
PART THREE — TRAFFIC CODE

ARTICLE 311 Safety and Equipment

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- 311.99 Penalty.

CROSS REFERENCES

See sectional histories for similar State law.
Obscured light on vehicles in combination – see WV Code 17C-15-13
Warning devices for commercial vehicles – see WV Code 17C-15-39
Bicycle equipment – see Ord. 318

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311.01 Driving unsafe vehicles; application; farm and road equipment exceptions.

- (a) No person shall drive or move and no owner shall cause or knowingly permit to be driven or moved on any street or highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles which is in such unsafe condition as to endanger any person, or which does not contain those parts or is not at all times equipped with such lamps and other equipment in proper condition and adjustment as required in this article, or which is equipped in any manner in violation of this article, or for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required under this article.
- (b) Nothing contained in this article shall be construed to prohibit the use of additional parts and accessories on any vehicle not inconsistent with the provisions of this article.
- (c) The provisions of this article with respect to equipment on vehicles shall not apply to implements of husbandry, road machinery, road rollers or farm tractors except as herein made applicable. Every farm tractor equipped with an electric lighting system shall at all times mentioned in Section 311.02 display a red tail lamp and either multiple-beam or single-beam head lamps meeting the requirements of Section 311.02. (WV Code 17C-15-1. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.01]

311.02 When lighted lights required.

Every vehicle other than a school bus, motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped operated upon a street or highway within this Municipality at any time from sunset to sunrise or during fog, smoke, rain or other unfavorable atmospheric conditions, or at any other time when there is not sufficient light to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles on the street or highway at a distance of 500 feet ahead shall display lighted head lamps and illuminating devices as hereinafter respectively required for different classes of vehicles, subject to exceptions with respect to parked vehicles as provided for in Section 311.07(c). Every school bus, motorcycle, motor-driven cycle and moped shall display lighted head lamps at all times when upon the street or highway. (WV Code 17C-15-2. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.02]

311.03 Measurements of distances and heights.

- (a) Whenever requirement is hereinafter declared as to the distance from which certain lamps and devices shall render objects visible or within which such lamps or devices shall be visible such provisions shall apply during the times stated in Section 311.02 in respect to a vehicle without load when upon a straight, level, unlighted street or highway under normal atmospheric conditions unless a different time or condition is expressly stated.
- (b) Whenever requirement is hereinafter declared as to the mounted height of lamps or devices it shall mean from the center of such lamp or device to the level ground upon which the vehicle stands when such vehicle is without a load. (WV Code 17C-15-3. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.03]

311.04 Headlights on motor vehicles and motorcycles.

- (a) Every motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped shall be equipped with at least two head lamps with at least one on each side of the front of the motor vehicle, which head lamps shall comply with the requirements and limitations set forth in this article.
- (b) Every motorcycle, motor-driven cycle and moped shall be equipped with at least one

FOOTNOTES:

- 311.01 This section was previously codified as 345.01.
- 311.02 This section was previously codified as 345.02.
- 311.03 This section was previously codified as 345.03.

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and not more than two head lamps which shall comply with the requirements and limitations of this article.

- (c) Every head lamp upon every motor vehicle, including every motorcycle, motor-driven cycle and moped, shall be located at a height measured from the center of the head lamp of not more than fifty-four inches nor less than twenty-four inches to be measured as set forth in Section 311.03. (WV Code 17C-15-4. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.04]

311.05 Tail light; illumination of rear license plate.

- (a) Every motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer, and any other vehicle which is being drawn at the end of a train of vehicles, shall be equipped with at least one tail lamp mounted on the rear, which, when lighted as hereinbefore required, shall emit a red light plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear, provided that in the case of a train of vehicles only the tail lamp on the rearmost vehicle need actually be seen from the distance specified.
- (b) Every tail lamp upon every vehicle shall be located at a height of not more than sixty inches nor less than twenty inches to be measured as set forth in Section 311.03(b).
- (c) Either a tail lamp or a separate lamp shall be so constructed and placed as to illuminate with a white light the rear registration plate and render it clearly legible from a distance of fifty feet to the rear. Any tail lamp or tail lamps, together with any separate lamp for illuminating the rear registration plate, shall be so wired as to be lighted whenever the head lamps or auxiliary driving lamps are lighted. (WV Code 17C-15-5. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.05]

311.06 Red light or flag on extended loads.

Whenever the load upon any vehicle extends to the rear four feet or more beyond the bed or body of such vehicle there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of the load, at the times specified in Section 311.02, a red light or lantern plainly visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the sides and rear. The red light or lantern required under this section shall be in addition to the red rear light required upon every vehicle. At any time there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of such load a red flag or cloth not less than twelve inches square and so hung that the entire area is visible to the driver of a vehicle approaching from the rear. (WV Code 17C-15-14. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.06]

311.07 Lights on parked or stopped vehicles.

- (a) Whenever a vehicle is lawfully parked upon a street or highway during the hours between sunset and sunrise and in the event there is sufficient light to reveal any person or object within a distance of 500 feet upon such street or highway no lights need be displayed upon such parked vehicle.
- (b) Whenever a vehicle is parked or stopped upon a roadway or shoulder adjacent thereto, whether attended or unattended, during the hours between sunset and sunrise and there is not sufficient light to reveal any person or object within a distance of 500 feet upon such street or highway, such vehicle so parked or stopped shall be equipped with one or more lamps meeting the following requirements: At least one lamp shall display a white or amber light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the

FOOTNOTES:

- 311.04 This section was previously codified as 345.04.
311.05 This section was previously codified as 345.05.
311.06 This section was previously codified as 345.06.

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vehicle, and the same lamp or at least one other lamp shall display a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear of the vehicle, and the location of such lamp or lamps shall always be such that at least one lamp or combination of lamps meeting the requirements of this section is installed as near as practicable to the side of the vehicle which is closest to passing traffic. The foregoing provisions shall not apply to a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped.

- (c) Any lighted head lamps upon a parked vehicle shall be depressed or dimmed. (WV Code 17C-15-15. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.07]

311.08 Lights on slow-moving vehicles.

All vehicles including animal-drawn vehicles and including those referred to in Section 311.01

(c) not hereinbefore specifically required to be equipped with lamps, shall at the times specified in Section 311.02 be equipped with at least one lighted lamp or lantern exhibiting a white light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front of such vehicle and with a lamp or lantern exhibiting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear. (WV Code 17C-15-16. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.08]

311.09 Spotlights and auxiliary lights.

- (a) Spot lamps. Any motor vehicle except a public utility company maintenance vehicle may be equipped with not more than one spot lamp and every lighted spot lamp shall be so aimed and used upon approaching another vehicle that no part of the high-intensity portion of the beam will be directed to the left of the prolongation of the extreme left side of the vehicle nor more than 100 feet ahead of the vehicle. A public utility company maintenance vehicle may be equipped with more than one spot lamp but all lighted spot lamps shall be aimed and used in conformity to the requirements of this subsection.
- (b) Fog lamps. Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two fog lamps mounted on the front at a height not less than twelve inches nor more than thirty inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands and so aimed that when the vehicle is not loaded none of the high-intensity portion of the light to the left of the center of the vehicle shall at a distance of twenty-five feet ahead project higher than a level of four inches below the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes.
- (c) Auxiliary passing lamp. Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than one auxiliary passing lamp mounted on the front at a height not less than twenty-four inches nor more than forty-two inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands and every auxiliary passing lamp shall meet the requirements and limitations set forth in this article.
- (d) Auxiliary driving lamp. Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than one auxiliary driving lamp mounted on the front at a height not less than sixteen inches nor more than forty-two inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands and every such auxiliary driving lamp shall meet the requirements and limitations set forth in this article.
- (e) Roof-mounted off-road light bar lighting device. Any motor vehicle may be equipped with a roof-mounted off-road light bar lighting device comprised of multiple lamps; provided, that whenever the vehicle is operated or driven upon any road or highway, the roof-mounted off-road light bar lighting device shall be turned off and covered with an opaque covering that prohibits light from being emitted while the vehicle is being

FOOTNOTES:

- 311.07 This section was previously codified as 345.07.
311.08 This section was previously codified as 345.08.

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operated on any road or highway. (WV Code 17C-15-17. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.09]

311.10 Signal lamps and signal devices.

- (a) Any motor vehicle may be equipped and when required under this Traffic Code shall be equipped with the following signal lamps or devices:
 - (1) A stop lamp on the rear which shall emit a red or yellow light and which shall be actuated upon application of the service (foot) brake and which may but need not be incorporated with a tail lamp.
 - (2) A lamp or lamps or mechanical signal device capable of clearly indicating any intention to turn either to the right or to the left and which shall be visible both from the front and rear.
- (b) A stop lamp shall be plainly visible and understandable from a distance of 100 feet to the rear both during normal sunlight and at nighttime and signal lamp or lamps indicating intention to turn shall be visible and understandable during daytime and nighttime from a distance of 100 feet both to the front and rear. When a vehicle is equipped with a stop lamp or other signal lamps, such lamp or lamps shall at all times be maintained in good working condition. No stop lamp or signal lamp shall project a glaring or dazzling light.
- (c) All mechanical signal devices shall be self-illuminated when in use at the times mentioned in Section 311.02. (WV Code 17C-15-18. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.10]

311.11 Cowl, fender and back-up lights; flashing hazard lights.

- (a) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two side cowl or fender lamps which shall emit an amber or white light without glare.
- (b) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than one running-board courtesy lamp on each side thereof, which shall emit a white or amber light without glare.
- (c) Except for school buses as provided in this subsection, any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two back-up lamps either separately or in combination with other lamps, but any such back-up lamp shall not be lighted when the motor vehicle is in forward motion. School buses used for the transportation of school children in this Corporation, whether owned and operated by a county board of education or privately owned and operated under contract with a county board of education, shall be equipped with two backup lamps, one on each side of the rear door, with white lens or reflectors, capable of lighting the roadway and objects to the rear of the bus for safe backing during darkness, and which, at the option of the county board of education, may each provide fifty candlepower in illumination intensity instead of thirty-two candlepower.
- (d) Any vehicle may be equipped with lamps which may be used for the purpose of warning the operators of other vehicles of the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring the exercise of unusual care in approaching, overtaking or passing, and when so equipped may display such warning in addition to any other warning signals required by this article. The lamps used to display such warning to the front shall be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and shall display simultaneously flashing white or amber lights, or any shade of color between white and amber. The lamps used to display such warning to the rear shall be

FOOTNOTES:

- 311.09 This section was previously codified as 345.09.
- 311.10 This section was previously codified as 345.10.

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mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, and shall show simultaneously flashing amber or red lights or any shade of color between amber and red.

- (e) Vehicles used by “rural mail carriers” in carrying or delivering mail in rural areas may be equipped with amber flashing lights. Such lights shall be on the front and rear of the vehicle and may be activated when the vehicle is stopped or decreasing speed in order to stop in the course of carrying, delivering or picking up mail along the route.
- (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code to the contrary, any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than one electroluminescent solid state ceramic front identification plate without glare, mounted in conformance with the manufacturer's specifications.
- (g) Vehicles used as the lead car in a funeral procession are hereby authorized to be equipped with, but are not required to use, purple lamps or purple flashing lights. Such lamps may be used for the purpose of warning the operators of other vehicles of the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring the exercise of unusual care in approaching, overtaking or passing a funeral procession, and when so equipped may display such warning in addition to any other warning signals required by this article. The lamps or flashing lights used to display such warning to the front shall be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and shall display simultaneously either illuminating or flashing purple lights. The lamps used to display such warning to the rear shall be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, and shall show simultaneously flashing or illuminated purple lights. (WV Code 17C-15-19. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.11]

311.12 Multiple-beam road lighting equipment requirements.

Except as hereinafter provided, the head lamps or the auxiliary driving lamp or the auxiliary passing lamp or combinations thereof on motor vehicles other than a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped shall be so arranged that the driver may select at will between distributions of light projected to different elevations and such lamps may, in addition, be so arranged that such selection can be made automatically, subject to the following limitations:

- (a) There shall be an uppermost distribution of light, or composite beam, so aimed and of such intensity as to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 350 feet ahead for all conditions of loading.
- (b) There shall be a lowermost distribution of light, or composite beam, so aimed and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 100 feet ahead; and on a straight level road under any condition of loading none of the high-intensity portion of the beam shall be directed to strike the eyes of an approaching driver.
- (c) Every new motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped, registered in the State after January 1, 1952, which has multiple-beam road-lighting equipment shall be equipped with a beam indicator, which shall be lighted whenever the uppermost distribution of light from the head lamps is in use, and shall not otherwise be lighted. Such indicator shall be so designed and located that when lighted it will be readily visible without glare to the driver of the vehicle so equipped. (WV Code 17C-15-20. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.12]

311.13 Use of headlight beams.

Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or shoulder adjacent thereto

FOOTNOTES:

311.11 This section was previously codified as 345.11.

311.12 This section was previously codified as 345.12.

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during the times specified in Section 311.02, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle, subject to the following requirements and limitations:

- (a) Whenever a driver of a vehicle approaches an oncoming vehicle within 500 feet, such driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, so aimed that the glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of the oncoming driver. The lowermost distribution of light, or composite beam specified in Section 311.12(b) shall be deemed to avoid glare at all times regardless of road contour and loading.
- (b) Whenever the driver of a vehicle follows another vehicle within 200 feet to the rear, except when engaged in the act of overtaking and passing, such driver shall use a distribution of light permissible under this Traffic Code other than the uppermost distribution of light specified in Section 311.12(a). (WV Code 17C-15-21.)
- (c) Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00). (Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.13]

311.14 Single-beam road-lighting equipment.

Head lamps arranged to provide a single distribution of light shall be permitted on motor vehicles manufactured and sold prior to July 1, 1952, in lieu of multiple-beam roadlighting equipment herein specified if the single distribution of light complies with the following requirements and limitations:

- (a) The head lamps shall be so aimed that when the vehicle is not loaded none of the high-intensity portion of the light shall at a distance of twenty-five feet ahead project higher than a level of five inches below the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes, and in no case higher than forty-two inches above the level on which the vehicle stands at a distance of seventy-five feet ahead.
- (b) The intensity shall be sufficient to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 200 feet. (WV Code 17C-15-22. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.14]

311.15 Lights on motorcycles, motor-driven cycles and mopeds.

- (a) Every vehicle other than a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped operated upon a highway within the Corporation of Harpers Ferry at any time from sunset to sunrise and at any other time when there is not sufficient light to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles on the highway at a distance of 500 feet ahead shall display lighted lamps and illuminating devices as hereinafter respectively required for different classes of vehicles, subject to exceptions with respect to parked vehicles as hereinafter stated. Every motorcycle, motor-driven cycle, and moped shall display lighted head lamps at all times when upon the highway.
- (b) Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00). (Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.15]

311.16 Alternate road-lighting equipment.

Any motor vehicle may be operated under the conditions specified in Section 311.02 when equipped with two lighted lamps upon the front thereof capable of revealing persons and objects seventy-five feet ahead in lieu of lamps required in Section 311.12, or Section 311.14,

FOOTNOTES:

- 311.13 This section was previously codified as 345.13.
311.14 This section was previously codified as 345.14.

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provided that at no time shall it be operated at a speed in excess of twenty miles per hour. (WV Code 17C-15-24. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.16]

311.17 Number of driving lights required or permitted.

- (a) At all times specified in Section 311.02 at least two lighted lamps shall be displayed, one on each side at the front of every motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped, except when such vehicle is parked subject to the regulations governing lights on parked vehicles.
- (b) Whenever a motor vehicle equipped with head lamps as herein required is also equipped with any auxiliary lamps or a spot lamp or any other lamp on the front thereof projecting a beam of intensity greater than 300 candlepower, not more than a total of four of any such lamps on the front of a vehicle shall be lighted at any one time when upon a street or highway. (WV Code 17C-15-25. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.17]

311.18 Special restrictions on lights.

- (a) Any lighted lamp or illuminating device upon a motor vehicle other than head lamps, spot lamps, auxiliary lamps or flashing front-direction signals which projects a beam of light of an intensity greater than 300 candlepower shall be so directed that no part of the beam will strike the level of the roadway on which the vehicle stands at a distance of more than seventy-five feet from the vehicle.
- (b) No person shall drive or move any vehicle or equipment upon any street or highway with any lamp or device thereon displaying other than a white or amber light visible from directly in front of the center thereof except as authorized by subsection (d) hereof.
- (c) Except as authorized in subsections (d) and (f) of this section and Section 311.11, flashing lights are prohibited on motor vehicles; provided, that any vehicle as a means for indicating right or left turn, or any vehicle as a means of indicating the same is disabled or otherwise stopped for an emergency may have blinking or flashing lights.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Traffic Code, the following colors of flashing warning lights are restricted for the use of the type of vehicle designated:
 - (1) Blue flashing warning lights are restricted to police vehicles. Authorization for police vehicles shall be designated by the chief administrative official of each police department.
 - (2) Except for standard vehicle equipment authorized by Section 311.11, red flashing warning lights are restricted to the following:
 - A. Ambulances;
 - B. Fire-fighting vehicles;
 - C. Hazardous material response vehicles;
 - D. Industrial fire brigade vehicles;
 - E. Rescue squad vehicles not operating out of a fire department;
 - F. School buses;
 - G. Class A vehicles, as defined by West Virginia Code 17A10-1 of those firefighters who are authorized by their fire chiefs to have the lights;
 - H. Class A vehicles of members of duly chartered rescue squads not operating out of a fire department;
 - I. Class A vehicles of members of ambulance services or duly chartered

FOOTNOTES:

- 311.15 This section was previously codified as 345.15. Reference WV Code 17C-15-23, which is somewhat different.
- 311.16 This section was previously codified as 345.16.
- 311.17 This section was previously codified as 345.17.

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- rescue squads who are authorized by their respective chiefs to have the lights;
 - J. Class A vehicles of out-of-state residents who are active members of West Virginia fire departments, ambulance services or duly chartered rescue squads who are authorized by their respective chiefs to have the lights; and
 - K. West Virginia Department of Agriculture emergency response vehicles.
 - L. Vehicles designated by the Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety for emergency response or emergency management by the Division of Corrections, Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority, Division of Juvenile Services and Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management; and
 - M. Class A vehicles of emergency response or emergency management personnel as designated by the Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety and the county commission of the county of residence.
- (3) Red flashing warning lights attached to a Class A vehicle shall be operated only when responding to or engaged in handling an emergency requiring the attention of the firefighters, members of the ambulance services or chartered rescue squads. The use of red flashing warning lights shall be authorized as follows:
- A. Authorization for all ambulances shall be designated by the Department of Health and Human Resources and the sheriff of the county of residence.
 - B. Authorization for all fire department vehicles shall be designated by the Fire Chief and the State Fire Marshal's Office.
 - C. Authorization for all hazardous material response vehicles and industrial fire brigades shall be designated by the Chief of the Fire Department and the State Fire Marshal's Office.
 - D. Authorization for all rescue squad vehicles not operating out of a fire department shall be designated by the squad chief, the sheriff of the county of residence and the Department of Health and Human Resources.
 - E. Authorization for school buses shall be designated as set out in West Virginia Code 17C-14-12.
 - F. Authorization for firefighters to operate Class A vehicles shall be designated by their fire chiefs and the State Fire Marshal's Office.
 - G. Authorization for members of ambulance services or any other emergency medical service personnel to operate Class A vehicles shall be designated by their chief official, the Department of Health and Human Resources and the sheriff of the county of residence.
 - H. Authorization for members of duly chartered rescue squads not operating out of a fire department to operate Class A vehicles shall be designated by their squad chiefs, the sheriff of the county of residence and the Department of Health and Human Resources.
 - I. Authorization for out-of-state residents operating Class A vehicles who are active members of a West Virginia fire department, ambulance services or duly chartered rescue squads shall be designated by their respective chiefs.
 - J. Authorization for West Virginia Department of Agriculture emergency

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- response vehicles shall be designated by the Commissioner or the Department of Agriculture.
- K. Authorization for vehicles for emergency response or emergency management by the Division of Corrections, Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority, Division of Juvenile Services and Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management shall be designated by the Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety.
 - L. Authorization for Class A vehicles of emergency response or emergency management personnel as designated by the Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety and the county commission of the county of residence.
- (4) Yellow or amber flashing warning lights are restricted to the following:
- A. All other emergency vehicles, including tow trucks and wreckers, authorized by the West Virginia Code Chapter 17C and 17C-15-27;
 - B. Postal service vehicles and rural mail carriers, as authorized in Section 311.11;
 - C. Rural newspaper delivery vehicles;
 - D. Flag car services;
 - E. Vehicles providing road service to disabled vehicles;
 - F. Service vehicles of a public service corporation;
 - G. Snow removal equipment; and
 - H. School buses; and
 - I. Automotive fire apparatus owned by a municipality or other political subdivision, by a volunteer or part-volunteer fire company or department or by an industrial fire brigade.
- (5) The use of yellow or amber flashing warning lights shall be authorized as follows:
- A. Authorization for tow trucks, wreckers, rural newspaper delivery vehicles, flag car services, vehicles providing road service to disabled vehicles, service vehicles of a public service corporation and postal service vehicles shall be designated by the sheriff of the county of residence.
 - B. Authorization for snow removal equipment shall be designated by the Commissioner of the Division of Highways.
 - C. Authorization for school buses shall be designated as set out in West Virginia Code 17C-14-12.
 - D. Authorization for automotive fire apparatus shall be designated by the Fire Chief in conformity with the NFPA 1901 standard for automotive fire apparatus as published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) on July 18, 2003, and adopted by the State Fire Commission by legislative rule (87 CSR 1, *et seq.*), except as follows:
 - 1. With the approval of the State Fire Marshal, used automotive fire apparatus may be conformed to the NFPA standard in effect on the date of its manufacture or conformed to a later NFPA standard, and
 - 2. Automotive fire apparatus may be equipped with blinking or flashing headlamps.
 - E. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, any vehicle belonging to a county board of education, an organization receiving funding from the state or federal transit administration for the purpose of providing general public transportation, or hauling solid waste may be

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equipped with a white flashing strobotron warning light. This strobe light may be installed on the roof of a school bus, a public transportation vehicle, or a vehicle hauling solid waste not to exceed one-third the body length forward from the rear of the roof edge. The light shall have a single clear lens emitting light three hundred sixty degrees around its vertical axis and may not extend above the roof more than six and one-half inches. A manual switch and a pilot light must be included to indicate the light is in operation.

- F. No person shall install or use flashing warning lights of an unauthorized color on a vehicle other than as specified in this section, except that a police vehicle may be equipped with either or both blue or red warning lights. (WV Code 17C-15-26. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.18]

311.19 Motor vehicle or motorcycle brakes.

(a) Brake equipment required.

- (1) Every motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped, when operated upon a street or highway shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold such vehicle, including two separate means of applying the brakes, each of which means shall be effective to apply the brakes to at least two wheels. If these two separate means of applying the brakes are connected in any way, they shall be so constructed that failure of any one part of the operating mechanism shall not leave the motor vehicle without brakes on at least two wheels.
- (2) Every motorcycle, motor-driven cycle and moped, when operated upon a street or highway, shall be equipped with at least one brake which may be operated by hand or foot.
- (3) Every trailer or semitrailer of a gross weight of 3,000 pounds or more when operated upon a street or highway shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and to hold such vehicle and so designed as to be applied by the driver of the towing motor vehicle from its cab, and such brakes shall be so designed and connected that in case of an accidental breakaway of the towed vehicle the brakes shall be automatically applied.
- (4) Every new motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer hereinafter sold in this State and operated upon the streets or highways shall be equipped with service brakes upon all wheels, with the following exceptions:
 - A. Trucks and truck-tractors having three or more axles need not have brakes on the front wheels, except when such vehicles are equipped with at least two steerable axles, the wheels of one such axle need not be equipped with brakes, and
 - B. Any motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped and any semitrailer of less than 1,500 pounds gross weight need not be equipped with brakes.
- (5) In any combination of motor-driven vehicles, means shall be provided for applying the rearmost trailer brakes, of any trailer equipped with brakes, in approximate synchronism with the brakes on the towing vehicle and developing the required braking effort on the rearmost wheels at the fastest rate; or means shall be provided for applying braking effort first on the rearmost trailer equipped with brakes; or both of the above means capable of being used alternatively may be employed.

FOOTNOTES:

311.18 This section was previously codified as 345.18.

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- (6) Every such vehicle and combination of vehicles, except motorcycles, motor-driven cycles and mopeds, shall be equipped with parking brakes adequate to hold the vehicle on any grade on which it is operated, under all conditions of loading on a surface free from snow, ice or loose material. The parking brakes shall be capable of being applied in conformance with the foregoing requirements by the driver's muscular effort or by spring action or by equivalent means. Their operation may be assisted by the service brakes or other source of power provided that failure of the service brake actuation system or other power assisting mechanism will not prevent the parking brakes from being applied in conformance with the foregoing requirements. The parking brakes shall be so designed that when once applied they shall remain applied with the required effectiveness despite exhaustion of any source of energy or leakage of any kind.
- (7) The same brake drums, brake shoes and lining assemblies, brake shoe anchors and mechanical brake shoe actuation mechanism normally associated with the wheel brake assemblies may be used for both the service brakes and the parking brakes. If the means of applying the parking brakes and the service brakes are connected in any way, they shall be so constructed that a failure of any one part shall not leave the vehicle without operative brakes.
- (8) The brake shoes operating within or upon the drums on the vehicle wheels of any motor vehicle may be used for both service and hand operation.
- (b) Performance ability of brakes. Every motor vehicle or combination of motor-drawn vehicles shall be capable, at all times and under all conditions of loading, of being stopped on a dry, smooth, level road free from loose material, upon application of the service (foot) brake, within the distances specified below, or shall be capable of being decelerated at a sustained rate corresponding to these distances:

	<u>Feet to stop from 20 mph</u>	<u>Deceleration in feet per second</u>
Vehicle or combination of vehicles having brakes on all wheels	30	14
Vehicle or combination of vehicles not having brakes on all wheels	40	10.7

- (c) Maintenance of brakes. All brakes shall be maintained in good working order and shall be so adjusted as to operate as equally as practicable with respect to the wheels on opposite sides of the vehicle. (WV Code 17C-15-31. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.)^[311.19]

311.20 Inspection of brakes on motorcycles, motor-driven cycles and mopeds.

No person shall operate on any street or highway any motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped in the event the Commissioner of Highways has disapproved the brake equipment upon such vehicle or type of vehicle. (WV Code 17C-15-32. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.)^[311.20]

FOOTNOTES:

- 311.19 This section was previously codified as 345.19.
311.20 This section was previously codified as 345.20.

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311.21 Horn, siren and theft alarm signal.

- (a) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a street or highway shall be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 200 feet, but no horn or other warning device shall emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle. The driver of a motor vehicle shall when reasonably necessary to insure safe operation give audible warning with his horn but shall not otherwise use such horn when upon a street or highway.
- (b) No vehicle shall be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a vehicle any siren, whistle or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section.
- (c) It is permissible but not required that any commercial vehicle be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal.
- (d) Any authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a siren, whistle or bell, capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 500 feet and of a type approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles, but such siren shall not be used except when such vehicle is operated in response to an emergency or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, in which such latter events the driver of such vehicle shall sound such siren when reasonably necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the approach thereof. (WV Code 17C-15-34. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.21]

311.22 Muffler; muffler cutout; excessive smoke, gas or noise.

- (a) No person shall drive or move on any street or highway within the Corporation of Harpers Ferry any motor vehicle, trailer, semi-truck or pole trailer or any combination thereof, unless the equipment upon every such vehicle is in good working order and adjustment and the vehicle is in such safe mechanical condition as not to endanger the driver or other occupant or any person upon any street or highway within the Corporation. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
- (b) Every motor vehicle shall at all times be equipped with a muffler in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise; such muffler shall be the muffler originally installed by the manufacturer of the vehicle or if a replacement, the equivalent thereof. No person shall use a muffler cutout, bypass, or similar device upon a motor vehicle on a street or highway within the Corporation of Harpers Ferry. The engine and power mechanisms of every motor vehicle shall be so equipped and adjusted as to prevent the escape of excessive fumes or smoke. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. (WV Code 17C-15-34. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.22]

311.23 Rear-view mirror.

Every motor vehicle which is so constructed or loaded as to obstruct the driver's view to the rear thereof from the driver's position shall be equipped with a mirror so located as to reflect to the driver a view of the street or highway for a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of such vehicle. (WV Code 17C-15-35. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.23]

FOOTNOTES:

- 311.21 This section was previously codified as 345.21.
- 311.22 This section was previously codified as 345.22.
- 311.23 This section was previously codified as 345.23.

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311.24 Windshield to be unobstructed; windshield wiper.

- (a) No person shall drive any motor vehicle with any sign, poster or other nontransparent material upon the front windshield, side wings or side or rear windows of such vehicle which obstructs the driver's clear view of the street or highway or any intersecting street or highway.
- (b) The windshield on every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a device for cleaning rain, snow or other moisture from the windshield, which device shall be so constructed as to be controlled or operated by the driver of the vehicle.
- (c) Every windshield wiper upon a motor vehicle shall be maintained in good working order.
- (d) Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00). ^[311.24]

311.25 Tire equipment restrictions.

- (a) Every solid rubber tire on a vehicle shall have rubber on its entire traction surface at least one inch thick above the edge of the flange of the entire periphery.
- (b) No person shall operate or move on any highway any motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer having any metal tire in contact with the roadway.
- (c) No tire on a vehicle moved on a highway shall have on its periphery any block, stud, flange, cleat or spike or any other protuberance of any material other than rubber which projects beyond the tread of the traction surface of the tire, except that:
 - (1) It shall be permissible to use farm machinery with tires having protuberances which will not injure the street or highway;
 - (2) It shall be permissible to use tire chains of reasonable proportions upon any vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid; and
 - (3) It shall be permissible to use studded tires during the period from November 1, of each year until April 15 of the following year; provided, that in the interest of highway maintenance, no vehicle moved on a street or highway, other than school buses, shall be equipped with studded tires, which are operational with a recommended air pressure greater than forty pounds per square inch.
 - (4) No studded tires or chains shall be sold or used within the Corporation which do not meet the specifications established by the rules and regulations which the Commissioner of Highways shall promulgate.
- (d) Council may in its discretion issue special permits authorizing the operation upon the street or highway of traction engines or tractors having movable tracks with transverse corrugations upon the periphery of such movable tracks or farm tractors or other farm machinery, the operation of which upon a highway would otherwise be prohibited under this Traffic Code. (WV Code 17C-15-37. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.)
^[311.25]

311.26 Safety glass in motor vehicles.

- (a) On and after July 1, 1951, no person shall operate any motor vehicle as specified herein, nor shall any motor vehicle as specified herein be registered thereafter unless such vehicle is equipped with safety glass of a type approved by the Commissioner of Highways wherever glass is used in doors, windows and windshields. The foregoing

FOOTNOTES:

- 311.24 This section was previously codified as 345.24.
- 311.25 This section was previously codified as 345.25.

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provisions shall apply to all passenger-type motor vehicles, including passenger buses and school buses, but in respect to trucks, including truck tractors, the requirements as to safety glass shall apply to all glass used in doors, windows, and windshields in the drivers' compartments of such vehicles.

- (b) The term "safety glass" shall mean any product composed of glass, so manufactured, fabricated or treated as substantially to prevent shattering and flying of the glass when struck or broken, or such other or similar product as may be approved by the Commissioner. (WV Code 17C-15-38. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.26]

311.27 Vehicles transporting explosives.

Any person operating any vehicle transporting any explosive, as a cargo or part of a cargo upon a street or highway shall at all times comply with the provisions of this section.

- (a) Such vehicle shall be marked or placarded on each side and the rear with the word "Explosives" in letters not less than eight inches high, or there shall be displayed on the rear of such vehicle a red flag not less than twenty-four inches square marked with the word "Danger" in white letters six inches high.
- (b) Every such vehicle shall be equipped with not less than two fire extinguishers, filled and ready for immediate use and placed at a convenient point on the vehicle so used. (WV Code 17C-15-41. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.27]

311.28 Television receiver in driver's view prohibited.

No motor vehicle shall be operated on any street or highway in this Corporation when equipped with a television receiver unless such receiver is so placed that the screen or picture tube of such receiver is visible only in the rear seat of such motor vehicle and not in view of the operator of such motor vehicle. (WV Code 17C-15-42. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.28]

311.29 Safety equipment for motorcyclists, motorcycles, motor-driven cycles and mopeds.

- (b) No person shall operate or be a passenger on any motorcycle or motor-driven cycle unless he is wearing securely fastened on his head by either a neck or chin strap a protective helmet designed to deflect blows, resist penetration and spread impact forces. Any helmet worn by an operator or passenger shall meet the current performance specifications established by the American National Standards Institute Standard, Z 90.1, the United States Department of Transportation Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 218 or Snell Safety Standards for Protective Headgear for Vehicle Users.
- (c) No person shall operate or be a passenger on any motorcycle or motor-driven cycle unless he is wearing safety, shatter-resistant eyeglasses (excluding contact lenses), or eye goggles or face shield that complies with the performance specifications established by the American National Standards Institute for Head, Eye and Respiratory Protection, Z 2.1. In addition, if any motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped is equipped with a windshield or windscreen, the windshield or windscreen shall be constructed of safety, shatter-resistant material that complies with the performance specifications established by Department of Transportation Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 205 and American National Standards Institute, Safety Glazing Materials for Glazing Motor Vehicles Operated on Land Highways, Standard

FOOTNOTES:

- 311.26 This section was previously codified as 311.26.
311.27 This section was previously codified as 345.27.
311.28 This section was previously codified as 311.28.
-

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Z 26.1.

- (d) No person shall operate a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped on which the handlebars or grips are more than fifteen inches higher than the uppermost part of the operator's seat when the seat is not depressed in any manner.
- (e) A person operating a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped shall ride in a seated position facing forward and only upon a permanent operator's seat attached to the vehicle. No operator shall carry any other person nor shall any other person ride on such a vehicle unless the vehicle is designed to carry more than one person, in which event a passenger may ride behind the operator upon the permanent operator's seat if it is designed for two persons, or upon another seat firmly attached to the vehicle to the rear of the operator's seat and equipped with footrests designed and located for use by the passenger or in a sidecar firmly attached to the vehicle. No person shall ride sidesaddle on a seat. An operator may carry as many passengers as there are seats and footrests to accommodate those passengers. Additional passengers may be carried in a factory produced side car provided that there is one passenger per seat. Passengers riding in a sidecar shall be restrained by safety belts.
- (f) Every motorcycle, motor-driven cycle and moped shall be equipped with a rearview mirror affixed to the handlebars or fairings and adjusted so that the operator shall have a clear view of the road and condition of traffic behind him for a distance of at least 200 feet. (WV Code 17C-15-44. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.29]

311.30 Certification labels on mopeds.

Every moped sold in this Municipality shall have permanently affixed to it a certification label which shall contain the following information:

- (1) Name of manufacturer;
- (2) Month and year of manufacture;
- (3) Gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR);
- (4) Gross axle weight rating for front and rear axles (GAWR);
- (5) Vehicle identification number;
- (6) Classification type; and
- (7) Statement of conformance to Federal standards as required by Federal law. (WV Code 17C-15-45. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.30]

311.31 Child passenger safety devices required; child safety seats and booster seats.

Every driver who transports a child under the age of eight years in a passenger automobile, van or pickup truck other than one operated for hire shall, while the motor vehicle is in motion and operated on a street or highway, provide for the protection of the child by properly placing, maintaining and securing the child in a child passenger safety device system meeting applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards; provided, that if a child is under the age of eight years and at least four feet nine inches tall, a safety belt shall be sufficient to meet the requirements of this section.

- (a) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be fined not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than twenty dollars (\$20.00).
- (b) A violation of this section does not by virtue of the violation constitute evidence of negligence or contributory negligence or comparative negligence in any civil action or proceeding for damages.

FOOTNOTES:

- 311.29 This section was previously codified as 345.29.
- 311.30 This section was previously codified as 345.30.

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- (c) If any provision of this section or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity may not affect other provisions or applications of this section and to this end the subsections of this section are declared to be severable.
- (d) If all seat belts in a vehicle are being used at the time of examination by a law officer and the vehicle contains more passengers than the total number of seat belts or other safety devices as installed in compliance with federal motor vehicle safety standards, the driver may not be considered in violation of this section. (WV Code 17C-15-46. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.31]

311.32 Certificate of inspection and approval.

Once each year, every motor vehicle registered in West Virginia is required to be inspected and an official certificate of inspection and approval be obtained and displayed for each such vehicle. This applies to vehicles parked wholly or partially upon public property including any of the full width of the right-of-way. (WV Code 17C-16-9. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.32]

311.33 Alteration of suspension system.

- (a) No person shall operate upon a public street or highway any motor vehicle registered or required to be registered in this State if it has been modified by alteration of its bumper mounting on the frame more than four inches from the lower edge of the original manufactured bumper configuration for that vehicle. The bumper must be at least three inches in vertical width, centered on the center line of the motor vehicle and not less than the width of the wheel track distance. The maximum distance between the vehicle body to the vehicle frame shall not exceed three inches. The distance from the vehicle body to the vehicle frame shall be measured from the vehicle body mount seat to the vehicle frame mount seat. No vehicle shall be modified to cause the vehicle body or chassis to come in contact with the ground, expose the fuel tank to damage from collision, or cause the wheels to come in contact with the body under normal operation. No part of the original suspension system shall be disconnected to defeat the safe operation of the suspension system. Front end suspension by the use of lift blocks is expressly prohibited. However, nothing contained in this section prevents the installation of heavy duty equipment, including shock absorbers and overload springs. Nothing contained in this section prohibits the operation on a public street or highway of a motor vehicle with normal wear to the suspension system if such normal wear does not adversely affect the control of the vehicle.
- (b) No person shall operate upon a public street or highway any motor vehicle registered in this State if it has been modified by alteration of its altitude from the ground to the extent that its bumpers, measured to any point on the lower edge of the main horizontal bumper bar, exclusive of any bumper guards, do not fall within the limits specified herein for its gross vehicle weight rating category. The front and rear bumper height of trucks whose gross vehicle weight rating is 10,000 pounds or less may be no less than six inches and no more than thirty-one inches. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating in excess of 10,000 pounds. For the purpose of this section, the term "gross vehicle weight ratings" means manufacturer's gross vehicle weight ratings established for that vehicle.
- (c) In the absence of bumpers, and in cases where bumper heights have been lowered or modified more than four inches, height measurements under subsection (a) or (b) shall

FOOTNOTES:

- 311.31 This section was previously codified as 345.31.
- 311.32 This section was previously codified as 345.32.

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- be made to the bottom of the frame rail.
- (d) This section does not apply to specially designed or modified motor vehicles when operated off the public streets or highways in races and similar events. Such motor vehicles may be lawfully towed on the highways of this State.
 - (e) No person shall operate upon a public street or highway any motor vehicle registered or required to be registered in this State if it has been modified by alteration as set out in the provisions of this section unless the tires on the altered motor vehicle meet specifications approved by the United States Department of Transportation. In addition, neither the motor vehicle nor the chassis shall come in contact with the tires under normal operation.
 - (f) Modified vehicles must have a special inspection sticker which must be inspected by July 31, 1990. The Police Department shall record on accident report forms whether a modified vehicle was involved in the accident. (WV Code 17C-15-48. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.) ^[311.33]

311.34 Sun screening devices.

- (a) No person may operate a motor vehicle that is registered or required to be registered in the State on any public highway, road or street that has a sun screening device on the windshield, the front side wings and side windows adjacent to the right and left of the driver and windows adjacent to the rear of the driver that do not meet the requirements of this section; provided, that law-enforcement K-9 and other emergency vehicles that are designed to haul animals are exempt from this requirement.
- (b) A sun screening device when used in conjunction with the windshield must be non-reflective and may not be red, yellow or amber in color. A sun screening device may be used only along the top of the windshield and may not extend downward beyond the ASI line or more than five inches from the top of the windshield whichever is closer to the top of the windshield.
- (c) A sun screening device when used in conjunction with the automotive safety glazing materials of the side wings or side windows located at the immediate right and left of the driver shall be a non-reflective type with reflectivity of not more than twenty percent (20 %) and have a light transmission of not less than thirty-five percent (35 %). The side windows behind the driver and the rear most windows may have a sun screening device that is designed to be used on automotive safety glazing materials that has a light transmission of not less than thirty-five percent (35 %) and a reflectivity of not more than twenty percent (20%). If a sun screening device is used on glazing behind the driver, one right and one left outside rear view mirror is required.
- (d) Each manufacturer shall:
 - (1) Certify to the State Police and Division of Motor Vehicles that a sun screening device used by it is in compliance with the reflectivity and transmittance requirements of this section;
 - (2) Provide a label not to exceed one and one-half square inches in size, with a means for the permanent and legible installations between the sun screening material and each glazing surface to which it is applied that contains the manufacturer's name and its percentage of light transmission; and
 - (3) Include instructions with the product or material for proper installation, including the affixing of the label specified in this section. The labeling or marking must be placed in the left lower corner of each glazing surface when facing the vehicle from the outside.

FOOTNOTES:

311.33 This section was previously codified as 345.33.

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- (e) No person shall:
 - (1) Offer for sale or for use any sun screening product or material for motor vehicle use not in compliance with this section; or
 - (2) Install any sun screening product or material on vehicles intended for use on public roads without permanently affixing the label specified in this section.
- (f) The provisions of this section do not apply to a motor vehicle registered in this State in the name of a person, or the person's legal guardian, who has an affidavit signed by a physician or an optometrist licensed to practice in this State that states that the person has a physical condition that makes it necessary to equip the motor vehicle with sun screening material which would be of a light transmittance or luminous reflectance in violation of this section. The affidavit must be in the possession of the person so afflicted, or the person's legal guardian, at all times while being transported in the motor vehicle.
- (g) The light transmittance requirement of this section does not apply to windows behind the driver on trucks, buses, trailers, mobile homes and multipurpose passenger vehicles.
- (h) As used in this section:
 - (1) "Bus" means a motor vehicle with motive power, except a trailer, designed for carrying more than ten persons.
 - (2) "Light transmission" means the ratio of the amount of total light to pass through a product or material to the amount of the total light falling on the product or material.
 - (3) "Luminous reflectants" means the ratio of the amount of total light that is reflected outward by the product or material to the amount of the total light falling on the product or materials.
 - (4) "Manufacturer" means any person engaged in the manufacturing or assembling of sun screening products or materials designed to be used in conjunction with vehicle glazing materials for the purpose of reducing the effects of the sun.
 - (5) "Motor homes" means vehicular units designed to provide temporary living quarters built into and an integral part of or permanently attached to a self-propelled motor vehicle chassis.
 - (6) "Multipurpose passenger vehicle" means a motor vehicle with motive power, except a trailer, designed to carry ten persons or less which is constructed either on a truck chassis or with special features for occasional off-road operation.
 - (7) "Non-reflective" means a product or material designed to absorb light rather than to reflect it.
 - (8) "Passenger car" means a motor vehicle with motive power, except a multipurpose passenger vehicle, motorcycle or trailer, designed for carrying ten persons or less.
 - (9) "Sun screening device" means film material or device that is designed to be used in conjunction with motor vehicle safety glazing materials for reducing the effects of the sun.
 - (10) "Truck" means a motor vehicle with motive power, except a trailer, designed primarily for the transportation of property or special purpose equipment.
(WV Code 17C-15-36a. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.)

311.35 Operation of vehicle with safety belts.

- (a) A person shall not operate a passenger vehicle on a public street or highway unless the person, any passenger in the back seat under eighteen years of age, and any

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passenger in the front seat of the passenger vehicle is restrained by a safety belt meeting applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards. For the purposes of this section, "passenger vehicle" means a motor vehicle which is designed for transporting ten passengers or less, including the driver, except that the term does not include a motorcycle, a trailer or any motor vehicle which is not required on the date of the enactment of this section under a federal motor vehicle safety standard to be equipped with a belt system. The provisions of this section shall apply to all passenger vehicles manufactured after the first day of January, 1967, and being 1968 models and newer.

- (b) The required use of safety belts as provided herein does not apply to a duly appointed or contracted rural mail carrier of the United States Postal Service who is actually making mail deliveries or to a passenger or operator with a physically disabling condition whose physical disability would prevent appropriate restraint in the safety belt if the condition is duly certified by a physician who states the nature of the disability as well as the reason the restraint is inappropriate.
- (c) A violation of this section is not admissible as evidence of negligence or contributory negligence or comparative negligence in any civil action or proceeding for damages, and is not admissible in mitigation of damages; provided, that the court may, upon motion of the defendant, conduct an in camera hearing to determine whether an injured party's failure to wear a safety belt was a proximate cause of the injuries complained of. Upon a finding by the court, the court may then, in a jury trial, by special interrogatory to the jury, determine (1) that the injured party failed to wear a safety belt, and (2) that the failure to wear the safety belt constituted a failure to mitigate damages. The trier of fact may reduce the injured party's recovery for medical damages by an amount not to exceed five percent (5%) thereof. In the event the plaintiff stipulates to the reduction of five percent (5%) of medical damages, the court shall make the calculations and the issue of mitigation of damages for failure to wear a safety belt may not be presented to the jury. In all cases, the actual computation of the dollar amount reduction shall be determined by the court.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code to the contrary, no points may be entered on any driver's record maintained by the Division of Motor Vehicles as a result of a violation of this section.
- (e) Nothing contained in this section abrogates or alters the provisions of Section 311.31 relating to the mandatory use of child passenger safety devices. (WV Code 17C-15-49)
- (f) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be fined not more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). No court costs or other fees may be assessed for a violation of this section. (Ord. 2013-06, passed 06-10-2013.) ^[311.35]

311.36 Use of engine compression brakes prohibited.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for the driver of any vehicle to use or operate or cause to be used or operated, within the corporate limits of the Corporation of Harpers Ferry, any engine brake, compression brake or mechanical exhaust device designed in the aid of braking or decelerating of any vehicle that results in excessive, loud, unusual, or explosive noise from such vehicle on any public ways, including, but not limited to, streets, alleys, easements, and rights-of-way, established for vehicle operation, except when necessary for the protection of persons and/or property which cannot be avoided by application of an alternative braking system. Noise caused by the application of

FOOTNOTES:

311.35 This section was previously codified as 345.35 (Ord. 95-2, passed 12-11-1995). Recodified as 311.35 by Ord. 2013-01 (passed 02-11-2013).

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engine compression brakes which is effectively muffled or if the application is necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the is exempt from the provisions of this section. Noise created by emergency equipment for emergency purposes is also exempt.

- (b) Any person violating this section shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or imprisoned not more than ten days, or both; upon a second conviction within one year thereafter, shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) or imprisoned not more than twenty days, or both; and upon a third or subsequent conviction, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both. (Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.)

311.99 Penalty.

- (a) General article penalty. Unless otherwise provided for in this article, any person violating any provision of this article shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00); upon a second conviction within one year thereafter, shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00); and upon a third or subsequent conviction, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
- (b) Brakes. Any person violating Sections 311.19 or 311.20 shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or imprisoned not more than ten days, or both; upon a second conviction within one year thereafter, shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) or imprisoned not more than twenty days, or both; and upon a third or subsequent conviction, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both. (WV Code 17C-15-6.)
- (c) Sun screening devices. Whoever violates Section 311.34 shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00). (WV Code 17C-15-36a. Ord. 2013-01, passed 02-11-2013.)