

**MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 300 of 1949**

**257.21 “Implement of husbandry” defined.**

Sec. 21. “Implement of husbandry” means a vehicle which is either a farm tractor, a vehicle designed to be drawn by a farm tractor or an animal, a vehicle which directly harvests farm products, or a vehicle which directly applies fertilizer, spray, or seeds to a farm field.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 1964, Act 13, Imd. Eff. Mar. 25, 1964;—Am. 1967, Act 93, Imd. Eff. June 21, 1967;—Am. 1985, Act 32, Imd. Eff. June 13, 1985.

**MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 300 of 1949**

**257.216 Vehicles subject to registration and certificate of title provisions; exceptions.**

Sec. 216. Every motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer, when driven or moved on a street or highway, is subject to the registration and certificate of title provisions of this act except the following:

(a) A vehicle driven or moved on a street or highway in conformance with the provisions of this act relating to manufacturers, transporters, dealers, or nonresidents.

(b) A vehicle that is driven or moved on a street or highway only for the purpose of crossing that street or highway from 1 property to another.

(c) An implement of husbandry.

(d) Special mobile equipment. The secretary of state may issue a special registration to an individual, partnership, corporation, or association not licensed as a dealer that pays the required fee, to identify special mobile equipment that is driven or moved on a street or highway.

(e) A vehicle that is propelled exclusively by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires though not operated on rails.

(f) Any vehicle subject to registration, but owned by the government of the United States.

(g) A certificate of title is not required for a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that weighs less than 2,500 pounds.

(h) A vehicle driven or moved on a street or highway, by the most direct route, only for the purpose of securing a scale weight receipt from a weighmaster for purposes of section 801 or obtaining a vehicle inspection by a law enforcement agency before titling or registration of that vehicle.

(i) A certificate of title is not required for a vehicle owned by a manufacturer or dealer and held for sale or lease, even though incidentally moved on a street or highway or used for purposes of testing or demonstration.

(j) A bus or a school bus that is not self-propelled and is used exclusively as a construction shanty.

(k) A certificate of title is not required for a moped.

(l) For 3 days immediately following the date of a properly assigned title or signed lease agreement from any person other than a dealer, a registration is not required for a vehicle driven or moved on a street or highway for the sole purpose of transporting the vehicle by the most direct route from the place of purchase or lease to a place of storage if the driver has in his or her possession the assigned title showing the date of sale or a lease agreement showing the date of the lease.

(m) A certificate of registration is not required for a pickup camper, but a certificate of title is required.

(n) A new motor vehicle driven or moved on a street or highway only for the purpose of moving the vehicle from an accident site to a storage location if the vehicle was being transported on a railroad car or semitrailer that was involved in a disabling accident.

(o) A boat lift used for transporting vessels between a marina or a body of water and a place of inland storage.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 1951, Act 69, Eff. Sept. 28, 1951;—Am. 1953, Act 110, Eff. Oct. 2, 1953;—Am. 1957, Act 110, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1957;—Am. 1959, Act 155, Eff. Mar. 19, 1960;—Am. 1964, Act 248, Eff. Jan. 1, 1965;—Am. 1968, Act 139, Imd. Eff. June 11, 1968;—Am. 1974, Act 70, Eff. Apr. 1, 1975;—Am. 1976, Act 74, Imd. Eff. Apr. 11, 1976;—Am. 1976, Act 439, Imd. Eff. Jan. 13, 1977;—Am. 1981, Act 75, Imd. Eff. June 30, 1981;—Am. 1983, Act 186, Imd. Eff. Oct. 25, 1983;—Am. 1985, Act 32, Imd. Eff. June 13, 1985;—Am. 1988, Act 214, Imd. Eff. June 30, 1988;—Am. 1989, Act 286, Imd. Eff. Dec. 26, 1989;—Am. 1990, Act 98, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991;—Am. 1992, Act 102, Imd. Eff. June 25, 1992;—Am. 1996, Act 141, Imd. Eff. Mar. 25, 1996;—Am. 2002, Act 642, Eff. Jan. 1, 2003;—Am. 2008, Act 539, Imd. Eff. Jan. 13, 2009;—Am. 2009, Act 32, Eff. Dec. 1, 2009.

UD-40 (2/90)  
MEMORANDUMSTATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

DATE: October 21, 1998

**TO:** All Motor Carrier Division Members

**FROM:** Insp. Charles J. Culton, Assistant Commander,  
Motor Carrier Division

**SUBJECT:** Registration Enforcement of Wrecker Plates and Implement of Husbandry

This correspondence is to clarify the use of a wrecker displaying wrecker plates and Implement of Husbandry pulling a trailer.

Wrecker Plates

A flatbed wrecker displaying a wrecker plate cannot carry loads other than vehicles. The definition of a wrecker as found in the Motor Vehicle Code, Section 257.79a, reads:

*Wrecker means a truck with a hoist, towing apparatus, or self loading flatbed, or any combinations of these items, permanently affixed to the truck, used to transport not more than 2 vehicles, except for a motor vehicle equipped with a fifth wheel or motor vehicle that tows the second vehicle on a trailer.*

In an interpretation/position paper, Department of State, Compliance and Rules Division, ruled that a wrecker plate could not be used on a flatbed wrecker to haul a load of non-vehicles. An EGWW plate must be used to haul such a load.

Implements of Husbandry

A vehicle, which directly applies fertilizer or spray, can pull a trailer with a load while operating on the highway without registration plates.

The definition of a Implement of husbandry as found in the Motor Vehicle Code, Section 257.21, includes a vehicle which directly applies fertilizer, spray, or seeds to a farm field. Section 257.216, specifically lists vehicles, which are exempt from registration requirements and title; and Subsection (c), clearly states, "an Implement of husbandry". Department of State, Compliance and Rules Division advised that there is no requirement for an implement of husbandry to be registered if it is pulling a trailer with a load. A farm tractor pulling a trailer with hay is an example. The key is, if the vehicle meets the definition of an implement of husbandry. Then it is exempt from registration and title requirements.

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