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Highways
Speed Restrictions
Traffic Regulations



STATE OF KANSAS

Office of the Attorney General

State Capitol Bldg. (913) 296-2215 Topeka, Kansas 66612

VERN MILLER
Attorney General

January 28, 1974

Opinion No. 74- 30

Honorable James L. Ungerer
State Representative
House of Representatives
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Ungerer:

You pose two questions relative to required equipment on vehicles which are not implements of husbandry.

1. Must all pick-up trucks be equipped with two stop lamps and electric turn signals?

Answer: No, K.S.A. 1973 Supp. 8-590a(c) provides:

"Passenger cars and trucks less than eighty (80) inches in width, manufactured or assembled prior to January 1, 1953, need not have more than one (1) stop lamp meeting the requirements of subsection (a) of K.S.A. 1972 Supp. 8-590, as amended, and such vehicles need not be equipped with electric turn signals." (Emphasis supplied.)

2. What are the requirements for such equipment on small two wheel trailers?

K.S.A. 8-584 provides in pertinent part:

"In addition to other equipment required by this act, and by the act of which this act [sic] is amendatory, the following new vehicles sold and operated on a highway after July 1, 1959 shall be equipped as herein stated.

* * *

"(f) On every trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer: On the rear, two reflectors, one at each side. If any trailer or semitrailer is so loaded or is of such dimensions as to obscure the stop light on the towing vehicle, then such vehicle shall also be equipped with one tail light and one combination tail light and stop light."

K.S.A. 1973 Supp. 8-590, an enactment of later date, provides:

"(a) Any vehicle may be equipped and when required under this act shall be equipped with a stop lamp or stop lamps on the rear which shall display a red or amber light, or any shade of color between red and amber, visible from a distance of not less than three hundred (300) feet to the rear in normal sunlight, and which shall be actuated upon application of the service (foot) brake, and which may but need not be incorporated with one (1) or more other rear lamps.

"(b) Any vehicle may be equipped and when required under this act shall be equipped with electric turn signals which shall indicate an intention to turn by flashing lights showing to the front and rear of a vehicle or on a combination of vehicles on the side of the vehicle or combination toward which the turn is to be made. The lamps showing to the front shall be mounted on the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and, when signaling, shall emit amber light, except that on any vehicle manufactured prior to July 1, 1973, the lamps showing to the front may emit white or amber light, or any shade of light between white and amber. The lamps showing to the rear shall be mounted on the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, and, when signaling, shall emit a red or amber light. Turn signal lamps shall be visible from a distance of not less than five hundred (500) feet to the front and rear in normal sunlight. Turn signal lamps may but need not be incorporated in other lamps on the vehicle.

"(c) On and after December 1, 1959, every new motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle, sold within this state shall be equipped with turn signals meeting the requirements of subsection (b)."

K.S.A. 1973 Supp. 8-590a, also enacted subsequent to K.S.A. 8-584 above, provides in pertinent part:

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"(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (a) of section 3 [8-590c] of this act, after December 31, 1971, every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer and pole trailer shall be equipped with two (2) or more stop lamps meeting the requirements of subsection (a) of K.S.A. 1972 Supp. 8-590, as amended.

"(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of section 3 of this act, after December 31, 1971, every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer and pole trailer shall be equipped with electric turn signal lamps meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of K.S.A. 1972 Supp. 8-590, as amended.

Any apparent conflict between the foregoing sections appears to be eliminated by K.S.A. 1973 Supp. 8-590b which provides:

"This act shall be deemed supplemental to the act regulating traffic on highways and acts amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto."

Accordingly it is our opinion that two wheel trailers which are not implements of husbandry must presently be equipped with stop lamps and electric turn signal lamps as described in K.S.A. 1973 Supp. 8-590 above.

We are hopeful that the foregoing will be of assistance.

Yours very truly,


VERN MILLER
Attorney General

VM:DRH:jsm