

Louisiana Noise Related Statutes

TITLE 32

§24. Emergency vehicles; exceptions

A. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, or when responding to, but **not upon returning from**, a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this Section, but subject to the conditions herein stated.

B. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may:

- (1) Park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this Chapter;
- (2) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down or stopping as may be necessary for safe operation;
- (3) Exceed the maximum speed limits so long as he does not endanger life or property;
- (4) Disregard regulations governing the direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

C. The exceptions herein granted to an authorized emergency vehicle shall apply only when such vehicle is making use of **audible** or visual signals sufficient to warn motorists of their approach, except that a police vehicle need not be equipped with or display a red light visible from in front of the vehicle.

D. The foregoing provisions shall not relieve the driver of an authorized vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others.

SUBPART F. RAILROAD GRADE CROSSINGS

§168. Equipment of locomotive with bell and whistle or horn, sounding of signals

A. Every railroad company or person owning and operating a railroad in this state shall equip each locomotive engine with a **bell and a whistle or horn** which, under normal conditions, can be heard at a distance of not less than one quarter of a mile.

B. Except as specifically exempted by law, any person controlling the motion of an engine on any railroad shall commence sounding the **audible** signal when such engine is approaching and not less than one quarter of a mile from the place where such railroad crosses any highway. Such sounding shall be prolonged either continuously or by blasts of the whistle or horn to be sounded in the manner provided by the Uniform Code of Railroad Operating Rules until the engine has crossed the roadway, unless the distance from that crossing to the start of the movement or the distance between the crossings is less than one quarter of a mile, in which event such warning signals shall be so sounded for the lesser distance. In cases of emergency said whistles or horn may be sounded in repeated short blasts.

C. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to the Kansas City Southern railroad line which runs parallel to Perkins Road in the city of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

§318. Audible and visual signals on certain vehicles

A. Every authorized emergency vehicle, except privately owned vehicles belonging to members of an organized volunteer fire department or fire district shall, in addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings required by this Chapter, be equipped with a **siren, exhaust whistle, or bell** capable of giving an audible signal.

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.

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. It is permissible but not required that any commercial 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.

D. Any 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 five hundred feet and of a type approved by the commissioner, but such siren shall not be used except when such 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 events the driver of the vehicle shall sound the siren when reasonably necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the approach thereof.

However, motor vehicles which are owned and operated by members of nonprofit corporations as provided in R.S. 12:201 et seq. and which are tax exempt in accordance with Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, for exhibition in shows, parades, tours, and other special uses and not for general transportation may be equipped with a **siren, whistle, or bell** capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of up to five hundred feet but such sound equipment shall not be used except when such vehicle is participating in shows, parades, tours, and other special events.

§352. Mufflers; requirements; prevention of excessive noise, fumes and smoke

A. Every motor vehicle shall at all times be equipped with a **muffler** in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual **noise**.

B. No person shall use a muffler cut-out, bypass or similar device upon a motor vehicle on a highway of this state.

§353. Modification of exhaust systems

No person shall modify the exhaust system of a motor vehicle in a manner which will amplify or increase the **noise** emitted by the motor of such vehicle, above that emitted by the muffler originally installed on the vehicle and the original muffler shall comply with all of the requirements of R.S. 32:352.

§378.3. Installation of sound amplification systems to exterior of vehicle; prohibited

A. Sound amplification systems shall not be installed on the exterior of a chassis of a vehicle, including but not limited to vehicle grill or undercarriage, or used in such a manner as to emit **sound** outside of a vehicle.

B. Vehicle horns shall not be wired in order to make a sound other than the sound made by the manufactured installed horn.

C. Every person convicted of a violation of this Section shall be punishable by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars. No less than twenty-five dollars of each fine imposed pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall be collected by the court and shall immediately be forwarded to the state treasurer for deposit in the state treasury. After compliance with the requirements of Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, the remainder shall be appropriated to the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf.

D. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to emergency response vehicles, recreational vehicles, vehicles while in a parade, vehicles towing trailers, or vehicles used solely for commercial purposes.