July 22, 2022

To all Authorized Employers of Peace Officers:

**Re: Tow Truck Blue Light Pilot Project Amendments**

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

In June 2022, the Government of Alberta issued 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.

Effective July 20, 2022, an amendment to the Registrar’s Exemption took effect, rescinding and replacing the previous exemption dated June 30, 2022. The amendments are to provide clarification on the conditions listed within the Registrar’s Exemption. 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.

Sincerely,

Tammy L. Spink
Manager
Law Enforcement Oversight and Standards Programs

Attachments
Effective Date: July 20, 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 may be equipped with blue and amber flashing lamps operated in accordance with 31(2) VER.
2. In addition to the allowance in section 31(3) of the VER, support vehicles may be equipped with blue and amber flashing lamps operated in accordance with section 31(4) VER.
3. Tow trucks and support vehicles must have at least one amber lamp on top of the vehicle, visible from all directions outside the vehicle.
4. Tow trucks and support vehicles must have both blue and amber lamps equipped, and operated in tandem. Blue flashing lamps alone are not authorized for use.
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 controlled from inside the vehicle cab, and 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. This rescinds and replaces the previous exemption dated June 30, 2022.

Signature: [Signature]

Lynn Varty, Registrar of Motor Vehicle Services
Acting Assistant Deputy Minister
Safety and Policy Division
Alberta Transportation

Date: [Date]

Classification: Public
July 22, 2022

To: Alberta Police Services, Sheriffs and Peace Officers:

RE: Lighting Requirement Changes - Blue and Amber Lights on Tow Trucks

The purpose of this communication is to provide information about amendments made to the pilot project authorizing blue lights on stationary tow trucks or support vehicles. Effective July 20, 2022, an amended Registrar’s Exemption will take affect, which rescinds and replaces the previous exemption dated June 30, 2022. These amendments are to provide clarity on the conditions listed within the Registrar’s Exemption.

Effective July 20, 2022 tow truck operators will be allowed the optional use of blue lights, in addition to amber lights, on tow trucks and support vehicles to increase their visibility and safety while working on Alberta highways. A minimum of one amber light must be on top of the vehicle, visible from all directions outside the vehicle. Blue lights can then be used in conjunction with the amber lights. There are no specific restrictions regarding the placement of blue lights, however the use of blue lights alone is not authorized.

Tow trucks and support vehicles 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 lights will continue to be different from the lighting configurations on police vehicles (blue and red) and other emergency vehicles (red and white) to avoid confusion.

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 determine the best use of lights to increase safety for roadside workers.

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