

1 § 1251. SIRENS AND EMERGENCY WARNING LAMPS; OUT-OF-  
2 STATE EMERGENCY AND RESCUE VEHICLES

3 (a) Prohibition. A motor vehicle shall not be operated upon a highway of  
4 this State equipped with any of the following:

5 (1) a siren unless either a permit authorizing the siren, issued by the  
6 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, is carried in the vehicle or a permit is not  
7 required pursuant to section 1252 of this subchapter;

8 (2) an emergency warning lamp unless either a permit authorizing the  
9 emergency warning lamp, issued by the Commissioner, is carried in the vehicle  
10 or a permit is not required pursuant to section 1252 of this subchapter;

11 (3) a blue light of any kind unless either a permit authorizing the blue  
12 light, issued by the Commissioner, is carried in the vehicle or a permit is not  
13 required pursuant to section 1252 of this subchapter; or

14 (4) a lamp or lamps that is not an emergency warning lamp and provides  
15 a flashing light in a color other than amber.

16 (b) Permit transfer. A permit may be transferred following the same  
17 procedure and subject to the same time limits as set forth in section 321 of this  
18 title. The Commissioner may adopt additional rules as may be required to  
19 govern the acquisition of permits and the use pertaining to sirens and  
20 emergency warning lamps.

1 (c) Exception for vehicles from another state. Notwithstanding the  
2 provisions of subsection (a) of this section, when responding to emergencies,  
3 law enforcement vehicles, ambulances, fire vehicles, or vehicles owned or  
4 leased by, or provided to, volunteer firefighters or rescue squad members that  
5 are registered or licensed by another state or province may use sirens and  
6 emergency warning lamps in Vermont, and a permit shall not be required for  
7 such use, provided the vehicle is properly permitted or otherwise permitted to  
8 use the sirens and emergency warning lamps without permit in its home state  
9 or province.

10 § 1252. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

11 VEHICLES; ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR SIRENS OR

12 EMERGENCY WARNING LAMPS, OR BOTH; USE OF AMBER

13 LAMPS

14 (a) Law enforcement vehicles.

15 (1) Law enforcement vehicles owned and operated by the government.

16 The following are authorized for use, without permit, on all law enforcement  
17 vehicles owned or leased by the federal government, a municipality, the State,  
18 or the Vermont Criminal Justice Council:

19 (A) Sirens, blue emergency warning lamps, or blue and white  
20 emergency warning lamps, or a combination thereof.

1           (B) A red emergency warning lamp or a red and amber emergency  
2 warning lamp, provided that the emergency warning lamp is mounted so as to  
3 be visible primarily from the rear of the vehicle.

4           (2) Law enforcement vehicles owned or leased by a certified constable.

5           (A) The following are authorized for use, without permit, on all law  
6 enforcement vehicles owned or leased by a Vermont Criminal Justice Council  
7 certified constable for a municipality that has not voted to limit the constable's  
8 authority to engage in enforcement activities under 24 V.S.A. § 1936a: a red  
9 emergency warning lamp or a red and amber emergency warning lamp,  
10 provided that the emergency warning lamp is mounted so as to be visible  
11 primarily from the rear of the vehicle.

12           (B) A constable for a municipality that has voted to limit the  
13 constable's authority to engage in enforcement activities under 24 V.S.A.  
14 § 1936a shall not operate, in the course of the constable's elected duties, a  
15 motor vehicle with a siren or an emergency warning lamp.

16           (b) Emergency services vehicles.

17           (1) Emergency services vehicles owned and operated by the  
18 government. The following are authorized for use, without permit, on all  
19 emergency services vehicles owned or leased by the federal government, a  
20 municipality, or the State:

1           (A) sirens and red emergency signal lamps or red and white  
2 emergency warning lamps; and

3           (B) a blue emergency warning lamp or a blue and amber emergency  
4 warning lamp provided that the emergency warning lamp is mounted so as to  
5 be visible primarily from the rear of the vehicle.

6           (2) Emergency services vehicles not owned and operated by the  
7 government.

8           (A) When satisfied as to the condition and use of the vehicle, the  
9 Commissioner shall issue and may revoke, for cause, permits for sirens and  
10 emergency warning lamps in the following manner:

11           (i) Sirens and red emergency warning lamps or red and white  
12 emergency warning lamps may be authorized for all ambulances and other  
13 emergency medical service (EMS) vehicles, vehicles owned or leased by a fire  
14 department, vehicles used solely in rescue operations, or vehicles owned or  
15 leased by, or provided to, volunteer firefighters and voluntary rescue squad  
16 members, including a vehicle owned by a volunteer’s employer when the  
17 volunteer has the written authorization of the employer to use the vehicle for  
18 emergency fire or rescue activities.

19           (ii) A blue emergency warning lamp or a blue and amber  
20 emergency warning lamp may be authorized for all EMS vehicles or vehicles  
21 owned or leased by a fire department, provided that the Commissioner shall

1 require the emergency warning lamp be mounted so as to be visible primarily  
2 from the rear of the vehicle.

3 (B) No motor vehicle, other than one owned by the applicant, shall be  
4 issued a permit until the Commissioner has recorded the information regarding  
5 both the owner of the vehicle and the applicant for the permit.

6 (C) Upon application to the Commissioner, the Commissioner may  
7 issue a single permit for all the vehicles owned or leased by the applicant.

8 (c) Restored vehicles. A combination of one or more of red signal  
9 lamps, red and white signal lamps, blue signal lamps, or blue and white signal  
10 lamps may be authorized for restored emergency or enforcement vehicles used  
11 for exhibition purposes. Sirens and lamps authorized under this subsection  
12 may only be activated during an exhibition, such as a car show or parade.

13 (d) Amber signal lamps. Amber signal lamps shall be used on road  
14 maintenance vehicles, service vehicles, and wreckers and shall be used on all  
15 registered snow removal equipment when in use removing snow on public  
16 highways, and the amber lamps shall be mounted so as to be visible from all  
17 sides of the motor vehicle.