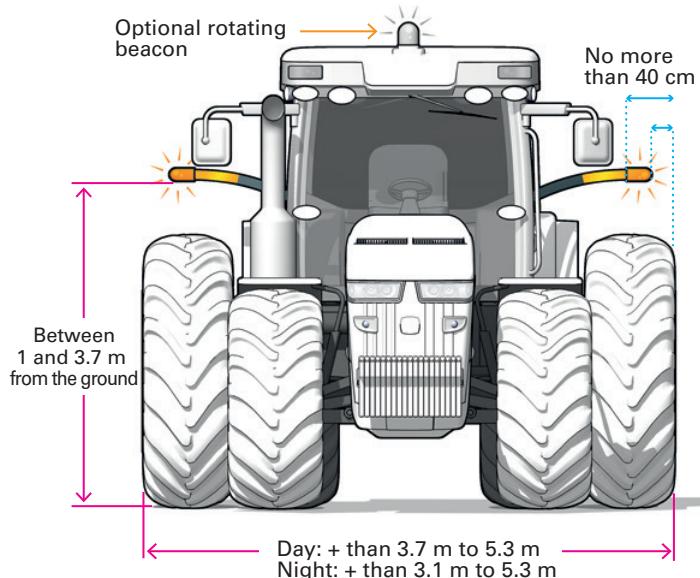


Figure 3: yellow retroreflective strips visible from the front of the vehicle and flashing amber lights.

## Red strips

The red retroreflective strips must be visible from the rear of the farm machine or combination of farm vehicles. The strips must be placed as horizontally and as aligned and evenly spaced as possible. A red retroreflective strip must be placed at no more than 40 cm from each lateral extremity. In addition to the strips placed near the lateral extremities, one or several red retroreflective strips must be affixed with a maximum space of 1.8 metres between them.

Note: the bottom red retroreflective strip on the slow-moving vehicle triangle<sup>3</sup> may be used to measure the maximum distance of 1.8 metres between the strips. In this case, the triangle must still be placed in accordance with the requirements listed in section 126 of the *Regulation respecting safety standards for road vehicles*.

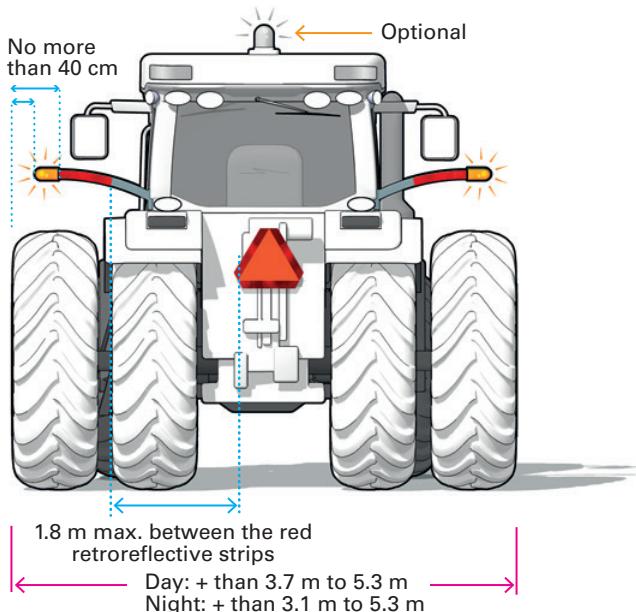


Figure 4 : Red retroreflective strips and bidirectional flashing lights.

Lights and reflective strips (when they are illuminated by low-beam headlights) must be visible to the driver of a road vehicle approaching from the front or rear at a distance between 300 m and 30 m.

Location of the slow-moving vehicle warning triangle as prescribed by section 126 of the *Regulation respecting safety standards for road vehicles*.

Any vehicle built to travel at a speed lower than 40 km/h must be equipped with a triangle orange warning sign with a dark red reflective edge, complying with Standard ANSI/ASAE S276.6 published in January 2005 by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

The sign shall be fixed with an angle of the triangle upwards, vertically and perpendicular to the direction taken by the vehicle, as close as possible to the rear, at the centre of the vehicle or as close as possible from the left, at a height of 60 to 180 cm measured from the ground to the base of the sign.

In the case of a combination of vehicles, the sign may be installed on any vehicle, provided that it is entirely visible and perfectly identifiable when seen from behind.

The sign shall be adequate, securely fixed to the vehicle and free from any object or matter that could reduce its visibility up to a distance of 180 m.

## ■ Farm machinery or combinations of farm vehicles wider than 5.3 metres

**Vehicles covered by the Regulation** that are wider than 5.3 metres must:

- be equipped (as illustrated in figures 1, 3 and 4) with two simultaneously flashing amber lights, at least two yellow retroreflective strips visible from the front and red retroreflective strips visible from the rear;
- Be preceded by an escort vehicle (see the Escort vehicles section, p. 9).

### Obligation to be followed by an escort vehicle

Farm machinery or combinations of farm vehicles wider than 5.3 metres must be followed by an escort vehicle when they are operated at nighttime and encroach upon the oncoming traffic lane.

<sup>3</sup> The slow-moving vehicle warning triangle is required in accordance with section 274 of the *Highway Safety Code* and must comply with the standards set out in section 126 of the *Regulation respecting safety standards for road vehicles*.

## Prohibition from operation

Operating a vehicle covered by the Regulation that is wider than 5.3 to 7 m is prohibited:

- when visibility is less than 500 metres due to weather conditions;
- in school zones, **when school is in session**:
  - from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.;
  - from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.;
  - from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

## Prohibition from operation

Operating a vehicle covered by the Regulation that is wider than 7 to 7.5 m is prohibited:

- when visibility is less than 500 metres due to weather conditions;
- in school zones, **when school is in session**:
  - from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.;
  - from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.;
  - from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

## I Farm machinery or combinations of farm vehicles wider than 7 metres but no wider than 7.5 metres<sup>4</sup>

Vehicles covered by the Regulation that are wider than 7 m but no wider than 7.5 m must:

- be equipped (as illustrated in figures 1, 3 and 4) with two simultaneously flashing amber lights, at least two yellow retroreflective strips visible from the front and red retroreflective strips visible from the rear;
- be preceded by an escort vehicle;
- be followed by an escort vehicle.

## I Escort vehicles

The escort vehicle must be equipped with at least one rotating amber beacon or amber strobe light or an equivalent light bar mounted on top of the vehicle.

The rotating amber beacon, amber strobe light or the light bar must be visible to the driver of a road vehicle approaching from the front or rear at a distance between 300 m and 30 m.

The escort vehicle must travel at least 100 metres and no more than 150 metres behind the farm machinery or the combination of farm vehicles it is escorting.

The escort vehicle's gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) must be less than 4,500 kg and it cannot be a motorcycle, a moped or motorized scooter or a three-wheel vehicle. However, if the escort vehicle originally had an open truck box and a tailgate (pick-up truck) or is a sport utility vehicle, it may have a GVWR above 4,500 kg if it has a net mass of 4,000 kg or less.

A vehicle's GVWR is indicated on its compliance label. The compliance label is a metal plate or sticker on which the vehicle's technical specifications appear, such as the name of the manufacturer, year of manufacture and identification number.

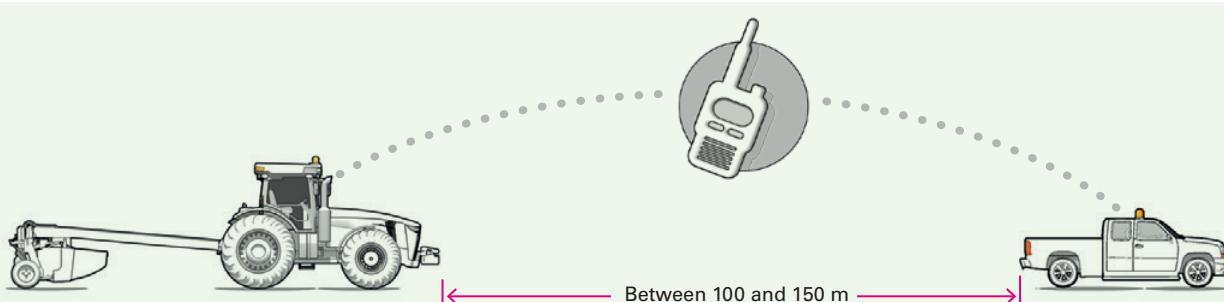


Figure 5: escort vehicle travelling at a distance of 100 m to 150 m from the farm machinery or combination of farm vehicles and mounted with a strobe light or light bar.

4 Farm machinery wider than 7.5 metres is subject to the Regulation respecting special permits ([www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca)).

The compliance label is usually affixed to the door frame or door on the driver's side.

The label may also be affixed to the left side of the dashboard. The net mass of the vehicle is indicated on its registration certificate.

The driver of an escort vehicle must be able to communicate with the driver of the vehicle or combination of vehicles being escorted using a radio system.

#### **Escort vehicles are prohibited from towing machinery, farm equipment, trailers, etc.**

### **Additional information**

#### **Farm machinery that exceeds the width of the tractor vehicle on both sides, where the width of the combination of farm vehicles is more than 3.1 m (when operated at night) or more than 3.7 m (when operated during the day)**

In the case of a combination of farm vehicles, if the towed farm machinery exceeds the width of the towing vehicle on **both sides**, flashing lights must be placed as symmetrically as possible at the lateral extremities of the towed farm machinery. If one of

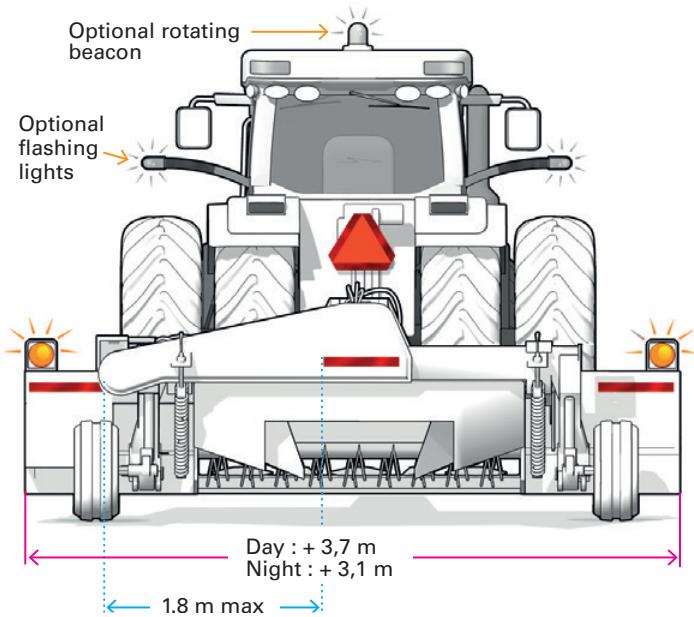


Figure 6: towed farm machinery that exceeds the width of the tractor vehicle on both sides.

the lights cannot be mounted on a lateral extremity of the towed machinery, it must be mounted at less than 40 cm from that extremity. However, these flashing lights may be mounted on the **towing vehicle (tractor)** provided:

- the distance between the flashing lights mounted on the tractor and the rear extremity of the farm machinery being towed is less than 6 m;
- the distance between the flashing lights mounted on the tractor equals the width of the farm machinery being towed.

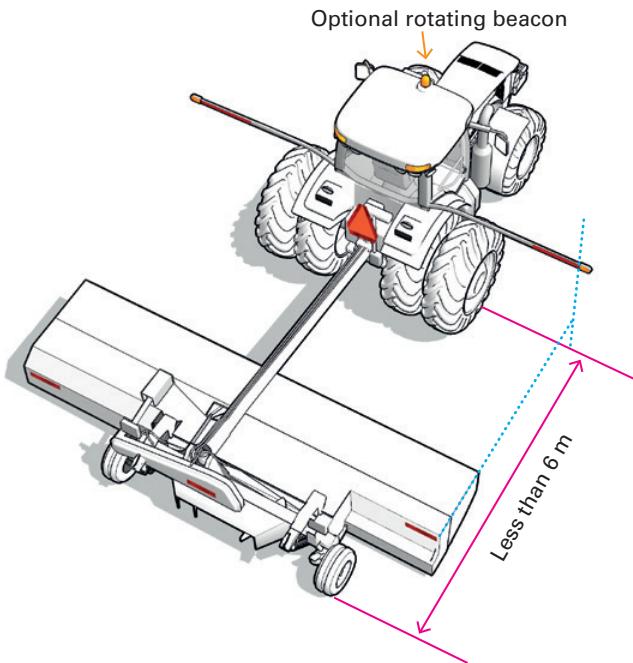


Figure 7: distance between the flashing amber lights mounted on the tractor and the rear lateral extremity of the towed farm machinery.

#### **Farm machinery that exceeds the width of the tractor vehicle on one side only, where the width of the combination of farm vehicles is more than 3.1 m (when operated at night) or more than 3.7 m (when operated during the day)**

When, in a combination of farm vehicles, the towed farm machinery exceeds the width of the tractor vehicle on **one side only**, flashing lights must be mounted on the towed farm machinery, and the distance between the lights must equal the distance between the width of the towed vehicle on the wider side and the width of the tractor vehicle on the other side.

However, the flashing lights may be mounted on the **tractor** if:

- the distance between the flashing lights mounted on the tractor and the rear extremity of the towed farm machinery is less than 6 m;

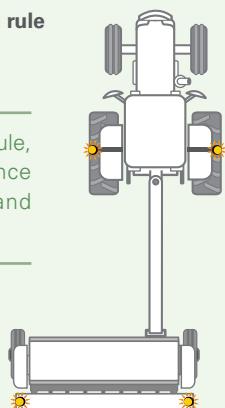
and

- the distance between the lights mounted on the tractor equals the distance between the width of the towed machinery on the wider side and the width of the tractor vehicle on the other side;

The distance between the flashing lights must indicate the total width of the combination of farm vehicles.

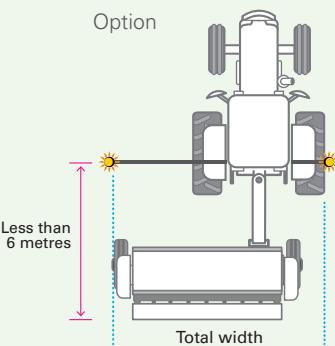
### **Towed farm machinery that exceeds the width of the tractor on the left side only, where the width of the combination of farm vehicles is more than 3.1 m (when operated at night) or more than 3.7 m (when operated during the day)**

General rule



Note: This is the default rule, regardless of the distance between the tractor and towed farm machinery.

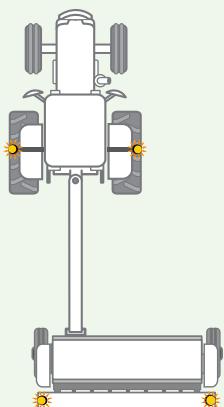
Option



Optional when the distance between the flashing lights mounted on the tractor and the rear extremity of the towed farm machinery is less than 6 m.

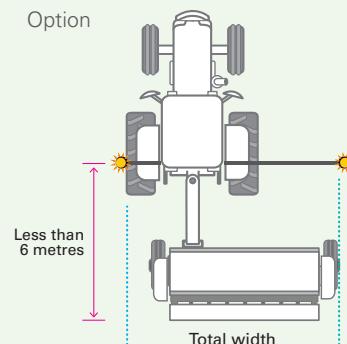
### **Towed farm machinery that exceeds the width of the tractor on the right side only, where the width of the combination of farm vehicles is more than 3.1 m (when operated at night) or more than 3.7 m (when operated during the day)**

General rule



Note: This is the default rule, regardless of the distance between the tractor and towed farm machinery.

Option



Optional when the distance between the flashing lights mounted on the tractor and the rear extremity of the towed farm machinery is less than 6 m.

## Towed farm machinery that does not exceed the width of the tractor vehicle

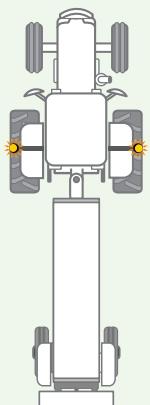
When, in a combination of farm vehicles, the towed farm machinery does not exceed the width of the towing vehicle, the towing vehicle must be equipped with at least two amber lights that flash in unison.

These flashing amber lights<sup>5</sup> must be visible to the driver of a road vehicle approaching from the front or rear at a distance of between 300 m and 30 m and they must comply with the requirements set out in this guide.

In addition, every farm machine or combination of farm vehicles with a width of more than 3.1 m (when operated at night) or more than 3.7 m (when operated during the day), must be equipped with strips of retroreflective material (see pages 7 and 8).

## Towed farm machinery that does not exceed the width of the tractor

### General rule



Farm machinery or combination of farm vehicles with a width of more than 2.6 m

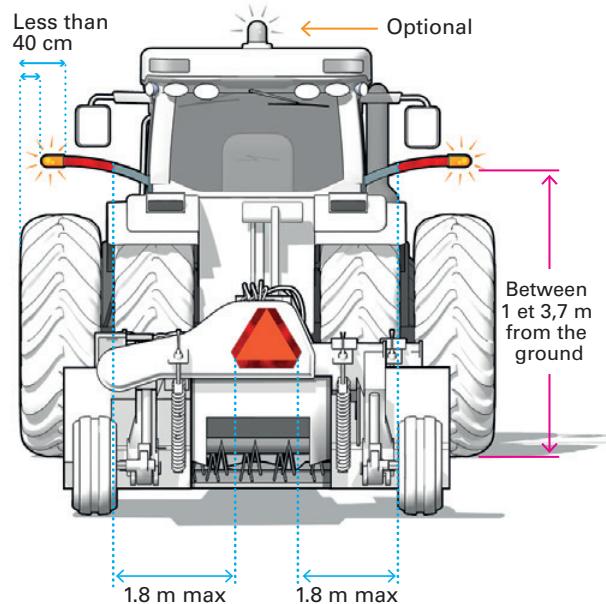


Figure 8 : Towed farm machinery that does not exceed the width of the tractor vehicle

5 Note that the flashing amber lights on farm machinery or combinations of farm vehicles with a width of more than 2.6 m but not more than 3.7 m (when operated during the day) or of 2.6 m to 3.1 m

(when operated at night), can be replaced by an amber beacon or strobe light or an equivalent light bar.

## RESPONSIBILITIES AND FINES

### Responsibilities

Owners of farm machinery or combinations of farm vehicles must install the warning devices required by the Regulation on their farm machinery and tractor vehicles and take into account the required colours and specified layout.

Drivers of a farm machine or combination of farm vehicles must:

- turn on the lights required by the Regulation when driving;
- obey the prohibitions from operation in effect due to weather conditions or school zones;
- make sure to be accompanied by one or two escort vehicles, if applicable, depending on the width of the machinery or combination of vehicles;
- make sure that the escort vehicles are mounted with at least one rotating amber beacon, a strobe light or a light bar.

Drivers of an escort vehicle must:

- keep a minimum distance of 100 metres and a maximum distance of 150 metres between the escort vehicle and the vehicle being escorted;
- be able to communicate, using a radio system, with the driver of the farm machinery or combination of farm vehicles and with the driver of the other escort vehicle, if applicable;
- drive with the rotating amber beacon or strobe light or light bar of the escort vehicle turned on;
- turn off the rotating amber beacon or strobe light or the light bar when the escort vehicle is no longer required;
- reduce the brightness of the light bar when used at night.

### Fines

Owners, drivers of farm machinery and combinations of farm vehicles and drivers of escort vehicles who fail to comply with the Regulation are liable to fines.

### Owners:

Offence	Fine
Absence of the required warning devices on farm machinery or combinations of farm vehicles.	\$120 to \$360
Warning devices are present, but the offence concerns the colour, position or visibility of lights or reflective strips.	\$60 to \$180

### Drivers of farm machinery or combinations of farm vehicles:

Offence	Fine
Absence of an <b>escort vehicle ahead</b> of a farm machine or combination of farm vehicles wider than 5.3 metres.	\$240 to \$720
Absence of an <b>escort vehicle behind</b> a farm machine or combination of farm vehicles wider than 5.3 metres travelling at night and encroaching upon the oncoming traffic lane.	\$120 to \$360
Absence of an <b>escort vehicle behind</b> a farm machine or combination of farm vehicles wider than 7 metres.	\$120 to \$360
Absence, on an <b>escort vehicle ahead</b> of a farm machine or combination of farm vehicles, of a rotating amber beacon or amber strobe light or equivalent light bar mounted on top of the vehicle.	\$240 to \$720
The warning device is present on the <b>escort vehicle travelling ahead</b> of the farm machine or combination of farm vehicles, but the offence concerns the colour, position or visibility of lights or the light bar.	\$60 to \$180

Offence	Fine
Absence, on the <b>escort vehicle travelling behind</b> the farm machine or combination of farm vehicles, of a rotating amber beacon or amber strobe light or equivalent light bar mounted on top of the vehicle.	120 \$ à 360 \$
The warning device is present on the <b>escort vehicle travelling behind</b> the farm machine or combination of farm vehicles, but the offence concerns the colour, position or visibility of the lights or the light bar.	\$60 to \$180
Operation of farm machinery or a combination of farm vehicles wider than 5.3 metres when <b>visibility</b> is less than 500 metres due to weather conditions.	\$240 to \$720
Operation of farm machinery or a combination of farm vehicles wider than 5.3 metres in a <b>school zone</b> between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and 3 and 4:30 p.m. on school days.	\$120 to \$360
Operation of farm machinery or a combination of farm vehicles when <b>required lights are not turned on</b> .	\$120 to \$360

#### Drivers of escort vehicles

Offence	Fine
Failure to comply with the <b>minimum distance of 100 metres and maximum distance of 150 metres</b> between the escort vehicle and the escorted farm machine or combination of farm vehicles.	\$60 to \$180
Failure to <b>turn off</b> the rotating amber beacon or amber strobe light or the light bar when the escort vehicle is no longer required.	\$60 to \$180
Failure to <b>reduce</b> the brightness of the light bar when used at night.	\$60 to \$180
Inability to <b>communicate, using a radio system</b> , with the driver of the farm machine or combination of farm vehicles and with the driver of the other escort vehicle, if applicable.	\$120 to \$360
Failure to turn on the rotating amber beacon or amber strobe light or the light bar of the <b>escort vehicle travelling ahead</b> of the farm machine or combination of farm vehicles.	\$240 to \$720
Failure to turn on the rotating amber beacon or amber strobe light or the light bar of the <b>escort vehicle travelling behind</b> the farm machine or combination of farm vehicles.	\$120 to \$360

To know more about legal provisions, visit the Laws and Regulations section on the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec Web site at [www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca).

## SUMMARYTABLE

Safety standards and traffic rules	Width of farm machinery or combination of farm vehicles				
	+ than 2.6 m to 3.1 m	+ than 3.1 m to 3.7 m	+ than 3.7 m to 5.3 m	+ than 5.3 m to 7 m	+ than 7 m to 7.5 m
Flashing amber lights <sup>5</sup>	X	X	X	X	X
Retroreflective strips		At night only	X	X	X
Escort vehicle travelling ahead with a rotating amber beacon (or strobe light) or an equivalent light bar				X	X
Escort vehicle travelling behind with a rotating amber beacon (or strobe light) or an equivalent light bar				At night, if encroaching upon oncoming traffic lane	X
Prohibition from operating when visibility is less than 500 m or in a school zone between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and 3 and 4:30 p.m. on school days.				X	X

6 Farm machinery and combinations of farm vehicles wider than 2.6 m but no wider than 3.7 m operated during the day may be mounted with a rotating amber beacon, amber strobe light or an equivalent light bar

instead of flashing amber lights. The same provision applies to vehicles travelling at night that are between 2.6 m and 3.1 m wide.



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