



Chapter: Traffic Enforcement and Crash Investigation
Subject: 06-21 – Mud Flaps on Commercial Vehicles
Effective: March 14, 2024
Supersedes: Official Order 06-21, dated April 19, 2022
Distribution: Department Members

PURPOSE: This Order establishes department policy related to mud flaps for commercial vehicles.

06-21-1 REQUIREMENTS

The requirement that certain vehicles be constructed, equipped, or operated to prevent water or other road surface substances from being thrown from the rear wheels of the vehicle is found in [MCL 480.25](#) of the [Motor Carrier Safety Act of 1963](#).

06-21-2 MEASUREMENTS

Enforcement members shall only take measurements to determine if fenders or mud flaps are required on a vehicle described in MCL 480.25 when the vehicle is unloaded. The following shall be used as a guide to assist enforcement members in taking measurements to determine whether a violation of MCL 480.25 has occurred:

- A. Measure from the point of the rear most tire-ground contact of the vehicle's rear tires to a point directly below the rear of the body or bed.
- B. From this point, measure vertically five inches for each 12 inches of horizontal measurement.
- C. If the body or bed of the vehicle does not meet the upper most point of the vertical measurement, the vehicle requires a device to prevent water or road surface substance from being thrown back and up at an angle greater than 22 ½ degrees. The length is sufficient when the device reaches the 22 ½ degree line.
- D. The most accurate measurement is taken when the vehicle is unloaded.

DIRECTOR

Annual Review Responsibility: Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division
Accreditation Standards: CALEA 61.1.5 E