

810-5-1-.442 Farm and Forest Products License Plates.

(1) Section 40-12-248(b), Code of Alabama 1975, provides for reduced annual license fees for certain trucks or truck tractors.

(2) Trucks or truck tractors owned and used by a farmer for transporting farm products or the personal property of the farmer for use on his or her farm shall be issued a farm (F) license plate for the proper weight classification declared by the vehicle owner.

(a) A farm license plate may be issued to one (1) truck tractor owned and used by the farmer. A “truck tractor” is defined in Section 40-12-240 as “every motor vehicle designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to carry a load other than a part of the weight of the vehicles and load so drawn.”

(b) Farm license plates may be issued to pickup trucks. A “pickup truck” is defined in Section 32-8-2 as “a truck with not more than two axles and a gross weight not exceeding 12,000 pounds.”

(c) Farm license plates may not be issued to Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs), since SUVs are primarily designed to transport passengers and are not considered to be a truck as defined in Section 40-12-240, Code of Alabama 1975.

(d) The phrase “for use on his or her farm” limits the use of farm license plates; therefore, pickup trucks, trucks and truck tractors displaying farm license plates may not be used to tow travel trailers, boats, ATVs, etc. for personal or recreational purposes and may not be used for hire.

(3) Trucks owned and used by any person for transporting forest products from the point of severance to a sawmill, to a papermill, or to a concentration yard shall be issued a forest products (L) license plate for the proper weight classification declared by the vehicle owner.

(4) The registration fees charged for farm or forest products license plates shall be based on the gross vehicle weight of the truck or truck tractor. Gross vehicle weight is the empty weight of the truck or truck tractor plus the heaviest load to be carried and, in the case of combinations, shall include the empty weight of the heaviest trailer in which the truck or truck tractor shall be placed in combination, plus the heaviest load to be carried.

(5) All scaled weights for trucks or truck tractors properly displaying farm or forest products license plates shall be allowed a tolerance or a margin of error of 10 percent of the true gross axle weights to allow for any climatic conditions.

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Authority: Sections 40-2A-7(a)(5), Code of Alabama 1975

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