

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Commission

RULES GOVERNING AUTHORIZED SERVICE VEHICLES ON PUBLIC STREETS, HIGHWAYS, AND ROADWAYS

2 CCR 601-20

[Editor's Notes follow the text of the rules at the end of this CCR Document.]

Statement of Basis and Purpose and Statutory Authority

These rules are promulgated pursuant to the authority granted to the Department of Transportation pursuant to § 42-4-214(5) C.R.S. (2011).

The purpose of these amendments is to update existing rules in conformance with current practice and statute concerning Authorized Service Vehicles. Section 42-4-214 (5) C.R.S. (2011) authorizes the Department of Transportation to promulgate rules with regard to Authorized Service Vehicles.

These rules apply to all Authorized Service Vehicles when operating in Colorado on or along a highway, roadway or public street.

1.00 Definitions

1.01 "Authorized Emergency Vehicle" shall mean such vehicles of the fire department, police vehicles, ambulances, and other special-purpose vehicles as are publicly owned and operated by or for a government agency to protect and preserve life and property in accordance with state laws regulating emergency vehicles; said term also means the following if equipped and operated as emergency vehicles in the manner prescribed by state law:

- (a) Privately owned vehicles as are designated by the state motor vehicle licensing agency necessary to the preservation of life and property; or
- (b) Privately owned tow trucks approved by the public utilities commission to respond to vehicle emergencies. See § 42-1-102(6) C.R.S. (2011).

1.02 "Authorized Service Vehicle" shall mean such highway or traffic maintenance vehicle as is publicly owned and operated on a highway by or for a governmental agency the function of which requires the use of service vehicle warning lights as prescribed by state law and such other vehicles having a public service function, including, but not limited to, public utility vehicles and tow trucks, as determined by the Department of Transportation under § 42-4-214(5) C.R.S. (2011). Some vehicles may be designated as both an Authorized Emergency Vehicle and an Authorized Service Vehicle. See § 42-1-102(7) C.R.S. (2011).

1.03 "Department" shall mean the Department of Transportation created by §43-1-102(2) C.R.S. (2011).

2.00 Authority to Designate as Authorized Service Vehicle

2.01 The Department's Chief Engineer or his/her designee is authorized to determine which vehicles should be designated as Authorized Service Vehicles.

- 2.02 The Chief Engineer or his/her designee shall make the determination upon the advice and recommendation of the Department's Maintenance and Operations Branch and Staff Traffic Branch.
- 2.03 The Department may designate as Authorized Service Vehicles both publicly owned and operated or privately owned vehicles having a public service function, including public service vehicles and tow trucks.
- 2.04 The Department shall determine which types of vehicles render an essential public service when operating on or along a roadway and warrant designation as Authorized Service Vehicles under specified conditions, including, without limitation, vehicles that sell or apply chains or other equipment to motor vehicles necessary to enable compliance with § 42-4-106 C.R.S. (2011). See § 42-4-215(5) C.R.S. (2011).
- 2.05 Local government entities shall have the authority to designate Authorized Service Vehicles within their jurisdictions.

3.00 Types of Vehicles Which May be Designated an Authorized Service Vehicle

- 3.01 Authorized Service Vehicles may include, but not be limited to:
 - 3.01.1 Any vehicle designated as an Authorized Service Vehicle by the Department;
 - 3.01.2 Vehicle Recovery Units (including commercially operated vehicles and identified by insignia or equipment);
 - 3.01.3 Pilot Escort vehicles escorting mobile homes, oversize equipment or wide loads as defined in §42-4-510 and 511C.R.S.;
 - 3.01.4 Public utility vehicles operated by companies described in § 39-4-101, C.R.S. such as those providing power, light, telephone and sanitation services;
 - 3.01.5 Tow trucks or wreckers;
 - 3.01.6 Tree service equipment; or
 - 3.01.7 Land Surveyor Vehicles

4.00 Requirements for Warning Lights

- 4.01 Every Authorized Service Vehicle shall, in addition to any other required equipment, be equipped with:
 - 4.01.1 One or more warning lamps mounted as high as possible, capable of displaying in all directions one or more flashing, oscillating, or rotating yellow lights.
 - 4.01.2 Only yellow and white lamps and no other color or combination of colors shall be used as a warning lamp on an Authorized Service Vehicle. White lamps may be used on a light bar to heighten the visibility of the yellow lamps.
 - 4.01.3 With regard to 7.01.1 above, a snowplow designated as an Authorized Service Vehicle operated by a general purpose government may also be equipped with and use no more than two flashing, oscillating, or rotating blue lights as warning lamps.

4.01.4 Lighted directional signs used by police and highway departments to direct or control traffic need not be visible except to the front or rear.

4.01.5 Lights shall have sufficient intensity to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight.

4.02 Only Authorized Emergency Vehicles shall be authorized to use a red light or lights alone or in combination with blue, white, or blue in combination with white.

4.03 Authorized Service Vehicles determined to operate also as Authorized Emergency Vehicles shall be equipped to comply with signal requirements for Authorized Emergency Vehicles.

5.00 Penalties

5.01 Any person who violates any provision of these rules commits a class B traffic infraction.

Editor's Notes

History

Entire rule recodified from 2 CCR 602-2 eff. 04/14/2012.