

be equipped with tire covers (mud flaps) on the rearmost wheels to prevent such vehicles from throwing dirt, gravel, rocks, water, or other materials on the windshields of other vehicles. These covers must be at least as wide as the wheels that they are covering.

Additionally, such tire covers shall have a ground clearance of not more than one-half of the distance from the center of the rearmost axle to the center of the cover under any conditions of loading. See Exception 40-8-75

- **Front End Structure (Headerboard) (4-393.100e):** All forestry product vehicles, such as log or pole trailers, must be equipped with a front end structure (either on the truck/truck-tractor/trailer) to prevent the load from shifting and penetration or crushing of the driver's compartment.
- **Required Lighting During Times Other Than Darkness (OCGA 40-8-20):** Any time when it is raining in the driving zone and at any other time when there is not sufficient visibility to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles on the highway at a distance of 500 feet ahead, shall display lights, including headlights and illuminating devices as required by Georgia law.
- **Records of Duty Status (Log Books) (Part 395):** Interstate motor carriers and drivers of forestry product vehicles are subject to the Hours of Service and Records of Duty Status requirements as contained in Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 395.

- **Use of Seat Belts (392.16):** All commercial vehicle drivers must restrain themselves by use of a seat belt.
- **Vehicles Placed "Out of Service" (396.9(c)(2)):** No motor carrier shall require or permit any person to operate nor shall any person operate any motor vehicle declared and marked "Out of Service" until all "Out of Service" defects have been corrected.
- **Commercial Driver's License Disqualification and Penalties (383.51):** A driver who is convicted of violating an out of service order while driving a commercial motor vehicle may be disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 90 days to five years (according to the number of offenses incurred in a given time period).



A Safety Message from Project P.I.E. (Public Information & Education)
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Strobe Lamps on Projecting Loads of Logs or Poles

Effective May 1, 1999, all vehicles (regardless of size and weight) operating on the roadways of Georgia and transporting unmanufactured forest products such as logs and poles, which extend more than four-feet beyond the body or bed of such vehicle shall have securely affixed, as close as practical to the end of such projections, one amber strobe type lamp (DPS Rule 4-393.11 PL and O.C.G.A. 40-8-27).

The amber strobe lamp specifications are:

- Shall be equipped with a multi-directional type lens and so mounted as to be visible from the rear and sides of the projecting load. If the mounting of one strobe lamp cannot accomplish the visibility requirement, multiple strobe lamps shall be used.



- Shall flash at a rate of at least 60 flashes per minute and shall be plainly visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the sides and rear of the projecting load at any time day or night;
- **NOTE:** LED lights are authorized with same visibility requirements of strobe light.
- Shall be functioning at **any time of the day or night** when the vehicle is operated on any highway or parked on the shoulder or immediately adjacent to the traveled portion of any public roadway;
- **NOTE:** Vehicles utilizing an amber strobe lamp to comply with these regulations are not required to obtain an emergency light permit from the Department of Public Safety [§40-8-27(b)]

Furthermore,

Motor carriers operating in interstate commerce (across state lines) must also display a red light on the end of the projection which conforms to Title 49, CFR, 393.11.

A projecting load properly equipped with an amber strobe lamp **must also display flags** on such projecting loads. Any motor vehicle having a load or vehicle component which extends more than four-inches beyond the sides or more than four-feet beyond the rear shall

have the extremities of the load marked with red or orange fluorescent warning flags. Each warning flag must be at least 18 inches square.

- Must be displayed in such a manner that the entire area of the flag is visible from the rear of the vehicle. Such a display shall be accomplished by a rigid type flag, or a rigid type mounting frame for a flexible flag, or by other means at least as effective; flags may be made either partially or completely of a retro reflective material.

**LAWS OF SPECIAL INTEREST
TO FORESTRY PRODUCT
MOTOR CARRIERS**

The following information consists of some laws that are not necessarily new but may be of special interest to drivers and motor carriers operating in intrastate or interstate commerce:

- **Controlled Substance and Alcohol Testing (Part 382):** (Effective 1-1-96) Forest product carriers, as well as general freight carriers, must have an alcohol and controlled substance testing program that conforms to Part 382 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. For more information, contact the Georgia Department of Public Safety.

- **Accident Registers 390.15(b):** Accident registers must be maintained by both intrastate and interstate motor carriers for a period of one-year following a traffic accident. The register must contain the following information:

1. A list of accidents - - - containing for each individual accident:

- Date of the accident;
- City or town in which or most near where the accident occurred and the state in which the accident occurred;
- Driver name;
- Number of injuries and/or fatalities;
- Whether hazardous materials, other than fuel spilled from the fuel tanks of motor vehicles involved in the accident, were released;

2. Maintain copies of all police accident reports, insurance and other documents related to the accident.

- **Radar Detectors; Use, and/or Possession (392.71):** No driver shall use a radar detector in a commercial motor vehicle, or operate a commercial motor vehicle that is equipped with or contains any radar detector. Additionally, no motor carrier shall require or permit a driver to violate this law.
- **Tire Covers (Mud flaps) (OCGA 40-8-75 and 4-393-220):** Every forestry product trailers, including log and pole trailers, must