

SHORT TITLE: Motor vehicles; providing optional safety device for towing. Effective date.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

SENATE BILL NO. 1009

By: Muegge of the Senate

and

Covey of the House

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to motor vehicles amending 47 O.S. 1991, Section 12-405, which relates to equipment required; providing an optional safety device for towing; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 1991, Section 12-405, is amended to read as follows:

Section 12-405. ~~(a)~~ 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)~~ B. No person shall operate or move on any hard-surfaced highway any motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer having any metal tire in contact with the roadway, except when authorized by special permit as required by law.

~~(c)~~ 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 it shall be permissible to use farm machinery with tires having protuberances which will not injure the highway, and except also that 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 it shall further be permissible for pneumatic tires equipped with metal or porcelain studs to be sold and used in this state if so constructed that not more than three percent (3%) in the aggregate of the traction surface of such tire be composed of metal studs and if such studs do not project more than 3/32 of one inch beyond the tread of the traction surface of such tire and have a rate of wear which will so limit such projection and it shall further be permissible for pneumatic tires having on their periphery studs of metal or other material installed in such a manner as to provide resiliency upon contact with the road and so as not to project more than 3/32 of an inch beyond the tread of the traction surface of the tire, and so constructed that not more than three percent (3%) in the aggregate of the traction surface of such tire be composed of such studs, to be sold and used in this state; provided, however, that ~~(a) their:~~

1. Their use shall be limited to vehicles with rated capacities up to and including two tons; ~~(b) no~~

2. No tire so equipped shall be used on a public highway earlier than November 1 of each year or later than April 1 of the following year; and ~~(c) copies~~

3. Copies of this subsection shall be posted in all places at which tires are sold, and a printed or written warning on the time limitation for the use of such studded tires shall be furnished each buyer, purchaser, or user by the seller of such studded tires.

~~(d)~~ D. The Department of Public Safety and local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may in their discretion issue special permits authorizing the operation upon a 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 section.

~~(e)~~ E. Every trailer, semitrailer or manufactured home shall be equipped with a coupling device which shall be so designed and constructed that the trailer, semitrailer or manufactured home will follow substantially in the path of the vehicle drawing it without whipping or swerving from side to side. In addition, every such trailer, semitrailer or manufactured home, except a semitrailer drawn by a truck-tractor type designed to draw or support the front end of a semitrailer, shall be coupled with ~~stay~~:

1. Stay chains or cables to the vehicle by which it is being drawn, which chains or cable shall be of sufficient size and strength to prevent parting from the drawing vehicle, should the regular coupling device break or become otherwise disengaged; or

2. A safety device other than chains or cables which provides strength, security of attachment and directional stability equal to or greater than that provided by safety chains and which prevent parting from the drawing vehicle should the regular coupling device break or otherwise become disengaged. This device shall be designed, constructed, and installed so that if the tow-bar fails or becomes disconnected the tow-bar will not drop to the ground.

~~(f)~~ F. No fuel tank or intake pipe on any motor vehicle shall project beyond the side of the motor vehicle. In no case shall the fuel tank or fuel intake pipe on any bus be located within or above the passenger-carrying portion of the bus.

~~(g)~~ G. Any gasoline tank carried upon a motor vehicle, including any auxiliary tank, shall be of substantial construction, permanently attached to the motor vehicle in a manner similar to that which constitutes good practice in permanent installations.

~~(h)~~ H. On every bus operating outside the corporate limits of municipalities, truck, or truck-tractor transporting persons or property for hire shall be at least one fire extinguisher with physical characteristics and fire extinguishing ability equivalent to or better than fire extinguishers which qualify under

Classification "b" of the Standards of Underwriters Laboratories, Incorporated, or recognized testing laboratories. The extinguisher shall utilize an extinguishing agent which does not need protection from freezing and shall be properly filled and securely mounted in a bracket. The minimum size shall be one 4-pound carbon dioxide type (CO₂), a 4-pound dry chemical, or extinguisher of other types having extinguishing capacity equivalent to any of these types, excluding carbon tetrachloride. If two extinguishers are used, they shall be of not less than two and one-half (2 1/2) pounds each. This requirement shall not apply to any bus having a seating capacity of eight or less persons or any drive-away, tow-away operations.

~~(i)~~ I. Every bus which is licensed for the express purpose of transporting persons for hire, and having a seating capacity of ten or more persons, and operating outside the corporate limits of municipalities shall have at least one hand axe and one metal first-aid kit, heavy-duty, ten-unit size.

~~(j)~~ J. All trucks, trailers, and other vehicles operating on the highways, except animal-drawn vehicles, not equipped with fenders over the rearmost wheels shall have attached thereto a rubber or fabric apron directly in rear of the rearmost wheels, and hanging perpendicular from the body of the vehicle. Said apron shall be of such a size as to prevent the bulk of the spray or other substances picked up from the roadway from being thrown on the windshield of a following vehicle and thereby obscuring the vision through the windshield of the driver of said vehicle. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a farm tractor moving over the state highway system at a speed less than twenty (20) miles per hour.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 1998.

