BULLETIN

June 24, 2022

To All Authorized Employers of Peace Officers:

RE: Tow Truck Blue Light Pilot Project

Alberta Transportation has requested the following information be shared with all law enforcement agencies.

The Government of Alberta will issue a Registrar’s Exemption to permit the optional use of blue lights, in addition to existing amber lights, on tow trucks and supporting vehicles during a one-year pilot project.

The optional use of the blue and amber light combination will continue to be different than the lighting configurations on police vehicles (blue and red) and other emergency vehicles (red and white) to avoid confusion. Please review the attached documents for additional information.


For any enquiries regarding this pilot project, please contact Alberta Transportation’s Central Permit Office by e-mail at Central.Permits@gov.ab.ca. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sean Bonnetteau, CD
Director
Law Enforcement Standards and Audits

Attachments
Effective Date: June 30, 2022

The Registrar of Motor Vehicle Services of Alberta Transportation, pursuant to section 114 of Alberta’s Vehicle Equipment Regulation (AR 122/2009) (VER), subject to the conditions and restrictions noted below, hereby exempts tow trucks and support vehicles from section 24(1) of the VER, as it relates to the installation and use of blue flashing lamps.

Conditions:

1. In addition to the allowance in section 31(1) of the VER, a tow truck or support vehicle may be equipped with blue flashing lamps that may be used while the tow truck is stopped on a highway and is being used to help a person repair, start or move another vehicle that is on the highway.
2. This exemption also applies to vehicles referred to in section 31(3) of the VER.
3. Tow trucks must have both blue and amber lamps equipped, and operated in tandem. Blue flashing lamps alone are not authorized for use.
4. The blue flashing lamps must be installed and used in the same manner as the amber flashing lamps as allowed in the VER.
5. Flashing lamps equipped must be blue or amber in color and must be compliant with SAE standards as per section 4 of the VER.
6. Flashing lamps must be mounted on the roof of applicable vehicles and controlled from inside the vehicle cab.
7. Vehicles must be equipped with an indicator inside the vehicle that can be seen by the driver to indicate that the flashing lamps are on.

This exemption expires on July 1, 2023.

Signature: Crystal Damer
Crystal Damer, Registrar of Motor Vehicle Services
Assistant Deputy Minister
Safety and Policy Division
Alberta Transportation

Date: June 17, 2022
To: Alberta Police Services, Sheriffs and Peace Officers:

RE: Blue and Amber Lights on Tow Trucks – One Year Pilot Project

The purpose of this communication is to provide information about the pilot project authorizing blue lights on stationary tow trucks or support vehicles. Effective June 30, 2022 tow trucks operators will be allowed the optional use of blue lights, in addition to amber lights, on tow trucks to increase their visibility and safety while working on Alberta highways. For increased visibility, Alberta Transportation recommends both blue and amber flashing lights. The use of blue lights alone is not authorized.

Too many tow truck operators are involved in collisions or dangerous situations because motorists have difficulty seeing them while they are working. To increase safety for emergency responders and roadside workers, the Government of Alberta introduced this one-year pilot project. The results of the pilot project and other research will help us determine the best use of lights to increase safety for roadside workers.

A Registrar’s Exemption will be issued to authorize the optional use of blue lights in addition to existing amber lights on tow trucks in Alberta (blue lights must be used in combination with amber lights), effective June 30, 2022. Tow trucks are only permitted to use their flashing lights while stationary and assisting driver’s roadside, and not while driving. The optional use of the blue and amber light combination on tow trucks will continue to be different than the lighting configurations on police vehicles (blue and red) and other emergency vehicles (red and white) to avoid confusion.

For more information about emergency and construction worker road safety, please visit https://www.alberta.ca/emergency-and-construction-worker-road-safety.aspx. For any enquiries regarding this pilot project, please contact Alberta Transportation’s Central Permit Office by e-mail at Central.Permits@gov.ab.ca.

Sincerely,

Wendy Doyle
Executive Director, Alberta Transportation
Carrier & Vehicle Safety
Government of Alberta