



CHAPTER 20

ARTICLE 3 - MOTOR VEHICLE ACT OF 1937

N.C.G.S. § 20-51.

Exempt from registration.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	S.L. 2016-90, s. 13(i) — twenty-eighth act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 01:26 UTC	eaded9458b10537b1ce49c9d - d08a26ef3912a2b931d877ed - dce219c6f6ed719b

The following shall be exempt from the requirement of registration and certificate of title:

Any such vehicle driven or moved upon a highway in conformance with the provisions of this Article relating to manufacturers, dealers, or nonresidents.

Any such vehicle which is driven or moved upon a highway only for the purpose of crossing such highway from one property to another.

Any implement of husbandry, farm tractor, road construction or maintenance machinery or other vehicle which is not self-propelled that was designed for use in work off the highway and which is operated on the highway for the purpose of going to and from such nonhighway projects.

Any vehicle owned and operated by the government of the United States.

Farm tractors equipped with rubber tires and trailers or semitrailers when attached thereto and when used by a farmer, his tenant, agent, or employee in transporting his own farm implements, farm supplies, or farm products from place to place on the same farm, from one farm to another, from farm to market, or from market to farm. This exemption shall extend also to any tractor, implement of husbandry, and trailer or semitrailer while on any trip within a radius of 10 miles from the point of loading, provided that the vehicle does not exceed a speed of 35 miles per hour. This section shall not be construed as granting any exemption to farm tractors, implements of husbandry, and trailers or semitrailers which are operated on a for-hire basis, whether money or some other thing of value is paid or given for the use of such tractors, implements of husbandry, and trailers or semitrailers.

Any trailer or semitrailer attached to and drawn by a properly licensed motor vehicle when used by a farmer, his tenant, agent, or employee in transporting unginne cotton, peanuts, soybeans, corn, hay, tobacco, silage, cucumbers, potatoes, all vegetables, fruits, greenhouse and nursery plants and flowers, Christmas trees, livestock, live poultry, animal waste, pesticides, seeds, fertilizers or chemicals purchased or owned by

the farmer or tenant for personal use in implementing husbandry, irrigation pipes, loaders, or equipment owned by the farmer or tenant from place to place on the same farm, from one farm to another, from farm to gin, from farm to dryer, or from farm to market, and when not operated on a for-hire basis. The term "transporting" as used herein shall include the actual hauling of said products and all unloaded travel in connection therewith.

Those small farm trailers known generally as tobacco-handling trailers, tobacco trucks or tobacco trailers when used by a farmer, his tenant, agent or employee, when transporting or otherwise handling tobacco in connection with the pulling, tying or curing thereof.

Any vehicle which is driven or moved upon a highway only for the purpose of crossing or traveling upon such highway from one side to the other provided the owner or lessee of the vehicle owns the fee or a leasehold in all the land along both sides of the highway at the place or crossing.

Repealed by Session Laws 2014-114, s. 2, effective July 1, 2015, and applicable to offenses committed on or after that date.

Devices which are designed for towing private passenger motor vehicles or vehicles not exceeding 5,000 pounds gross weight. These devices are known generally as "tow dollies." A tow dolly is a two-wheeled device without motive power designed for towing disabled motor vehicles and is drawn by a motor vehicle in the same manner as a trailer.

Devices generally called converter gear or dollies consisting of a tongue attached to either a single or tandem axle upon which is mounted a fifth wheel and which is used to convert a semitrailer to a full trailer for the purpose of being drawn behind a truck tractor and semitrailer.

Motorized wheelchairs or similar vehicles not exceeding 1,000 pounds gross weight when used for pedestrian purposes by a handicapped person with a mobility impairment as defined in G.S. 20-37.5.

Any vehicle registered in another state and operated temporarily within this State by a public utility, a governmental or cooperative provider of utility services, or a contractor for one of these entities for the purpose of restoring utility services in an emergency outage.

Electric personal assistive mobility devices as defined in G.S. 20-4.01(7b).

Any vehicle that meets all of the following:

- a. Is designed for use in work off the highway.
- b. Is used for agricultural quarantine programs under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- c. Is driven or moved on the highway for the purpose of going to and from nonhighway projects.
- d. Is identified in a manner approved by the Division of Motor Vehicles.

e.Is operated by a person who possesses an identification card issued by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

A vehicle that meets all of the following conditions is exempt from the requirement of registration and certificate of title. The provisions of G.S. 105-449.117 continue to apply to the vehicle and to the person in whose name the vehicle would be registered.

a.Is an agricultural spreader vehicle. An "agricultural spreader vehicle" is a vehicle that is designed for off-highway use on a farm to spread feed, fertilizer, seed, lime, or other agricultural products.

b.Is driven on the highway only for the purpose of going from the location of its supply source for fertilizer or other products to and from a farm.

c.Does not exceed a speed of 45 miles per hour.

d.Does not drive outside a radius of 50 miles from the location of its supply source for fertilizer and other products.

e.Is driven by a person who has a license appropriate for the class of the vehicle.

f.Is insured under a motor vehicle liability policy in the amount required under G.S. 20-309.

g.Displays a valid federal safety inspection decal if the vehicle has a gross vehicle weight rating of at least 10,001 pounds.

A header trailer when transported to or from a dealer, or after a sale or repairs, to the farm or another dealership.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I 28 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.



Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1937	c. 407, s. 16	ENACTED
02	1943	c. 500	AMENDED
03	1949	c. 429	AMENDED

04	1951	c. 705, s. 2	AMENDED
05	1953	c. 826, ss. 2, 3	AMENDED
06	1953	c. 1316, s. 1	AMENDED
07	1961	cc. 334, 817	AMENDED
08	1963	c. 145	AMENDED
09	1965	c. 1146	AMENDED
10	1971	c. 107	AMENDED
11	1973	cc. 478, 757, 964	AMENDED
12	1979	c. 574, s. 6	AMENDED
13	1979	1981 (Reg. Sess., 1982), c. 1286	AMENDED
14	1983	cc. 288, 732	AMENDED
15	1987	c. 608	AMENDED
16	1989	c. 157, s. 2	AMENDED
17	1991	c. 411, s. 4	AMENDED
18	1995	c. 50, s. 4	AMENDED
19	1999	S.L. 1999-281, s. 2	AMENDED
20	2002	S.L. 2002-98, s. 4	AMENDED
21	2002	S.L. 2002-150, s. 1	AMENDED
22	2006	S.L. 2006-135, s. 2	AMENDED
23	2007	S.L. 2007-194, s. 1	AMENDED
24	2007	S.L. 2007-527, s. 41	AMENDED
25	2012	S.L. 2012-78, ss. 2, 3	AMENDED
26	2014	S.L. 2014-114, s. 2	AMENDED
27	2015	S.L. 2015-263, s. 7	AMENDED
28	2016	S.L. 2016-90, s. 13(i)	AMENDED

APPARATUS II
4 AUTHORITIES

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
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G.S. 20-37.5	(null)(12)	"a mobility impairment as defined in"
G.S. 20-4.01(7b)	(null)(14)	"assistive mobility devices as defined in"
G.S. 105-449.117	(null)(16)	"certificate of title. The provisions of"
G.S. 20-309		"policy in the amount required under"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-51 (2016).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

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This is not the official text. The official text is published by the General Assembly of North Carolina.

HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1937, c. 407, s. 16; 1943, c. 500; 1949, c. 429; 1951, c. 705, s. 2; 1953, c. 826, ss. 2, 3; c. 1316, s. 1; 1961, cc. 334, 817; 1963, c. 145; 1965, c. 1146; 1971, c. 107; 1973, cc. 478, 757, 964; 1979, c. 574, s. 6; 1981 (Reg. Sess., 1982), c. 1286; 1983, cc. 288, 732; 1987, c. 608; 1989, c. 157, s. 2; 1991, c. 411, s. 4; 1995, c. 50, s. 4; 1999-281, s. 2; 2002-98, s. 4; 2002-150, s. 1; 2006-135, s. 2; 2007-194, s. 1; 2007-527, s. 41; 2012-78, ss. 2, 3; 2014-114, s. 2; 2015-263, s. 7; 2016-90, s. 13(i).)

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