OPINION 55-61

December 14, 1955 (OPINION)

HIGHWAYS

RE: Mobile Homes - Turn Signals

We acknowledge your request for an opinion as to whether or not mobile homes and other trailers must be equipped with turn signals when moved upon the highways of this state.

Section 4 of chapter 250, S.L. 1955 requires certain safety devices on new mobile homes sold on or after January 1, 1956 but does not specify turn signals as being required.

Section 40 of chapter 237, S.L. 1955 requires that vehicles which exceed a measurement of fourteen feet from the center of the top of the steering post to the rear limit of the body or load, must be equipped with a signal lamp or lamps or mechanical signal device. This section also provides that the measurement applies to any combination of vehicles.

We presume that the mobile home or trailer will not be a self-propelled unit and must therefore the opinion of this office that the combined unit of a propelling vehicle plus the trailer or mobile home, must be properly equipped with turn signals visible from the front and rear of the combined unit and that unless the propelling unit has turn signals readily visible to the rear when the trailer or mobile home is attached, then the trailer or mobile home itself must be equipped with such signals.

Under the provisions of sections 39-1113, 39-1114 and 39-1115 of the 1953 Supplement to the North Dakota Revised Code of 1943, the type of signal lamp used must be approved by the Motor Vehicle Registrar.

LESLIE R. BURGUM

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