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Fact About the Slow Moving Vehicle Emblem

Michigan State University

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Farm Science Series

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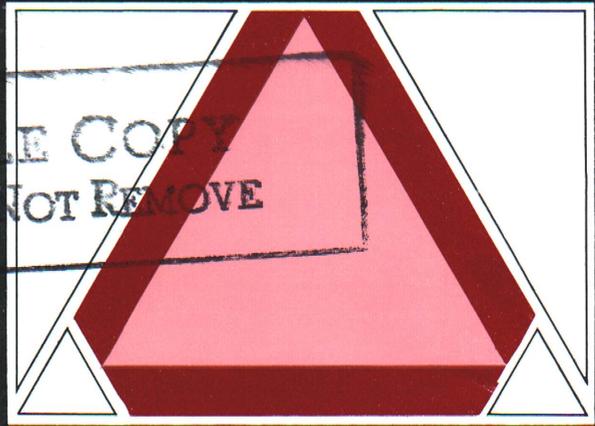
2 pages

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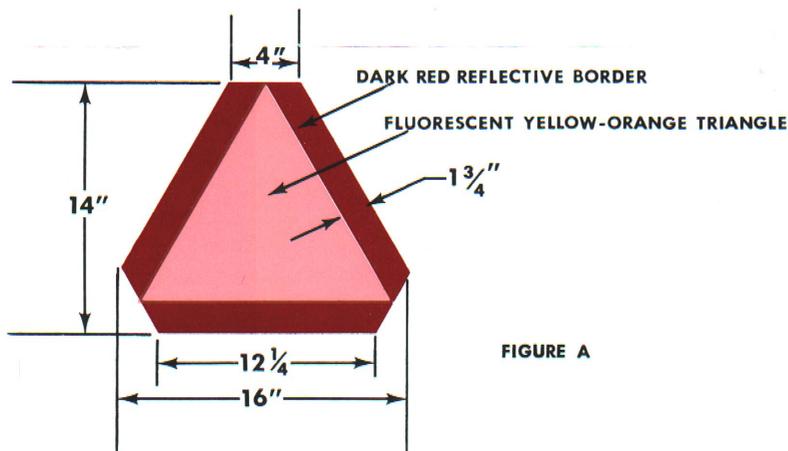
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**NEED FOR EMBLEM**

Traveling at slow speeds on public roads can be dangerous. Nearly 1,000 accidents involving farm tractors or equipment were reported during the 1963-65 period in Michigan. Farm machinery is only one type of slow moving vehicle using public roads, however.

A recent study showed that in two out of three slow-moving vehicle (SMV) accidents, the slow vehicle was hit from the rear. Nine of ten took place during daylight hours, on open highways, with good road, weather, and visibility conditions. The motorist frequently failed to recognize a SMV in time to avoid a collision.

The SMV emblem's unique color and shape is designed to communicate "danger," the same as the railroad "cross-buck". It provides warning at distances of 800 feet or more. A motorist seeing the emblem need not know whether he is approaching a grader, tractor, or combine, but he should know that its maximum speed is less than 25 mph.



**FIGURE A**

Emblem specifications are listed in American Society of Agricultural Engineers recommendation R276 or Society of Automotive Engineers J943.

**MICHIGAN SMV LAW**

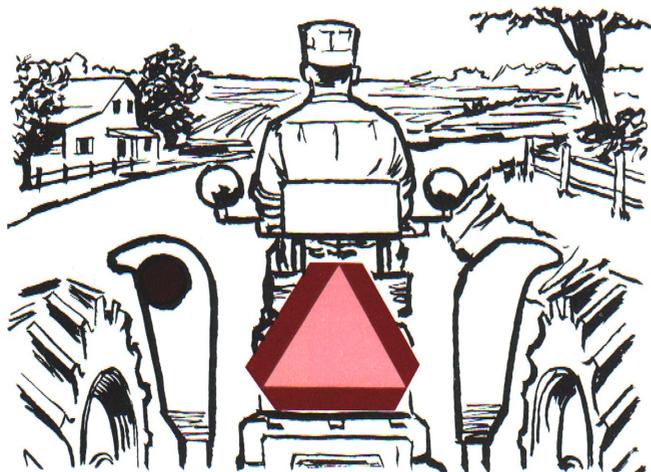
Public Act 163 of 1966 requires use of a SMV emblem on tractors and machinery, construction and highway maintenance equipment, horse drawn conveyances, and other vehicles designed for operation at 25 miles per hour maximum speed, when operated on public roads or highways.

The SMV law will be in effect on March 10, 1967. Some points covered by this act:

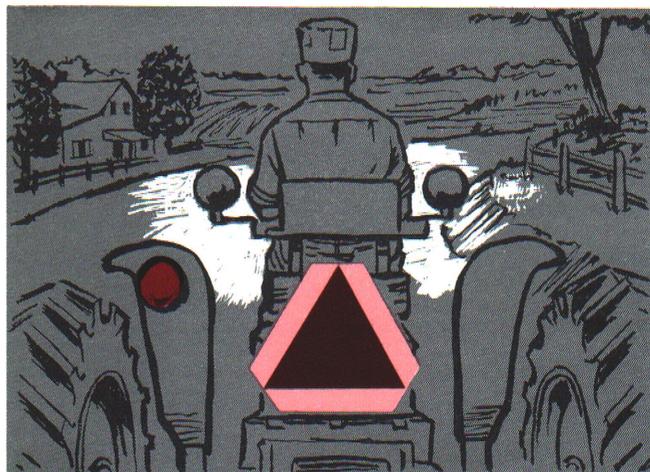
- ▲ Dimensions and specifications of the emblem are similar to those shown in Figure A.
- ▲ Must be used both day and night on public roads.
- ▲ Locate on the rear of equipment, centered where possible. Equipment such as side delivery rakes may have offset mounting positions.
- ▲ Mount at a height of 3 to 5 feet, to keep in head-light beam range.
- ▲ SMV emblem is only a supplement to adequate night lighting and side reflector requirements for slow moving vehicles.
- ▲ Use prohibited on trucks, cars, or any vehicle with a maximum potential speed above 25 mph.
- ▲ Use prohibited on stationary objects or bicycles.

*by Richard G. Pfister and Robert G. White,  
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## USE BOTH DAY . . . . . AND NIGHT



During the daylight hours the orange fluorescent triangle gains attention of approaching motorists at distances over one-fifth mile. It communicates "SMV Ahead" in time for motorist to react properly.

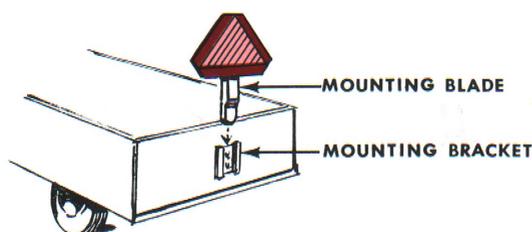


At night the red reflective border of the SMV emblem shows up in the path of approaching headlights. The triangular glow identifies a slow moving vehicle at distances of 800 feet or more.

### HOW TO MOUNT

A standard mounting bracket is factory installed on the rear of most balers, combines, and other farm machinery. Mounting brackets can be bought and fastened on the rear of wagons, tractors, or other machinery not so equipped.

The spade mounting assembly is built to fit into the mounting bracket. This makes the emblem interchangeable between machines.



Where there is considerable vibration, bolt a piece of plywood or hardboard behind the emblem. Wash the emblem with cool water and soap or detergent to keep it bright and effective. After 2 or 3 years use, the orange center may lose brilliance and require replacement.

### NIGHT LIGHTING REQUIREMENT

A tractor on the highway during hours of darkness or poor visibility must have one or more white lights visible for a distance of 500 feet or more in front, and a red light visible for a distance of 300 feet or more in the rear. Farm tractors are permitted to use a flashing red light after dark or when visibility is poor. When trailing equipment, rear lighting should be displayed on the trailed equipment. This can be done with extension warning lamp units.

Red reflectors or reflectorized tape are also required on the rear near each side. Reflectors should be mounted so as to outline the extremities of the equipment.

### HIGHWAY DRIVING TIPS FOR SMV

- ▲ Use SMV emblem, both day and night.
- ▲ Use flashing red light to rear at night.
- ▲ Experienced, careful driver needed; keep others away.
- ▲ No extra riders (unless there is a adequate space for rider in a cab).
- ▲ Drive defensively and anticipate motorist errors.