



# FLORIDA

Freight, Logistics & Passenger Operations

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## Federal and State Lighting Requirements

*Brake light, tail lights, signals*



## Statutes

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- Florida Statutes 316.2397 (7)
- Florida Statute 316,235
- Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards FMVSS 108 Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment



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## Statutes (Cont'd)

- **Florida Statutes 316.2397 (7)**
  - Flashing lights are prohibited on vehicles except: (a) As a means of indicating a right or left turn, to change lanes, or to indicate that the vehicle is lawfully stopped or disabled upon the highway
- **Florida Statute 316,235**
  - Additional lighting equipment – Deceleration lighting for buses.
- **Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards FMVSS 108 Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment**
  - The purpose of this standard is to reduce traffic accidents and deaths and injuries resulting from traffic accidents, by providing adequate illumination of the roadway, and by enhancing the conspicuity of motor vehicles on the public roads so that their presence is perceived and their signals understood, both in daylight and in darkness or other conditions of reduced visibility.



## Deceleration Lights

- Deceleration lights are allowed under Florida Statute (FS 316.235 a) but are not allowed under Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards FMVSS108.
- On 2/10/04 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) ruled that deceleration activated flashing brake lights violated FMVSS108. FMVSS 108 requires that a stop lamp be steady burning.
- NHTSA specifies in its ruling that this is necessary to maintain uniformity of signals to insure recognition by the general public". Taillights, brake lights, turn signals and emergency flashers are all consistent regardless of manufacturer or size of the vehicle.
- The reasoning behind this is that a motorist traveling behind the vehicle can quickly interpret the intentions of the driver ahead of them. This ruling by NHTSA came after the FS 316.25 was enacted.



## Current Statute

- 316.235(5)
  - A bus may be equipped with a deceleration lighting system that cautions following vehicles that the bus is slowing, is preparing to stop, or is stopped.
  - Such lighting system shall consist of red or amber lights mounted in horizontal alignment on the rear of the vehicle at the vertical centerline of the vehicle, no greater than 12 inches apart, not higher than the lower edge of the rear window or, if the vehicle has no rear window, not higher than 100 inches from the ground.
  - Such lights shall be visible from a distance of not less than 300 feet to the rear in normal sunlight. Lights are permitted to light and flash during deceleration, braking, or standing and idling of the bus. Vehicular hazard warning flashers may be used in conjunction with or in lieu of a rear-mounted deceleration lighting system.



## Public Awareness Campaign



- Taillights, brake lights, turn signals deceleration lighting and emergency flashers are all consistent regardless of manufacturer or size of the vehicle. The reasoning behind this is that a motorist traveling behind the vehicle can quickly interpret the intentions of the driver ahead of them.

