
Farm Vehicles and the Commercial Vehicle Operator Registration (CVOR)

This fact sheet summarizes FARM plated vehicle safety and compliance requirements. FARM plates are reduced fee commercial plates for farm trucks over 3,000 kg registered gross weight, operated for personal use or to haul farm products, equipment or supplies. All trucks with an actual or registered gross weight over 4,500 kg must have a CVOR.

Vehicle Weights

The **Actual Weight** of a truck towing a trailer, means the weight of the truck, when loaded or empty, plus any weight transferred to the truck by an attached trailer, or implement of husbandry.

The **Gross Weight** of a vehicle is the actual weight of the vehicle as determined by weighing the entire vehicle and its load on a weigh scale.

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) is the manufacturer maximum allowable weight of the fully loaded vehicle, including passengers and cargo.

Registered Gross Weight (RGW) is the weight of a motor vehicle plus the gross weight of a trailer if it weighs at least 2,800 kg. If trailer gross weight is **less than** 2,800 kg, it is not added to a truck RGW registration. The RGW is listed on the vehicle ownership. RGW fee tables, used to determine commercial and farm vehicle plate validations are found in [O. Reg. 628 Vehicle Permits](#). Vehicles that operate in excess of their RGW are subject to penalty under HTA 121(1).

Commercial Vehicle Operator's Registration (CVOR)

CVOR applies to **all** Ontario plated commercial motor vehicles, including farm vehicles, which are: trucks or trailers, alone or in combination, with RGW or actual weight over 4,500 kg.

CVOR Exemption: Operators of some vehicle types do not need a CVOR certificate, including:

- A truck with an actual and RGW of 4,500 kg or less, whether towing a trailer or not, and
- A pickup truck used for personal purposes.

To qualify as personal use, a pickup, and any camper or trailer must be for personal use and cannot carry business-related cargo or tools. A FARM plated pickup alone or towing a trailer does not qualify as a personal-use pickup and must comply with CVOR requirements.

Inspections

Annual Truck/Trailer Safety Inspection: Vehicles subject to Annual Inspections include: any truck or trailer alone, or in combination, with a gross weight, RGW or manufacturer's GVWR exceeding 4,500 kg. Truck includes a straight truck, pickup truck, cube van or panel van. Trailer includes a livestock or general-purpose utility trailer. Farm implements are exempt.

Driver Pre-trip Inspections: Trucks over 4,500 kg require a daily or trip inspection report, completed and signed by the driver or designated individual. The driver must carry a valid inspection report regardless of the distance traveled. Inspection reports are only valid for 24 hours from time of completion. After 24 hours, a new report is required.

A 2 or 3 axle truck, not pulling a trailer, used to carry primary farm products produced by the driver or operator is exempt from carrying a written report, but not exempt from completing circle checks.

Daily Inspection: exempt vehicles also include self-propelled implements of husbandry (SPIH), farm tractors or any towed farm equipment, farm equipment towed by a commercial motor vehicle, personal-use pickup trucks, or historic vehicles (with permit).

Ontario Hours of Service (HOS)

Drivers of trucks over 4,500 kg are limited in their time “behind the wheel”. HOS exemption include drivers of:

- A 2 or 3 axle vehicle transporting primary farm products where the driver or the motor carrier is the producer of those primary products; or returning, if the vehicle is empty or is transporting products used in the principal operation of a farm,
- A pickup truck, when driven for personal use, if the GVWR is 6,500 kg or less, and fitted with either the original unmodified manufacturer installed box, or replacement box that duplicates the unmodified manufacturer installed box.

Farm Vehicle Licence Plates

FARM plate renewals do not require documentation. New FARM plate requests need documentation to demonstrate the owner has a farm business:

- An accredited farm organization membership card;
- A Gross Farm Income Exemption Certificate;
- An exemption letter from the Agricultural, Food and Rural Affairs Tribunal; or
- A letter from Agricorp.

FARM Plated Vehicle Designation: A driver of a D class commercial vehicle that is registered with FARM plates, carrying farm products, supplies or equipment not for compensation, or being used for personal use, needs a **G** or **G2** licence. A **G** licenced driver may also drive the D FARM plated truck or combination carrying such products for-hire during September through November.

Other Use of FARM Plates: FARM plated trucks and towed trailers may transport gravel, rocks, sand and lumber to a farm if it can be demonstrated that these items are to supply the farm (laneways, building construction, soil erosion).

Driver's Licenses O. Reg. 240/95

In Ontario, each licence class dictates vehicle type, weight and towable trailer(s). A driver may hold more than one licence class on their driver's licence.

Class	Types of Vehicles Allowed	May Also Drive
A	tractor trailer or combination of vehicle and towed vehicles if the towed vehicles exceed a total gross weight of 4,600 kg	D, G and A Restricted
A Restricted	Driver with a restricted Class A licence condition cannot pull double trailers or pull a trailer with airbrakes.	D and G

D	truck or vehicle combination exceeding 11,000 kg AW or RGW), if the towed vehicle is not over 4,600 kg	G
G	A motor vehicle or combination of vehicle and towed vehicle, up to 11,000 kg, provided the towed vehicle is not over 4,600 kg.	
G1	Level 1 graduated licence holders may drive Class G vehicles when accompanied by a fully licensed driver with at least four years of driving experience. Other conditions apply.	
G2	Level 2 graduated licence holders may drive Class G vehicles without an accompanying driver, subject to conditions: Initially, G2 drivers younger than 20 can carry 1 passenger aged 19 or under, between midnight and 5 a.m. After six months, and until the G2 driver earns a full G licence or turns 20, they can carry up to 3 passengers aged 19 or under	

Air Brakes: Any Ontario driver operating a vehicle, including a farm truck, equipped with a full air-brake system, or air-over-hydraulic brake system needs a “Z” endorsed driver’s licence.

Cargo Securement

To reduce the risk of accidents caused by cargo shifting or falling, it is important to understand the standards that cargo-securement systems must be capable of meeting. Commercial vehicle operators need to comply with load-securement requirements found in HTA (Sec. 111), and O.Reg. 363/04 Security of Loads. This regulation adopts National Safety Code (NSC) Standard 10, Cargo Securement, available on the [CCMTA website](#)

Load securement standards apply to all types of cargo, except commodities in bulk that lack structure or fixed shape (such as grain, liquids or aggregates), transported in either;

- a tank, hopper, box or container forming part of the structure of the vehicle, or
- a vehicle that is specifically manufactured to transport the commodity.

It an offence under HTA Sec. 111(2), if any load or portion of the load may become dislodged or fall, leak, spill or blow from the vehicle. Proper securement applies to all transported loads on Ontario highways, regardless of weight, specifically that the goods must be secured so the vehicle can be operated safely when loaded.

Securement System Performance: Securement systems need to withstand minimum amounts of force in all directions. Cargo secured according to general and commodity-specific rules is considered to meet the specified performance criteria. Vehicle structures, systems, parts and components used to secure cargo need to be in proper working order, and not weakened so as to affect their performance.

Proper Use of Tie-Downs: Each tie-down must be attached inside any rub rails, whenever practical and secured so as not to become loose, unfastened, opened or released while the vehicle is moving. Edge protection must be used whenever a tie-down would be subject to wear or cutting at the point where it touches an article of cargo. Tie-downs needs to be marked by the manufacturer with respect to its working load limit.

The load securement system must consist of the minimum required number of tie-downs, in addition to complying with aggregate working load limit rules.

Weigh Scales

A commercial motor vehicle, including a FARM plated truck, dual rear wheel pickup or truck towing a business-type trailer must stop at an open weigh scale. Empty pickups do not need to stop.

Owner's Name on Sides of Truck

Any truck with RGW up to and including 8,164 kg is exempt from the requirements to have the owner's name attached to or painted on both sides.

Towing Implements

The HTA authorizes farmers to tow implements behind a pickup truck with an **SMV sign** attached to the rear of the towed implement. The combination cannot exceed 40 km/h. Lighting and safety chain rules apply.

Links to additional information

Ontario Highway Traffic Act <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90h08>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/commercial-vehicle-safety-requirements>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/commercial-vehicle-operators-safety-manual>

Farm Implements on the Road OFA Fact Sheet <https://ofa.on.ca/resources/farm-implements/>