

ARTICLE 345
Safety and Equipment

- | | | | |
|--------|--|--------|--|
| 345.01 | Driving unsafe vehicles; application; farm and road equipment exception. | 345.18 | Special restrictions on lights. |
| 345.02 | When lighted lights required. | 345.19 | Motor vehicle or motorcycle brakes. |
| 345.03 | Measurement of distances and heights. | 345.20 | Inspection of brakes on motorcycles, motor driven cycles and mopeds. |
| 345.04 | Headlights on motor vehicles and motorcycles. | 345.21 | Horn, siren and theft alarm signal. |
| 345.05 | Taillight; illumination of rear license plate. | 345.22 | Muffler; muffler cutout; excessive smoke, gas or noise. |
| 345.06 | Red light or red flag on extended loads. | 345.23 | Rear-view mirror. |
| 345.07 | Lights on parked or stopped Vehicles. | 345.24 | Windshield to be unobstructed; wind-shield wiper. |
| 345.08 | Lights on slow moving vehicles. | 345.25 | Tire equipment restrictions. |
| 345.09 | Spotlights and auxiliary lights. | 345.26 | Safety glass in motor vehicles. |
| 345.10 | Signal lamps and signal devices. | 345.27 | Vehicles transporting explosives. |
| 345.11 | Cowl, fender and backup lights; flashing hazard lights. | 345.28 | Television receiver in driver's view prohibited. |
| 345.12 | Multiple-beam road lighting equipment requirements. | 345.29 | Safety equipment for motorcyclists, motorcycles, motor-driven cycles and mopeds. |
| 345.13 | Use of headlight beams. | 345.30 | Certification labels on mopeds. |
| 345.14 | Single-beam road lighting equipment. | 345.31 | Child passenger safety device required. |
| 345.15 | Lights on motorcycles, motor-driven cycles and mopeds. | 345.32 | Certificate of inspection and approval. |
| 345.16 | Alternate road lighting equipment. | 345.33 | Alteration of suspension system. |
| 345.17 | Number of driving lights required or permitted. | 345.34 | Sun screening devices. |
| | | 345.35 | Operation of vehicles with safety belts. |
| | | 345.99 | Penalty. |

CROSS REFERENCES

See sectional histories for similar State law
 Obscured light on vehicles in combination – see W. Va. Code 17C-15-13
 Warning devices for commercial vehicles – see W. Va. Code 17C-15-39
 Bicycle equipment – see TRAY. Art. 373
 Child safety seats – see WV Code 17C-15-46

345.01 DRIVING UNSAFE VEHICLES; APPLICATION; FARM AND ROAD EQUIPMENT EXCEPTIONS.

- (a) No person shall drive or move and no owner shall cause or knowingly permit to be driven or moved on any street or highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles which is in such unsafe condition as to endanger any person, or which does not contain those parts or is not at all times equipped with such lamps and other equipment in proper condition and adjustment as required in this article, or which is equipped in any manner in violation of this article, or for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required under this article.
- (b) Nothing contained in this article shall be construed to prohibit the use of additional parts and accessories on any vehicle not inconsistent with the provisions of this article.
- (c) The provisions of this article with respect to equipment on vehicles shall not apply to implements of husbandry, road machinery, road rollers or farm tractors except as herein made applicable. Every farm tractor equipped with an electric lighting system shall at all times mentioned in Section 345.02 display a red tail lamp and either multiple-beam or single-beam head lamps meeting the requirements of Section 345.02.

345.02 WHEN LIGHTED LIGHTS REQUIRED.

Every vehicle other than a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped operated upon a street or highway within this Municipality at any time from sunset to sunrise and at any other time when there is not sufficient light to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles on the street or highway at a distance of 500 feet ahead shall display lighted lamps and illuminating devices as hereinafter respectively required for different classes of vehicles, subject to exceptions with respect to parked vehicles as hereinafter stated. Every motorcycle, motor-driven cycle and moped shall display lighted head lamps at all times when upon the street or highway.

(WVaC 17C-15-Z)

345.03 MEASUREMENT OF DISTANCES AND HEIGHTS.

(a) Whenever requirement is hereinafter declared as to the distance from which certain lamps and devices shall render objects visible or within which such lamps or devices shall be visible such provisions shall apply during the times stated in Section 345.02 in respect to a vehicle without load when upon a straight, level, unlighted street or highway under normal atmospheric conditions unless a different time or condition is expressly stated.

(b) Whenever requirement is hereinafter declared as to the mounted height of lamps or devices it shall mean from the center of such lamp or device to the level ground upon which the vehicle stands when such vehicle is without a load.

(WVaC 17C-15-3)

345.04 HEADLIGHTS ON MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTORCYCLES.

(a) Every motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped shall be equipped with at least two headlamps with at least one on each side of the front of the motor vehicle, which headlamps shall comply with the requirements and limitations set forth in this article.

(b) Every motorcycle, motor-driven cycle and moped shall be equipped with at least one and not more than two headlamps which shall comply with the requirements and limitations of this article.

(c) Every headlamp upon every motor vehicle, including every motorcycle, motor-driven cycle and moped, shall be located at a height measured from the center of the headlamp of not more than fifty-four inches nor less than twenty-four inches to be measured as set forth in Section 345.03.

(WVaC 17C-15-4)

345.05 TAIL LIGHT; ILLUMINATION OF REAR LICENSE PLATE.

(a) Every motor vehicle, trailer or semi trailer, and any other vehicle which is being drawn at the end of a train of vehicles, shall be equipped with at least one tail lamp mounted on the rear, which, when lighted as hereinbefore required, shall emit a red light plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear, provided that in the case of a train of vehicles only the tail lamp on the rearmost vehicle need actually be seen from the distance specified.

(b) Every tail lamp upon every vehicle shall be located at a height of not more than sixty inches nor less than twenty inches to be measured as set forth in Section 345.03(b).

(c) Either a tail lamp or a separate lamp shall be so constructed and placed as to illuminate with a white light the rear registration plate and render it clearly legible from a distance of fifty feet to the rear. Any tail lamp or tail lamps, together with any separate lamp for illuminating the rear registration plate, shall be so wired as to be lighted whenever the head lamps or auxiliary driving lamps are lighted.

(WVaC 17C-15-5)

345.06 RED LIGHT OR RED FLAG ON EXTENDED LOADS.

Whenever the load upon any vehicle extends to the rear four feet or more beyond the bed or body of such vehicle there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of the load, at the times specified in Section 345.02, a red light or lantern plainly visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the sides and rear. The red light or lantern required under this section shall be in addition to the red rear light required upon every vehicle. At any time there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of such load a red flag or cloth not less than twelve inches square and so hung that the entire area is visible to the driver of a vehicle approaching from the rear.

(WVaC 17C-1S-14)

345.07 LIGHTS ON PARKED OR STOPPED VEHICLES.

(a) Whenever a vehicle is lawfully parked upon a street or highway during the hours between sunset and sunrise and in the event there is sufficient light to reveal any person or object within a distance of 500 feet upon such street or highway no lights need be displayed upon such parked vehicle.

(b) Whenever a vehicle is parked or stopped upon a roadway or shoulder adjacent thereto, whether attended or unattended, during the hours between sunset and sunrise and there is not sufficient light to reveal any person or object within a distance of 500 feet

upon such street or highway, such vehicle so parked or stopped shall be equipped with one or more lamps meeting the following requirements: At least one lamp shall display a white or amber light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle, and the same lamp or at least one other lamp shall display a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear of the vehicle, and the location of such lamp or lamps shall always be such that at least one lamp or combination of lamps meeting the requirements of this section is installed as near as practicable to the side of the vehicle which is closest to passing traffic. The foregoing provisions shall not apply to a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped.

(c) Any lighted headlamps upon a parked vehicle shall be depressed or dimmed.
(WVaC 17C-15-15)

345.08 LIGHTS ON SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES.

All vehicles including animal-drawn vehicles and including those referred to in Section 345.01(c) not hereinbefore specifically required to be equipped with lamps, shall at the times specified in Section 345.02 be equipped with at least one lighted lamp or lantern exhibiting a white light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front of such vehicle and with a lamp or lantern exhibiting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear.
(WVaC 17C-15-16)

345.09 SPOTLIGHTS AND AUXILIARY LIGHTS.

(a) Spot Lamps. Any motor vehicle except a public utility company maintenance vehicle may be equipped with not to exceed one spot lamp and every lighted spot lamp shall be so aimed and used upon approaching another vehicle that no part of the high-intensity portion of the beam will be directed to the left of the prolongation of the extreme left side of the vehicle nor more than 100 feet ahead of the vehicle. A public utility company maintenance vehicle may be equipped with more than one spot lamp but all lighted spot lamps shall be aimed and used in conformity to the requirements of this subsection.

(b) Fog Lamps. Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not to exceed two fog lamps mounted on the front at a height not less than twelve inches nor more than thirty inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands and so aimed that when the vehicle is not loaded none of the high-intensity portion of the light to the left of the center of the vehicle shall at a distance of twenty-five feet ahead project higher than a level of four inches below the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes.

(c) Auxiliary Passing Lamp. Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not to exceed one auxiliary passing lamp mounted on the front at a height not less than twenty-four inches nor more than forty-two inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands and every auxiliary passing lamp shall meet the requirements and limitations set forth in this article.

(d) Auxiliary Driving Lamp. Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not to exceed one auxiliary driving lamp mounted on the front at a height not less than sixteen inches nor more than forty-two inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands and every such auxiliary driving lamp shall meet the requirements and limitations set forth in this article.

(WVaC 17C-15-17)

345.10 SIGNAL LAMPS AND SIGNAL DEVICES.

- (a) Any motor vehicle may be equipped and when required under this Traffic Code shall be equipped with the following signal lamps or devices:
- (1) A stop lamp on the rear which shall emit a red or yellow light and which shall be actuated upon application of the service (foot) brake and which may but need not be incorporated with a tail lamp.
 - (2) A lamp or lamps or mechanical signal device capable of clearly indicating any intention to turn either to the right or to the left and which shall be visible both from the front and rear.
- (b) A stop lamp shall be plainly visible and understandable from a distance of 100 feet to the rear both during normal sunlight and at nighttime and signal lamp or lamps indicating intention to turn shall be visible and understandable during daytime and nighttime from a distance of 100 feet both to the front and rear. When a vehicle is equipped with a stop lamp or other signal lamps, such lamp or lamps shall at all times be maintained in good working condition. No stop lamp or signal lamp shall project a glaring or dazzling light.
- (c) All mechanical signal devices shall be self-illuminated when in use at the times mentioned in Section 345.02.
(WVaC 17C-15-18)

345.11 COWL, FENDER AND BACK-UP LIGHTS; FLASHING HAZARD LIGHTS.

- (a) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two side cowl or fender lamps which shall emit an amber or white light without glare.
- (b) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than one running-board courtesy lamp on each side thereof which shall emit a white or amber light without glare.
- (c) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two back-up lamps either separately or in combination with other lamps, but any such back-up lamp shall not be lighted when the motor vehicle is in forward motion.
- (d) Any vehicle may be equipped with lamps which may be used for the purpose of warning the operators of other vehicles of the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring the exercise of unusual care in approaching, overtaking or passing, and when so equipped may display such warning in addition to any other warning signals required by this article. The lamps used to display such warning to the front shall be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and shall display simultaneously flashing white or amber lights, or any shade of color between white and amber. The lamps used to display such warning to the rear shall be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, and shall show simultaneously flashing amber or red lights or any shade of color between amber and red.
(WVaC 17C-15-19)

345.12 MULTIPLE-BEAM ROAD-LIGHTING EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS.

Except as hereinafter provided, the head lamps or the auxiliary driving lamp or the auxiliary passing lamp or combinations thereof on motor vehicles other than a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped shall be so arranged that the driver may select at will between distributions of light projected to different elevations and such lamps may, in addition, be so arranged that such selection can be made automatically, subject to the following limitations:

- (a) There shall be an uppermost distribution of light, or composite beam, so aimed and of such intensity as to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 350 feet ahead for all conditions of loading.

- (b) There shall be a lowermost distribution of light, or composite beam, so aimed and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 100 feet ahead; and on a straight level road under any condition of loading none of the high-intensity portion of the beam shall be directed to strike the eyes of an approaching driver.

- (c) Every new motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped, registered in the State after January 1, 1952, which has multiple-beam road-lighting equipment shall be equipped with a beam indicator, which shall be lighted whenever the uppermost distribution of light from the head lamps is in use, and shall not otherwise be lighted. Such indicator shall be so designed and located that when lighted it will be readily visible without glare to the driver of the vehicle so equipped.
(WVaC 17C-15-20)

345.13 USE OF HEADLIGHT BEAMS.

Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or shoulder adjacent thereto during the times specified in Section 345.02, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle, subject to the following requirements and limitations:

- (a) Whenever a driver of a vehicle approaches an oncoming vehicle within 500 feet, such driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, so aimed that the glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of the oncoming driver. The lowermost distribution of light, or composite beam specified in Section 345.12(b) shall be deemed to avoid glare at all times regardless of road contour and loading.

- (b) Whenever the driver of a vehicle follows another vehicle within 200 feet to the rear, except when engaged in the act of overtaking and passing, such driver shall use a distribution of light permissible under this Traffic Code other than the uppermost distribution of light specified in Section 345.12(a).
(WVaC 17C-15-21)

345.14 SINGLE-BEAM ROAD-LIGHTING EQUIPMENT.

Headlamps arranged to provide a single distribution of light shall be permitted on motor vehicles manufactured and sold prior to July 1, 1952 in lieu of multiple-beam road-lighting equipment herein specified if the single distribution of light complies with the following requirements and limitations:

- (a) The head lamps shall be so aimed that when the vehicle is not loaded none of the high-intensity portion of the light shall at a distance of twenty-five feet ahead project higher than a level of five inches below the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes, and in no case higher than forty-two inches above the level on which the vehicle stands at a distance of seventy-five feet ahead.

- (b) The intensity shall be sufficient to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 200 feet.
(WVaC 17C-15-22)

345.15 LIGHTS ON MOTORCYCLES, MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES AND MOPEDS.

The headlamp or head lamps upon every motorcycle, motor-driven cycle and moped may be of the single-beam or multiple-beam type but in either event shall comply with the requirements and limitations as follows:

- (a) Every such head lamp or head lamps shall be of sufficient intensity to reveal a person or a vehicle at a distance of not less than 100 feet when the motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped is operated at any speed less than twenty-five miles per hour and at a distance of not less than 200 feet when it is operated at a speed of twenty-five or more miles per hour.
- (b) In the event the motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped is equipped with a multiple-beam type head lamp or head lamps the upper beam shall meet the minimum requirements set forth above and shall not exceed the limitations set forth in Section 345.12(a) and the lowermost beam shall meet the requirements applicable to a lowermost distribution of light as set forth in Section 345.12(b).
- (c) In the event the motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped is equipped with a single-beam lamp or lamps such lamp or lamps shall be so aimed that when the vehicle is loaded none of the high-intensity portion of light, at a distance of twenty-five feet ahead, shall project higher than the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes.
(WVaC 17C-15-23)

345.16 ALTERNATE ROAD-LIGHTING EQUIPMENT.

Any motor vehicle may be operated under the conditions specified in Section 345.02 when equipped with two lighted lamps upon the front thereof capable of revealing persons and objects seventy-five feet ahead in lieu of lamps required in Section 345.12, or Section 345.14, provided that at no time shall it be operated at a speed in excess of twenty miles per hour.
(WVaC 17C-15-24)

345.17 NUMBER OF DRIVING LIGHTS REQUIRED OR PERMITTED.

- (a) At all times specified in Section 345.02 at least two lighted lamps shall be displayed, one on each side at the front of every motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped, except when such vehicle is parked subject to the regulations governing lights on parked vehicles.
- (b) Whenever a motor vehicle equipped with head lamps as herein required is also equipped with any auxiliary lamps or a spot lamp or any other lamp on the front thereof projecting a beam of intensity greater than 300 candlepower, not more than a total of four of any such lamps on the front of a vehicle shall be lighted at any one time when upon a street or highway.
(WVaC 17C-15-25)

345.18 SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS ON LIGHTS.

- (a) Any lighted lamp or illuminating device upon a motor vehicle other than head lamps, spot lamps, auxiliary lamps or flashing front-direction signals which projects a beam of light of an intensity greater than 300 candlepower shall be so directed that no part of the beam will strike the level of the roadway on which the vehicle stands at a distance of more than seventy-five feet from the vehicle.
- (b) No person shall drive or move any vehicle or equipment upon any street or highway with any lamp or device thereon displaying other than a white or amber light visible from directly in front of the center thereof except as authorized by subsection (d) hereof.
- (c) Except as authorized in Section 345.11 flashing lights are prohibited on motor vehicles, except on an authorized emergency vehicle, school bus, snow removal equipment or on any vehicle as a means for indicating right or left turn, or on any vehicle as a means of indicating the same is disabled or otherwise stopped for an emergency.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Traffic Code, the following colors of flashing warning lights are restricted for the use of the type of vehicle designated:
- (1) Blue flashing warning lights are restricted to police vehicles, except as authorized by West Virginia Code 17C-15-27.
 - (2) Except as authorized by Section 345.11 and West Virginia Code 17C-15-27, red flashing warning lights are restricted to ambulances, fire-fighting vehicles, school buses, Class A vehicles, as defined by West Virginia Code 17A-10-1, of those volunteer firemen who are authorized by their fire chiefs to have such lights and to Class A vehicles of members of volunteer ambulance services or duly chartered rescue squads who are authorized by their respective chiefs to have such lights, provided that red flashing warning lights attached to such Class A vehicles may be operated only when responding to or engaged in handling an emergency requiring the attention of such volunteer firemen or members of such volunteer ambulance service or chartered rescue squads. Authorization for members of ambulance services or any other emergency medical service personnel to operate Class A vehicles shall be designated by their chief official, the Department of Health and Human Resources and the sheriff of the county of residence. Authorization for members of duly chartered rescue squads not operating out of a fire department to operate Class A vehicles shall be designated by their squad chiefs, the sheriff of the county of residence and the Department of Health and Human Resources.
 - (3) All other emergency vehicles, including tow trucks and wreckers, authorized by this Traffic Code and by West Virginia Code 17C-15-27 shall be restricted to amber or yellow flashing warning lights. Authorization for tow trucks, wreckers, flag car services, vehicles providing road service to disabled vehicles, service vehicles of a public service corporation, and postal service vehicles shall be designated by the sheriff of the county of residence. Authorization for snow removal equipment shall be designated by the Commissioner of the Division of Highways.

(e) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, any vehicle belonging to a county board of education may be equipped with a white flashing strobotron warning light. This strobe light may be installed on the roof of a school bus not to exceed one-third the body length forward from the rear of the roof edge. The light shall have a single clear lens emitting light 360 degrees around its vertical axis and may not extend above the roof more than six and one-half inches. A manual switch and a pilot light must be included to indicate the light is in operation. No person shall install or use flashing warning lights of an unauthorized color on a vehicle other than as specified in this section, except that a police vehicle may be equipped with either or both blue or red warning lights.

(WVaC 17C-15-26)

345.19 MOTOR VEHICLE OR MOTORCYCLE BRAKES.

(a) Brake Equipment Required.

- (1) Every motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped, when operated upon a street or highway shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold such vehicle, including two separate means of applying the brakes, each of which means shall be effective to apply the brakes to at least two wheels. If these two separate means of applying the brakes are connected in any way, they shall be so constructed that failure of any one part of the operating mechanism shall not leave the motor vehicle without brakes on at least two wheels.
- (2) Every motorcycle, motor-driven cycle and moped, when operated upon a street or highway, shall be equipped with at least one brake which may be operated by hand or foot.
- (3) Every trailer or semi trailer of a gross weight of 3,000 pounds or more when operated upon a street or highway shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and to hold such vehicle and so designed as to be applied by the driver of the towing motor vehicle from its cab, and such brakes shall be so designed and connected that in case of an accidental breakaway of the towed vehicle the brakes shall be automatically applied.
- (4) Every new motor vehicle, trailer or semi trailer hereinafter sold in this State and operated upon the streets or highways shall be equipped with service brakes upon all wheels, with the following exceptions: A. Trucks and truck-tractors having three or more axles need not have brakes on the front wheels, except when such vehicles are equipped with at least two steerable axles, the wheels of one such axle need not be equipped with brakes, and B. Any motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped and any semi trailer of less than 1,500 pounds gross weight need not be equipped with brakes.
- (5) In any combination of motor-driven vehicles, means shall be provided for applying the rearmost trailer brakes, of any trailer equipped with brakes, in approximate synchronism with the brakes on the towing vehicle and developing the required braking effort on the rearmost wheels at the

fastest rate; or means shall be provided for applying braking effort first on the rearmost trailer equipped with brakes; or both of the above means capable of being used alternatively may be employed.

- (6) Every such vehicle and combination of vehicles, except motorcycles, motor-driven cycles and mopeds, shall be equipped with parking brakes adequate to hold the vehicle on any grade on which it is operated, under all conditions of loading on a surface free from snow, ice or loose material. The parking brakes shall be capable of being applied in conformance with the foregoing requirements by the driver's muscular effort or by spring action or by equivalent means. Their operation may be assisted by the service brakes or other source of power provided that failure of the service brake actuation system or other power assisting mechanism will not prevent the parking brakes from being applied in conformance with the foregoing requirements. The parking brakes shall be so designed that when once applied they shall remain applied with the required effectiveness despite exhaustion of any source of energy or leakage of any kind. The same brake drums, brake shoes and lining assemblies, brake shoe anchors and mechanical brake shoe actuation mechanism normally associated with the wheel brake- assemblies may be used for both the service brakes and the parking brakes. If the means of applying the parking brakes and the service brakes are connected in any way, they shall be so constructed that a failure of any one part shall not leave the vehicle without operative brakes.
- (7) The brake shoes operating within or upon the drums on the vehicle wheels of any motor vehicle may be used for both service and hand operation.

(b) Performance Ability of Brakes. Every motor vehicle or combination of motor-drawn vehicles shall be capable, at all times and under all conditions of loading, of being stopped on a dry, smooth, level road free from loose material, upon application of the service (foot) brake, within the distances specified below, or shall be capable of being decelerated at a sustained rate corresponding to these distances:

	<u>Feet to stop from 20 miles per hour</u>	<u>Deceleration in feet per second</u>
Vehicle or combinations of vehicles having brakes on all wheels	30	14
Vehicles or combinations of vehicles not having brakes on all wheels	40	10.7

(c) Maintenance of Brakes. All brakes shall be maintained in good working order and shall be so adjusted as to operate as equally as practicable with respect to the wheels on opposite sides of the vehicle.
(WVaC 17C-15-31)

345.20 INSPECTION OF BRAKES ON MOTORCYCLES, MOTORDRIVEN CYCLES AND MOPEDS.

No person shall operate on any street or highway any motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped in the event the Commissioner of Highways has disapproved the brake equipment upon such vehicle or type of vehicle.

(WVaC 17C-15-32)

345.21 HORN, SIREN AND THEFT ALARM SIGNAL.

(a) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a street or highway shall be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 200 feet, but no horn or other warning device shall emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle. The driver of a motor vehicle shall when reasonably necessary to insure safe operation give audible warning with his horn but shall not otherwise use such horn when upon a street or highway.

(b) No vehicle shall be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a vehicle any siren, whistle or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section.

(c) It is permissible but not required that any commercial vehicle be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal. Any authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a siren, whistle or bell, capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 500 feet and of a type approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles, but such siren shall not be used except when such vehicle is operated in response to an emergency or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, in which such latter events the driver of such vehicle shall sound such siren when reasonably necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the approach thereof.

(WVaC 17C-15-33)

345.22 MUFFLER; MUFFLER CUTOUT; EXCESSIVE SMOKE, GAS OR NOISE.

(a) Every motor vehicle shall at all times be equipped with a muffler in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise. Such muffler shall be the muffler originally installed by the manufacturer of the vehicle or, if a replacement, the equivalent thereof. No person shall use a muffler cutout, bypass or similar device upon a motor vehicle on a street or highway.

(b) The engine and power mechanism of every motor vehicle shall be so equipped and adjusted as to prevent the escape of excessive fumes or smoke.

(WVaC 17C-15-34)

345.23 REAR-VIEW MIRROR.

Every motor vehicle which is so constructed or loaded as to obstruct the driver's view to the rear thereof from the driver's position shall be equipped with a mirror so located as to reflect to the driver a view of the street or highway for a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of such vehicle.

(WVaC 17C-15-35)

345.24 WINDSHIELD TO BE UNOBSTRUCTED; WINDSHIELD WIPER.

(a) No person shall drive any motor vehicle with any sign, poster or other nontransparent material upon the front windshield, side wings or side or rear windows of such vehicle which obstructs the driver's clear view of the street or highway or any intersecting street or highway.

(b) The windshield on every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a device for cleaning rain, snow or other moisture from the windshield, which device shall be so constructed as to be controlled or operated by the driver of the vehicle.

(c) Every windshield wiper upon a motor vehicle shall be maintained in good working order.

(WVaC 17C-15-36)

345.25 TIRE EQUIPMENT RESTRICTIONS.

(a) Every solid rubber tire on a vehicle shall have rubber on its entire traction surface at least one inch thick above the edge of the flange of the entire periphery.

(b) No person shall operate or move on any highway any motor vehicle, trailer or semi trailer having any metal tire in contact with the roadway.

(c) No tire on a vehicle moved on a highway shall have on its periphery any block, stud, flange, cleat or spike or any other protuberance of any material other than rubber which projects beyond the tread of the traction surface of the tire, except that:

- (1) It shall be permissible to use farm machinery with tires having protuberances which will not injure the street or highway;
- (2) It shall be permissible to use tire chains of reasonable proportions upon any vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid; and
- (3) It shall be permissible to use studded tires during the period from November 1, of each year until April 15 of the following year. Provided that in the interest of highway maintenance, no vehicle moved on a street or highway, other than school buses, shall be equipped with studded tires which are operational with a recommended air pressure greater than forty pounds per square inch.

(d) No studded tires or chains shall be sold or used within the Municipality which do not meet the specifications established by the rules and regulations which the Commissioner of Highways shall promulgate.

(e) Council may in its discretion issue special permits authorizing the operation upon the street or highway of traction engines or tractors having movable tracks with transverse corrugations upon the periphery of such movable tracks or farm tractors or other farm machinery, the operation of which upon a highway would otherwise be prohibited under this Traffic Code.

(WVaC 17C-15-37)

345.26 SAFETY GLASS IN MOTOR VEHICLES.

(a) On and after July 1, 1951, no person shall operate any motor vehicle as specified herein, nor shall any motor vehicle as specified herein be registered thereafter unless such vehicle is equipped with safety glass of a type approved by the Commissioner of Highways wherever glass is used in doors, windows and windshields. The foregoing provisions shall apply to all passenger-type motor vehicles, including passenger buses and school buses, but in respect to trucks, including truck tractors, the requirements as to safety glass shall apply to all glass used in doors, windows, and windshields in the drivers' compartments of such vehicles.

(b) The term "safety glass" shall mean any product composed of glass, so manufactured, fabricated or treated as substantially to prevent shattering and flying of the glass when struck or broken, or such other or similar product as may be approved by the Commissioner.

(WVaC 17C-15-38)

345.27 VEHICLES TRANSPORTING EXPLOSIVES.

Any person operating any vehicle transporting any explosive as a cargo or part of a cargo upon a street or highway shall at all times comply with the provisions of this section.

(a) Such vehicle shall be marked or placarded on each side and the rear with the word "Explosives" in letters not less than eight inches high, or there shall be displayed on the rear of such vehicle a red flag not less than twenty-four inches square marked with the word "Danger" in white letters six inches high.

(b) Every such vehicle shall be equipped with not less than two fire extinguishers, filled and ready for immediate use and placed at a convenient point on the vehicle so used.

(WVaC 17C-15-41)

345.28 TELEVISION RECEIVER IN DRIVER'S VIEW PROHIBITED.

No motor vehicle shall be operated on any street or highway in this Municipality when equipped with a television receiver unless such receiver is so placed that the screen or picture tube of such receiver is visible only in the rear seat of such motor vehicle and not in view of the operator of such motor vehicle.

(WVaC 17C-15-42)

345.29 SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR MOTORCYCLISTS, MOTORCYCLES, MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES AND MOPEDS.

(a) No person shall operate or be a passenger on any motorcycle or motor-driven cycle unless he is wearing securely fastened on his head by either a neck or chin strap a protective helmet designed to deflect blows, resist penetration and spread impact forces. Any helmet worn by an operator or passenger shall meet the current performance specifications established by the American National Standards Institute Standard, Z 90.1, the United States Department of Transportation Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 218 or Snell Safety Standards for Protective Headgear for Vehicle Users.

(b) No person shall operate or be a passenger on any motorcycle or motor-driven cycle unless he is wearing safety, shatter-resistant eyeglasses (excluding contact lenses), or eye goggles or face shield that complies with the performance specifications established by the American National Standards Institute for Head, Eye and Respiratory

Protection, Z 2.1. In addition, if any motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped is equipped with a windshield or windscreen, the windshield or windscreen shall be constructed of safety, shatter-resistant material that complies with the performance specifications established by Department of Transportation Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 205 and American National Standards Institute, Safety Glazing Materials for Glazing Motor Vehicles Operated on Land Highways, Standard Z 26.1.

(c) No person shall operate a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped on which the handlebars or grips are more than fifteen inches higher than the uppermost part of the operator's seat when the seat is not depressed in any manner.

(d) A person operating a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped shall ride in a seated position facing forward and only upon a permanent operator's seat attached to the vehicle. No operator shall carry any other person nor shall any other person ride on such a vehicle unless the vehicle is designed to carry more than one person, in which event a passenger may ride behind the operator upon the permanent operator's seat if it is designed for two persons, or upon another seat firmly attached to the vehicle to the rear of the operator's seat and equipped with footrests designed and located for use by the passenger or in a sidecar firmly attached to the vehicle. No person shall ride sidesaddle on a seat. An operator may carry as many passengers as there are seats and footrests to accommodate those passengers. Additional passengers may be carried in a factory produced sidecar provided that there is one passenger per seat. Passengers riding in a sidecar shall be restrained by safety belts.

(e) Every motorcycle, motor-driven cycle and moped shall be equipped with a rearview mirror affixed to the handlebars and adjusted so that the operator shall have a clear view of the road and condition of traffic behind him for a distance of at least 200 feet.

(WVaC 17C-15-44)

345.30 CERTIFICATION LABELS ON MOPEDS.

Every moped sold in this Municipality shall have permanently affixed to it a certification label which shall contain the following information:

- (a) Name of manufacturer;
- (b) Month and year of manufacture;
- (c) Gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR);
- (d) Gross axle weight rating for front and rear axles (GAWR);
- (e) Vehicle identification number;
- (f) Classification type; and
- (g) Statement of conformance to Federal standards as required by Federal law.

(WVaC 17C-15-45)

345.31 CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY DEVICE REQUIRED.

Every driver who transports a child under the age of eight years in a passenger automobile, van or pickup truck other than one operated for hire shall, while such motor vehicle is in motion and operated on a street or highway of this Municipality, provide for the protection of such child by properly placing, maintaining and securing such child in a child passenger safety device system meeting applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards: provided, that if such child is under the age of eight years and at least four feet nine inches tall, a safety belt shall be sufficient to meet the requirements of this section. Whoever violates this section shall be fined not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) or more than twenty dollars (\$20.00). A violation of this section shall not be deemed by virtue of such violation to constitute evidence of negligence or contributory negligence or comparative negligence in any civil action or proceeding for damages. If all seat belts in a vehicle are being used at the time of examination by a law officer and the vehicle contains more passengers than the total number of seat belts or other safety devices as installed in compliance with Federal motor vehicle safety standards, the driver shall not be considered as violating this section. (WVaC 17C-15-46)
(Passed 4-24-07)

345.32 CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION AND APPROVAL.

No owner or operator of any vehicle required to be inspected under West Virginia Code Article 17C-16 shall operate or permit to be operated such vehicle without having displayed thereon a current and valid certificate of inspection and approval or fail to produce same upon demand of any authorized person as therein designated.
(WVaC 17C-16-9)

345.33 ALTERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES; BUMPER HEIGHT LIMITS.

(a) No person shall operate upon a public street or highway any motor vehicle registered or required to be registered in this State if it has been modified by alteration of its height from the ground to the extent that its bumpers, measured to any point on the lower edge of the main horizontal bumper bar, exclusive of any bumper guards, do not fall within the limits specified herein for its gross vehicle weight rating category. The front and rear bumper height of motor vehicles whose gross vehicle weight rating is 10,000 pounds or less shall be no less than six inches and no more than thirty-one inches. In the absence of bumpers, and in cases where bumper heights have been altered or modified, height measurements shall be made to the bottom of the frame rail. If a motor vehicle has a bumper, the bumper must be at least three inches in vertical width, centered on the centerline of the motor vehicle and not less than the width of the wheel track distance. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating in excess of 10,000 pounds. For the purpose of this subsection, the term "gross vehicle weight ratings" means the manufacturer's gross vehicle weight ratings established for that vehicle.

- (b) The maximum distance between the vehicle body to the vehicle frame shall not exceed three inches. The distance from the vehicle body to the vehicle frame shall be measured from the vehicle body mount seat to the vehicle frame mount seat: provided, that the maximum distance limitation shall not prohibit a body lift kit up to three inches to be added to the manufacturer's original spacer between the body and the frame. No vehicle shall be modified to cause the vehicle body or chassis to come in contact with the ground, expose the fuel tank to damage from collision, or cause the wheels to come in contact with the body under normal operation. No part of the original suspension system may be disconnected to defeat the safe operation of the suspension system. Modification of the front-end suspension by the use of lift blocks is expressly prohibited.
- (c) Nothing contained in this section prevents the installation of heavy-duty equipment, including shock absorbers and overload springs.
- (d) Nothing contained in this section prohibits the operation on a public street or highway of a motor vehicle with normal wear to the suspension system if such normal wear does not adversely affect the control of the vehicle.
- (e) This section does not apply to specially designed or modified motor vehicles when operated off the public streets and highways in races and similar events. Such motor vehicles may be lawfully towed on the streets and highways of this Municipality.
- (f) Modifications to motor vehicles, not prohibited herein, shall be made subject to inspection as provided in subsection (h) hereof.
- (g) Nothing contained in this section shall subject a vehicle modified solely by the installation of tires not larger than two sizes beyond the maximum specified by the manufacturer to inspection as provided in subsection (h) hereof.
- (h) Any motor vehicle which has been altered from the manufacturer's specification with respect to bumper height for that vehicle make and model but within the allowable limits of subsection (a) hereof or any motor vehicle which has been altered from the manufacturer's specification for that vehicle make and model with respect to the distance from the vehicle body to vehicle frame but within the allowable limits of subsection (b) hereof may be operated upon a public street or highway in this Municipality, subject to inspection under West Virginia Code 17C-15-48: provided, that any motor vehicle which has been altered from the manufacturer's specification by lowering the bumper height for that vehicle make and model within the allowable limits of subsection (a) hereof shall be exempt from the inspection requirements hereunder and may be operated upon a public street or highway in this Municipality subject to provisions of West Virginia Code Chapter 17C-16. Each municipal law-enforcement agency must record on accident report forms whether a modified vehicle was involved in the accident.
(WVaC 17C-15-48)

345.34 SUN-SCREENING DEVICES.

- (a) No person may operate a motor vehicle that is registered or required to be registered in the State on any public highway, road or street that has a sun screening device on the windshield, the front side wings and side windows adjacent to the right and left of the driver and windows adjacent to the rear of the driver that do not meet the requirements of this section.
- (b) A sun-screening device when used in conjunction with the windshield must be non-reflective and may not be red, yellow or amber in color. A sun-screening device may be used only along the top of the windshield and may not extend downward beyond the ASI line or more than five inches from the top of the windshield whichever is closer to the top of the windshield.
- (c) A sun screening device when used in conjunction with the automotive safety glazing materials of the side wings or side windows located at the immediate right and left of the driver shall be a non-reflective type with reflectivity of not more than twenty percent (20%) and have a light transmission of not less than thirty-five percent (35%). The side windows behind the driver and the rear most windows may have a sun screening device that is designed to be used on automotive safety glazing materials that has a light transmission of not less than thirty-five percent (35%) and a reflectivity of not more than twenty percent (20%). If a sun-screening device is used on glazing behind the driver, one right and one left outside rear view mirror is required.
- (d) Each manufacturer shall:
- (1) Certify to the Division of Public Safety and Division of Motor Vehicles that a sun-screening device used by it is in compliance with the reflectivity and transmittance requirements of this section;
 - (2) Provide a label not to exceed one and one-half square inches in size, with a means for the permanent and legible installations between the sun-screening material and each glazing surface to which it is applied that contains the manufacturer's name and its percentage of light transmission; and
 - (3) Include instructions with the product or material for proper installation, including the affixing of the label specified in this section. The labeling or marking must be placed in the left lower corner of each glazing surface when facing the vehicle from the outside.

- (e) No person shall:
- (1) Offer for sale or for use any sun screening product or material for motor vehicle use not in compliance with this section; or
 - (2) Install any sun-screening product or material on vehicles intended for use on public roads without permanently affixing the label specified in this section.
- (f) The provisions of this section do not apply to a motor vehicle registered in this State in the name of a person, or the person's legal guardian, who has an affidavit signed by a physician or an optometrist licensed to practice in this State that states that the person has a physical condition that makes it necessary to equip the motor vehicle with sun screening material which would be of a light transmittance or luminous reflectance in violation of this section. The affidavit must be in the possession of the person so afflicted, or the person's legal guardian, at all times while being transported in the motor vehicle.
- (g) The light transmittance requirement of this section does not apply to windows behind the driver on trucks, buses, trailers, mobile homes and multipurpose passenger vehicles.
- (h) As used in this section:
- (1) "Bus" means a motor vehicle with motive power, except a trailer, designed for carrying more than ten persons.
 - (2) "Light transmission" means the ratio of the amount of total light to pass through a product or material to the amount of the total light falling on the product or material.
 - (3) "Luminous reflectants" means the ratio of the amount of total light that is reflected outward by the product or material to the amount of the total light falling on the product or materials.
 - (4) "Manufacturer" means any person engaged in the manufacturing or assembling of sun screening products or materials designed to be used in conjunction with vehicle glazing materials for the purpose of reducing the effects of the sun.
 - (5) "Motor homes" means vehicular units designed to provide temporary living quarters built into and an integral part of or permanently attached to a self-propelled motor vehicle chassis.
 - (6) "Multipurpose passenger vehicle" means a motor vehicle with motive power, except a trailer, designed to carry ten persons or less which is constructed either on a truck chassis or with special features for occasional off road operation.
 - (7) "Non-reflective" means a product or material designed to absorb light rather than to reflect it.

- (8) "Passenger car" means a motor vehicle with motive power, except a multipurpose passenger vehicle, motorcycle or trailer, designed for carrying ten persons or less.
- (9) "Sun screening device" means film material or device that is designed to be used in conjunction with motor vehicle safety glazing materials for reducing the effects of the sun.
- (10) "Truck" means a motor vehicle with motive power, except a trailer, designed primarily for the transportation of property or special purpose equipment.
(WVaC 17C-15-36a)

345.35 OPERATION OF VEHICLES WITH SAFETY BELTS.

- (a) A person shall not operate a passenger vehicle on a public street or highway unless the person, any passenger in the back seat under eighteen years of age, and any passenger in the front seat of such passenger vehicle is restrained by a safety belt meeting applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards. For the purposes of this section, "passenger vehicle" means a motor vehicle which is designed for transporting ten passengers or less, including the driver, except that such term does not include a motorcycle, a trailer or any motor vehicle which is not required on the date of the enactment of this section under a federal motor vehicle safety standard to be equipped with a belt system. The provisions of this section shall apply to all passenger vehicles manufactured after the first day of January, 1967, and being 1968 models and newer.
- (b) The required use of safety belts as provided herein does not apply to a duly appointed or contracted rural mail carrier of the United States Postal Service who is actually making mail deliveries or to a passenger or operator with a physically disabling condition whose physical disability would prevent appropriate restraint in such safety belt if the condition is duly certified by a physician who shall state the nature of the disability as well as the reason such restraint is inappropriate.
- (c) A violation of this section is not admissible as evidence of negligence or contributory negligence or comparative negligence in any civil action or proceeding for damages, and shall not be admissible in mitigation of damages: provided, that the court may, upon motion of the defendant, conduct an in camera hearing to determine whether an injured party's failure to wear a safety belt was a proximate cause of the injuries complained of. Upon such a finding by the court, the court may then, in a jury trial, by special interrogatory to the jury, determine (1) that the injured party failed to wear a safety belt, and (2) that the failure to wear the safety belt constituted a failure to mitigate damages. The trier of fact may reduce the injured party's recovery for medical damages by an amount not to exceed five percent (5%) thereof. In the event the plaintiff stipulates to the reduction of five percent (5%) of medical damages, the court shall make the calculations and the issue of mitigation of damages for failure to wear a safety belt shall not be presented to the jury. In all cases, the actual computation of the dollar amount reduction shall be determined by the court.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code to the contrary, no points may be entered on any driver's record maintained by the Division of Motor Vehicles because of a violation of this section.

(e) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to abrogate or alter the provisions of Section 345.31 relating to the mandatory use of child passenger safety devices.

(WvaC 17C-15-49)

(f) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be fined not more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). No court costs or other fees shall be assessed for a violation of this section. Enforcement of this section shall be accomplished only as a secondary action when a driver of a passenger vehicle has been detained for probable cause of violating another section of this code.

345.99 PENALTY.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 303.99 for general Traffic Code penalty.)