

HORN USE LAWS IN THE UNITED STATES

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This is a compilation of State laws in the United States related to correct use of a vehicle horn. The information in this document supports the case for eliminating use of horn sounds to signify non-emergency events such as locking a car or using remote start. Currently more than half of vehicles manufactured for sale in the US and Canada use the horn sound for such non-emergency signals, interrupting sleep, affecting focus and concentration, creating conflict between neighbors, and startling and confusing drivers and cyclists. The statutory requirement in many states that a horn be heard at 200 feet distance makes it clear that vehicle horns are too loud to be used as an alert to indicate locking or unlocking of the vehicle. The sounding of this signal close to a pedestrian is often loud enough to damage hearing, or to exacerbate hyperacusis and tinnitus.

Certain language is in red to make it easy to find. States are listed alphabetically. The authors note that in a phrase that appears in many State codes. **“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 the horn when upon a highway”** the word “highway” is not limited to an actual highway. In California, a highway is defined as to include a street according to this link: ["Highway" defined, Cal. Veh. Code § 360 - Casetexthttps://casetext.com › division-1-words-and-phrases-defined](https://casetext.com/division-1-words-and-phrases-defined)

A "highway" is therefore ***a way or place of whatever nature, publicly maintained and open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.*** “Highway” includes streets and other locations where vehicles are driven and parked.

Alabama 2006 Alabama Code - Section 32-5-213 — Horns and warning devices.

(a) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with a horn in good working order capable of emitting a sound audible under normal conditions for a distance of not less than 200 feet.

It shall be unlawful for any vehicle to be equipped with or for any person to use upon a vehicle any siren or for any person at any time to use a horn otherwise than as a reasonable warning or to make any unnecessary or unreasonably loud or harsh sound by means of a horn or other warning device.

(b) Every police and fire department and fire patrol vehicle and every ambulance used for emergency calls shall be equipped with a siren, bell, ululating multi-toned horns or other electronic siren type device approved by the Director of Public Safety.

(c) Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(Acts 1927, No. 347, p. 348; Code 1940, T. 36, §36; Acts 1966, Ex. Sess., No. 432, p. 578.)

ALASKA Section 13 AAC 04.210 - Horns and warning devices

(a) A motor vehicle operated upon a highway or other vehicular way or area, except for snowmobiles, must be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of at least 200 feet, but no horn or other warning device may 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 may not otherwise use the horn when upon a highway or other vehicular way or area.** **(b)** No vehicle may be equipped with, nor may a person use, a siren, whistle, or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section. **(c)** A vehicle may be equipped with a theft alarm signal device, which is installed so that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal. A theft alarm signal device may use a whistle, bell, horn or other audible signal, but may not use a siren.

Arizona [28-954. Horns and warning devices](#)

A. A motor vehicle when operated on a highway shall be equipped with a horn that is in good working order and that is capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of at least two hundred feet. Any horn or other warning device shall not emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle.

B. If reasonably necessary to ensure the safe operation of a motor vehicle, the driver shall give an audible warning with the driver's horn but shall not otherwise use the horn when on a highway.

C. A vehicle shall not be equipped with and a person shall not use on a vehicle a siren, whistle or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section.

D. A vehicle may but is not required to be equipped with a theft alarm signal device that is arranged so that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal.

2010 Arkansas Code

Title 27 - Transportation

Subtitle 3 - Motor Vehicles And Their Equipment

Chapter 37 - Equipment Regulations

Subchapter 2 - Safety and Emergency Equipment

§ 27-37-202 - Horns and warning devices -- Flashing lights on emergency vehicles.

27-37-202. Horns and warning devices -- Flashing lights on emergency vehicles.

(a) (1) (A) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a 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 two hundred feet (200').

(B) No horn or other warning device shall emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle.

(2) When reasonably necessary to ensure safe operation, the driver of a motor vehicle shall give audible warning with his or her horn but shall not otherwise use the horn when upon a public street or highway.

2010 California Code

Vehicle Code

Article 1. Horns, Sirens And Amplification Devices

VEHICLE CODE
SECTION 27000-27007

27000. (a) A motor vehicle, when operated upon a 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 shall emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound.

27001. (a) The driver of a motor vehicle when reasonably necessary to insure safe operation shall give audible warning with his horn. (b) The horn shall not otherwise be used, except as a theft alarm system which operates as specified in Article 13 (commencing with Section 28085) of this chapter.

2016 Colorado Revised Statutes
Title 42 - Vehicles and Traffic
Regulation of Vehicles and Traffic
Article 4 - Regulation of Vehicles and Traffic
Part 2 - Equipment
§ 42-4-224. Horns or warning devices

Universal Citation: [CO Rev Stat § 42-4-224 \(2016\)](#)

(1) Every motor vehicle, when operated upon a 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 two hundred feet, but no horn or other warning device shall emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound, except as provided in section 42-4-213 (1) in the case of authorized emergency vehicles or as provided in section 42-4-222. The driver of a motor vehicle, when reasonably necessary to ensure safe operation, shall give audible warning with the horn but shall not otherwise use such horn when upon a highway.

(2) No vehicle shall be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a vehicle any audible device except as otherwise permitted in this section. It is permissible but not required that any vehicle be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it cannot be used by the driver as a warning signal unless the alarm device is a required part of the vehicle. Nothing in this section is meant to preclude the use of audible warning devices that are activated when the vehicle is backing. Any authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with an audible signal device under section 42-4-213 (1), but such device shall not be used except when such vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call or in the actual pursuit of a suspected violator of the law or for other special

purposes, including, but not limited to, funerals, parades, and the escorting of dignitaries. Such device shall not be used for such special purposes unless the circumstances would not lead a reasonable person to believe that such vehicle is responding to an actual emergency.

2011 Connecticut Code

Title 14 Motor Vehicles. Use of the Highway By Vehicles. Gasoline

Chapter 246 Motor Vehicles

Sec. 14-80. Mechanical equipment.

(e) Every motor vehicle shall, when operated on a highway, 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 two hundred feet, but no horn or other warning device shall emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle.

(f) No vehicle shall be equipped with, nor shall any person use on a vehicle, any siren, whistle or bell as a warning signal device, except as otherwise permitted by this section. Any motor vehicle may 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.

2012 Delaware Code

Title 21 - Motor Vehicles

CHAPTER 43. EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF VEHICLES

Subchapter I. Equipment Requirements

§ 4306. Horns and other sound devices; unlawful use.

Universal Citation: [21 DE Code § 4306 \(2012 through 146th Gen Ass\)](#)

(a) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with a horn in good working order capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 200 feet.

(b) Except as otherwise provided, no vehicle shall be equipped with and no person shall use upon a vehicle any siren, exhaust, compression or spark plug whistle, and no person at any time shall use a horn otherwise than as a reasonable warning or make any unnecessary or unreasonable loud or harsh sound by means of a horn or other warning device.

(e) Subsection (c) of this section shall not apply to any municipality of this State with a population in excess of 50,000 which has an ordinance addressing noise violations of that type. In the event that any such municipality repeals its ordinance without substituting requirements at least as restrictive as those found in subsection (c) of this section, then the provisions of subsection (c) of this section shall take effect within that municipality.

FLORIDA 316.271 Horns and warning devices. –

(1) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a 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.

(2) No horn or other warning device shall emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle.

(3) The driver of a motor vehicle shall, when reasonably necessary to ensure safe operation, give audible warning with his or her horn, but shall not otherwise use such horn when upon a highway.

(4) 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.

(5) It is permissible but not required that any 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.

(8) A violation of this section is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a nonmoving violation as provided in chapter 318.

2019 Georgia Code

Title 40 - Motor Vehicles and Traffic

Chapter 8 - Equipment and Inspection of Motor Vehicles

Article 1 - Equipment Generally

Part 4 - Horns, Exhaust Systems, Mirrors, Windshields,

Tires, Safety Belts, Energy Absorption Systems

§ 40-8-70. Horns and warning devices

Universal Citation: [GA Code § 40-8-70 \(2019\)](#)

- (a) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a 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 it is reasonably necessary to ensure safe operation, give audible warning with

his or her horn but shall not otherwise use such horn when upon a highway.

HAWAII It appears that there is no state law governing horns or horn use. There is a Honolulu County law.

IDAHO TITLE 49
MOTOR VEHICLES
CHAPTER 9
VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

49-956. HORNS AND WARNING DEVICES. (1) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a 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 two hundred (200) feet, but no horn or other warning device shall emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or 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 the horn when upon a highway.**

(2) 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.

(3) It is permissible, but not required for any vehicle to be equipped with a theft alarm signal device, so arranged that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal.

Illinois (625 ILCS 5/12-601) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 12-601)

Sec. 12-601. Horns and warning devices.

(a) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a 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 unreasonable 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 highway.** when operated upon a 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 unreasonable loud or harsh sound or a whistle.

2018 Indiana Code

TITLE 9. Motor Vehicles

ARTICLE 19. MOTOR VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

CHAPTER 5. Horns and Emergency Warning Signals

9-19-5-2. Use of horn during operation of vehicle

Universal Citation: [IN Code § 9-19-5-2 \(2018\)](#)

IC 9-19-5-2 Use of horn during operation of vehicle

Sec. 2. The driver of a motor vehicle shall, when reasonably necessary to ensure safe operation, give audible warning with the horn on the motor vehicle but may not otherwise use the horn when upon a highway.

[Pre-1991 Recodification Citation: 9-8-6-35(a) part.]

IOWA

321.432 Horns and warning devices.

Every motor vehicle when operated upon a 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 two hundred 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 the horn but shall not otherwise use such horn when upon a highway.

[S13, §1571-m17; C24, 27, 31, 35, §5040, 5041; C39, §5034.41; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71,

73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §321.432]

KANSAS

8-1738. Horns and warning devices. (a) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a 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 whistle. The driver of a motor vehicle when reasonably necessary to insure safe operation shall give audible warning with his horn but shall not otherwise use such horn when upon a 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) Any vehicle may 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. Such a theft alarm signal device may use a whistle, bell, horn or other audible signal but shall not use a siren.

Kentucky

189.080 Horns and other sound devices.

Every motor vehicle, when in use on a highway, shall be equipped with a horn or other device capable of making an abrupt sound sufficiently loud to be heard from a distance of at least two hundred (200) feet under all ordinary traffic conditions. **Every person operating an automobile or bicycle shall sound the horn or sound device whenever necessary as a warning of the approach of such vehicle to pedestrians or other vehicles, but shall not sound the horn or sound device unnecessarily.** A bell may be used on a bicycle.

2011 Louisiana Laws

Revised Statutes

TITLE 32 — Motor vehicles and traffic regulation

RS 32:351 — Horns and warning devices

Universal Citation: [LA Rev Stat § 32:351](#)

SUBPART C. OTHER EQUIPMENT

§351. Horns and warning devices

A.(1) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a highway of this state 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 two hundred 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 ensure safe operation, give audible warning with his horn, but shall not otherwise use such horn when upon a highway of this state.**

(2) Persons with mobility impairments, while operating a motor vehicle upon any state or local highway of this state, may utilize the horn of such vehicle if the nature of the operator's physical impairment requires use of the horn in a situation other than one required to ensure safe operation of the motor vehicle and the operator is operating a motor vehicle with a mobility-impaired license plate or the operator has been issued a mobility-impaired hang tag.

Maine

§1903. Adequate signaling device; use

1. Signaling device required. A person may not operate a motor vehicle without a suitable and adequate horn or other device for signaling.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §19 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

2. Unnecessarily sounded. A person may not unnecessarily sound a signaling device or horn.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §19 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION

2010 Maryland Code

TRANSPORTATION

TITLE 22 - VEHICLE LAWS - EQUIPMENT OF VEHICLES

Subtitle 4 - Other Equipment

Section 22-401 - Horns and warning devices.

§ 22-401. Horns and warning devices.

(a) Adequacy of horns.- Every motor vehicle when operated on a 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 may emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle.

(b) When to be used.- The driver of a motor vehicle shall, when reasonably necessary to insure safe operation, give audible warning with his horn, but may not otherwise use the horn when on a highway.

(c) Sirens, whistles, and bells prohibited.- No vehicle may be equipped with nor may any person use on a vehicle any siren, whistle, or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section.

(d) Theft alarm signal device.- It is permissible, but not required, that any vehicle be equipped with a theft alarm signal device that is so arranged that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal.

Massachusetts

No person operating a motor vehicle shall sound a bell, horn or other device, nor in any manner operate such motor vehicle so as to make a harsh, objectionable or unreasonable noise, nor permit to escape from such vehicle smoke or pollutants in such amounts or at such levels as may violate motor vehicle air pollution control regulations adopted under the provisions of chapter one hundred and eleven.

MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE (EXCERPT)
Act 300 of 1949

257.706 Horn or other warning device; siren, whistle, air horn, or bell; theft alarm signal device.

Sec. 706.

(a) A motor vehicle, including a motorcycle or moped, when operated upon a 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 a horn or other warning device shall not 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 the horn when upon a highway.**

(b) A vehicle shall not be equipped with nor shall a person use upon a vehicle a siren, whistle, or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section.

(c) A commercial vehicle may 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.

Minnesota

169.68 HORN, SIREN.

(a) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a highway must 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. However, the horn or other warning device must not 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 the horn, but shall not otherwise use the horn when upon a highway.**

(b) A vehicle must not be equipped with, and a person shall not use upon a vehicle, any siren, whistle, or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section.

(c) It is permissible, but not required, for any commercial vehicle to be equipped with a theft alarm signal device, so arranged that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal.

2013 Mississippi Code

Title 63 - MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

Chapter 7 - EQUIPMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 63-7-65 - Horns and other warning devices

Universal Citation: [MS Code § 63-7-65 \(2013\)](#)

(1) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a 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 two hundred (200) feet. **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 upon a highway.** No horn or other warning device shall emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle.

- (2) (4) Any vehicle may 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.

MISSOURI

- (3) **307.170. Other equipment of motor vehicles – violations, penalty.** – 1. Signaling devices: Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a horn, directed forward, or whistle in good working order, capable of emitting a sound adequate in quantity and volume to give warning of the approach of such vehicle to other users of the highway and to pedestrians. **Such signaling device shall be used for warning purposes only and shall not be used for making any unnecessary noise, and no other sound-producing signaling device shall be used at any time.**

Montana Code Annotated 2021

TITLE 61. MOTOR VEHICLES

CHAPTER 9. VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

Part 4. Miscellaneous Regulations

Horns, Security Alarms, And Warning Devices

61-9-401. Horns, security alarms, and warning devices. (1) A motor vehicle when operated upon a highway must 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. A horn or other warning device may not emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle. **The driver of a motor vehicle shall when reasonably necessary to ensure safe operation give audible warning with the horn but may not otherwise use the horn when upon a highway.**

(2) A vehicle may not be equipped with and a person may not use upon a vehicle a siren, whistle, or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section.

(3) A vehicle may be equipped with a security alarm signal device that cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal while the vehicle is in motion.

(4) An 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. The siren may not be used except when the vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, in which event the driver of the vehicle shall sound the siren when reasonably necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the vehicle's approach.

History: En. Sec. 142, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-145; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

Nebraska

60-6,285.

Horn; requirements; prohibited acts.

Every motor vehicle when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with a horn in good working order capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than two hundred feet. **Except as otherwise provided in this section, it shall be unlawful for any vehicle to be equipped with or for any person to use upon a vehicle any siren, exhaust, compression, or spark plug whistle or for any person at any time to use a horn, otherwise than as a reasonable warning, or to make any unnecessary or unreasonably loud or harsh sound by means of a horn or other warning device.** Every police and fire department and fire patrol vehicle and every ambulance used for emergency calls shall be equipped with a bell, siren, or exhaust whistle.

2013 Nevada Revised Statutes

Chapter 484D - Equipment, Inspections and Size, Weight and Load of Vehicles

NRS 484D.400 - Horns and other warning devices.

Universal Citation: [NV Rev Stat § 484D.400 \(2013\)](#)

1. Every motor vehicle when operated upon a highway must 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 the horn or other warning device must not emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle.

2. A person driving a motor vehicle shall, when reasonably necessary to ensure safe operation, give audible warning with the horn, but shall not otherwise use the horn when upon a highway.

3. A vehicle must not be equipped with, and a person shall not use upon a vehicle, a siren, whistle or bell, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

4. It is permissible, but not required, to equip a vehicle with a theft alarm which is arranged so that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal.

2015 New Hampshire Revised Statutes
Title XXI - MOTOR VEHICLES
Chapter 266 - EQUIPMENT OF VEHICLES
Section 266:54 - Muffler, Horn and Lamps.

Universal Citation: [NH Rev Stat § 266:54 \(2015\)](#)

266:54 Muffler, Horn and Lamps. – Every motor vehicle driven on the ways of this state shall be provided with a muffler, a suitable and adequate horn or other device for signaling, and suitable lamps.

2013 New Jersey Revised Statutes
Title 39 - MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
REGULATION
Section 39:3-69 - Horns and audible warning devices.

Universal Citation: [NJ Rev Stat § 39:3-69 \(2013\)](#)

39:3-69 Horns and audible warning devices.

39:3-69. Every motor vehicle except a motor-drawn vehicle when operated upon a 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 highway.**

2019 New York Laws
VAT - Vehicle and Traffic
Title 3 - Safety Responsibility; Financial Security;
Equipment; Inspection; Size and Weight; and Other
Provisions
Article 9 - Equipment of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles
375 - Equipment.

Universal Citation: [NY Veh & Traf L § 375 \(2019\)](#)

§ 375. Equipment. 1. (a) Every motor vehicle, operated or driven upon the public highways of the state, shall be provided with adequate brakes and steering mechanism in good working order and sufficient to control such vehicle at all times when the same is in use, and a suitable and adequate horn or other device for signaling, which horn or device shall produce a sound sufficiently loud to serve as a danger warning but **shall not be used other than as a reasonable warning nor be unnecessarily loud or harsh.**

North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 20. Motor Vehicles §
20-125. Horns and warning devices

(a) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with a horn in good working order capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 200 feet, and it shall be unlawful, except as otherwise provided in this section, for any vehicle to be equipped with or for any person to use upon a vehicle any siren, compression or spark plug whistle or **for any person at any time to use a horn otherwise than as a reasonable warning or to make any unnecessary or unreasonable loud or harsh sound by means of a horn or other warning device.** All such horns and warning devices shall be maintained in good working order and shall conform to regulation not inconsistent with this section to be promulgated by the Commissioner.

N.D. Cent. Code § 39-21-36

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Section 39-21-36 - Horn and warning device¹. While being operated upon a highway, every motor vehicle must 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 two hundred feet [60.96 meters], but no horn or other warning device may emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle. **Whenever reasonably necessary for safe operation, the driver of a motor vehicle upon a highway shall give audible warning with the vehicle's horn, but may not otherwise use the vehicle's horn while upon a highway.**². No vehicle may be equipped with nor may any person use upon a vehicle any siren, whistle, or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section.³. Any vehicle may 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.

Section 4513.21 | Horns, sirens, and warning devices.

[Ohio Revised Code](#)

/

[Title 45 Motor Vehicles-Aeronautics-Watercraft](#)

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[Chapter 4513 Traffic Laws - Equipment; Loads](#)

(A) Every motor vehicle or trackless trolley when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with a horn which is in good working order and capable of emitting sound audible, under normal conditions, from a distance of not less than two hundred feet.

No motor vehicle or trackless trolley shall be equipped with, nor shall any person use upon a vehicle, any siren, whistle, or bell. Any vehicle may be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which shall be so arranged that it cannot be used as an ordinary warning signal.

OKLAHOMA

§12-401. A. Every motor vehicle when operated upon a 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 two hundred (200) feet, but no horn or other warning device shall emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound.

OREGON

ORS 815:230 a)

A motor vehicle must be equipped with a horn in good working order, capable of emitting sounds audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 200 feet.

PENNSYLVANIA

§ 175.76. Horns and warning devices.

(a) *Condition of horns and warning devices.* All components of a horn or warning device shall be in safe operating condition as described in § 175.80 (relating to inspection procedure).

(b) *Horn and warning device requirements.* A vehicle specified under this subchapter shall have a horn or other warning device which is audible under normal conditions at a distance of not less than 200 feet. No vehicle shall be equipped with a siren, bell, whistle or similar device emitting an unreasonably loud or harsh sound except emergency vehicles and vehicles equipped with an anti-theft device.

RHODE ISLAND Terms Used In Rhode Island General Laws 31-23-8

The driver of a motor vehicle shall when reasonably necessary to insure safe operation give audible warning with his or her horn but **shall not otherwise use the horn when upon a highway**. Violations of this section are subject to fines enumerated in § 31-41.1-4.

2012 South Carolina Code of Laws

Title 56 - Motor Vehicles

Chapter 5 - UNIFORM ACT REGULATING TRAFFIC ON HIGHWAYS

Section 56-5-4960 - Use of horn.

Universal Citation: [SC Code § 56-5-4960 \(2012\)](#)

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 highway**.

South Dakota Codified Laws 32-15-11. Sirens, whistles, and unnecessary loud noises as misdemeanor

Current as of: 2021 | [Check for updates](#) | [Other versions](#)

It is a Class 2 **misdemeanor**, except as otherwise provided in § [32-15-12](#) , for any vehicle to be equipped with or for any **person** to use upon a vehicle any siren, or any compression or spark plug whistle, or any exhaust horn, or whistle which does not produce a harmonious sound, or for any person at any time to use a horn otherwise than a

reasonable warning or to make any unnecessary or unreasonably loud or harsh sound by means of a horn or other warning device.

Texas Transportation Code - TRANSP § 547.501. Audible Warning Devices

- (a) A motor vehicle shall be equipped with a horn in good working condition that emits a sound audible under normal conditions at a distance of at least 200 feet.
- (b) A vehicle may not be equipped with and a person may not use on a vehicle a siren, whistle, or bell unless the vehicle is:
 - (1) a commercial vehicle that is equipped with a theft alarm signal device arranged so that the device cannot be used as an ordinary warning signal; or
 - (2) an authorized emergency vehicle that is equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell that complies with [Section 547.702](#).
- (c) A motor vehicle operator shall use a horn to provide audible warning only when necessary to insure safe operation.

UTAH

Effective 5/12/2015

41-6a-1625. Horns and warning devices -- Emergency vehicles.

- (1) (a) A motor vehicle operated on a highway shall be equipped with a horn or other warning device in good working order.
- (b) The horn or other warning device:
 - (i) shall be capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 200 feet; and
 - (ii) may not emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle.
- (c) **The operator of a motor vehicle:**
 - (i) when reasonably necessary to insure safe operation, shall give audible warning with the horn; and
 - (ii) except as provided under Subsection [\(1\)\(c\)\(i\)](#), may not use the horn on a highway.

- (2) Except as provided under this section, a vehicle may not be equipped with and a person may not use on a vehicle a siren, whistle, or bell.
- (3) (a) A vehicle may be equipped with a theft alarm signal device if it is arranged so that it cannot be used by the operator as an ordinary warning signal.

The Vermont Statutes Online

[Title 23 : Motor Vehicles](#)

[Chapter 013 : Operation Of Vehicles](#)

Subchapter 011 : Miscellaneous Rules

(Cite as: 23 V.S.A. § 1131)

- **§ 1131. Warning signal**

The operator of a motor vehicle, whenever reasonably necessary to ensure safe operation, shall give an audible warning with the horn of his or her vehicle but shall not otherwise use the horn when upon a highway. (Added 1971, No. 258 (Adj. Sess.), § 3, eff. March 1, 1973.)

VIRGINIA

Article 7. Horns, Sirens, and Whistles.

§ 46.2-1059. Horns.

Every motor vehicle driven on a highway shall be equipped with a working horn capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions for at least 200 feet.

Code 1950, § 46-289; 1958, c. 541, § 46.1-283; 1989, c. 727.

§ 46.2-1060. Illegal sirens, whistles, etc.; unlawful use of warning devices; exceptions.

It shall be unlawful for any vehicle to be equipped with or for any person to use on any vehicle any siren or exhaust, compression or spark plug whistle, or horn except as may be authorized in this title. It shall be unlawful for any vehicle operated on a public highway to be equipped with any warning device that is not of a type that has been approved by the Superintendent. **It shall further be unlawful for any**

person at any time to use a horn otherwise than as a reasonable warning or to make any unnecessary or unreasonably loud or harsh sound by means of a horn or other warning device. However, vehicles of common carriers or extraordinarily large and heavy vehicles may be equipped with such type of warning device as the Superintendent may require or permit.

Wyoming Statutes Title 31. Motor Vehicles § 31-5-952. Horns and warning devices

(a) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a 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 two hundred (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 the horn when upon a 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) Any vehicle may 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. The theft alarm signal device may use a whistle, bell, horn or other audible signal but shall not use a siren.