

**New regulations for lighting and flag warning devices became effective October 1, 2005. Alabama is currently enforcing the new regulations. The information below should help you understand these new regulations.**

**This link [§393.11](#) will take you straight to the regulatory guidance for all lighting requirements**

Definitions are in red. Excerpts from the regulation are in black.

- **POLE TRAILER**-- Every vehicle without motive power designed to be drawn by another vehicle and attached to the towing vehicle by means of a reach or pole, or by being boomed or otherwise secured to the towing vehicle, and ordinarily used for transporting long or irregularly shaped loads such as poles, pipes or structural members capable, generally, of sustaining themselves as beams between the supporting connections.

## **Part 393.11 Lighting devices and reflectors.**

**Footnote-6** Pole trailers shall be equipped with two reflex reflectors on the rear, one on each side of the vertical centerline as far apart as practicable, to indicate the extreme width of the trailer.

**Footnote-7** Pole trailers, when towed by motor vehicles with rear identification lamps meeting the requirements of [§393.11](#) and mounted at a height greater than the load being transported on the pole trailer, are not required to have rear identification lamps.

**Footnote-8** Pole trailers shall have on the rearmost support for the load: (1) two front clearance lamps, one on each side of the vehicle, both on the same level and as high as practicable to indicate the overall width of the pole trailer; (2) two rear clearance lamps, one on each side of the vehicle, both on the same level and as high as practicable to indicate the overall width of the pole trailer; (3) two rear side marker lamps, one on each side of the vehicle, both on the same level, not less than 375 mm (15 inches) above the road surface; (4) two rear reflex reflectors, one on each side, both on the same level, not less than 375 mm (15 inches) above the road surface to indicate maximum width of the pole trailer; and (5) one red reflector on each side of the rearmost support for the load. Lamps and reflectors may be combined as allowed in [§393.22](#).

## ➤ Exceptions-Pole Trailers

(a)(1) **Lamps and reflex reflectors.** Table 1 specifies the requirements for lamps, reflective devices and associated equipment by the type of commercial motor vehicle. The diagrams in this section illustrate the position of the lamps, reflective devices and associated equipment specified in Table 1. All commercial motor vehicles manufactured on or after December 25, 1968, must, at a minimum, meet the applicable requirements of 49 CFR [571.108](#) (FMVSS No. 108) in effect at the time of manufacture of the vehicle. Commercial motor vehicles manufactured before December 25, 1968, must, at a minimum, meet the requirements of subpart B of [part 393](#) in effect at the time of manufacture.

(a)(2) **Exceptions: Pole trailers and trailer converter dollies must meet the [part 393](#) requirements for lamps, reflective devices and electrical equipment in effect at the time of manufacture.** Trailers which are equipped with conspicuity material which meets the requirements of §393.11(b) are not required to be equipped with the reflex reflectors listed in Table 1 if-

(a)(2)(i) The conspicuity material is placed at the locations where reflex reflectors are required by Table 1; and

(a)(2)(ii) The conspicuity material when installed on the motor vehicle meets the visibility requirements for the reflex reflectors

➤ **SEMITRAILER.** Every vehicle with or without motive power, other than a pole trailer, designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that some part of its weight and that of its load rests upon or is carried by another vehicle

**Footnote-9** Any motor vehicle transporting a load which extends more than 102 mm (*4 inches*) beyond the overall width of the motor vehicle shall be equipped with the following lamps in addition to other required lamps when operated *during the hours when headlamps are required to be used.*

(1) The *foremost edge* of that portion of the load which projects *beyond the side* of the vehicle shall be marked (at its outermost extremity) with an *amber lamp visible from the front and side.*

(2) The *rearmost edge* of that portion of the load which projects *beyond the side* of the vehicle shall be marked (at its outermost extremity) with a *red lamp visible from the rear and side.*

(3) If the *projecting load does not* measure more than 914 mm (*3 feet*) *from front to rear*, it shall be marked with an *amber lamp visible from the front, both sides, and rear, except* that if the projection *is located at or near the rear* it shall be marked by a *red lamp visible from front, side, and rear.*

**Footnote-10 Projections beyond rear of motor vehicles.**

Motor vehicles transporting loads which extend more than 1,219 mm (4 feet) beyond the rear of the motor vehicle, or which have tailboards or tailgates extending more than 1,219 mm (4 feet) beyond the body, shall have these projections marked as follows when the vehicle is operated during the hours when headlamps are required to be used:

- (1) On each side of the projecting load, **one red side** marker lamp, visible from the side, located so as to indicate maximum overhang.
- (2) On the rear of the projecting load, **two red lamps**, visible from the rear, one at each side; and **two red reflectors** visible from the rear, one at each side, located so as to indicate maximum width.

**Footnote-11** To be illuminated when tractor headlamps are illuminated.

**Footnote-12** Every bus, truck, and truck tractor shall be equipped with a signaling system that, in addition to signaling turning movements, shall have a switch or combination of switches that will cause the **two front turn signals** and the **two rear signals** to flash simultaneously as a vehicular traffic signal warning, required by [§392-22\(a\)](#). The system shall be capable of flashing simultaneously with the ignition of the vehicle on or off.

**Footnote-13** To be actuated upon application of service brakes.

**Footnote-14** Backup lamp required to operate when bus, truck, or truck tractor is in reverse.

**Footnote-15**

- (1) For the purposes of Section 393.11, the term "**overall width**" refers to the nominal design dimension of the widest part of the vehicle, exclusive of the signal lamps, marker lamps, outside rearview mirrors, flexible fender extensions, and mud flaps.
- (2) Clearance lamps may be mounted at a location other than on the front and rear if necessary to indicate the overall width of a vehicle, or for protection from damage during normal operation of the vehicle.
- (3) On a trailer, the front clearance lamps may be mounted at a height below the extreme height if mounting at the extreme height results in the lamps failing to mark the overall width of the trailer.
- (4) On a truck tractor, clearance lamps mounted on the cab may be located to indicate the width of the cab, rather than the width of the vehicle.
- (5) When the rear identification lamps are mounted at the extreme height of a vehicle, rear clearance lamps are not required to be located as close as practicable to the top of the vehicle.

**Footnote-16** A trailer subject to this part that is less than 1829 mm (6 feet) in overall length, including the trailer tongue, need not be equipped with front side marker lamps and front side reflex reflectors.

Flags and warning devices have changed size.

### Part 393.87 Flags on projecting loads

(a) Any commercial motor vehicle transporting a load which extends beyond the sides by more than 102 mm (4 inches) or more than 1,219 mm (4 feet) beyond the rear must have the extremities of the load marked with red or orange fluorescent warning flags. **Each warning flag must be at least 457 mm (18 inches) square.**

(b) **Position of flags.** There must be a **single flag** at the extreme rear if the projecting load is two feet wide or less. **Two warning flags** are required if the projecting load is wider than two feet. **Flags must be located to indicate maximum width of loads** which extend beyond the sides and/or rear of the vehicle.

For questions about the new regulations,  
We can be reached at 334-242-4395.