



Virginia
Regulatory
Town Hall

Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency Name:	Department of State Police
VAC Chapter Number:	19 VAC 30-165
Regulation Title:	Regulations relating to standards and specifications for purple warning lights used by vehicles leading or escorting funeral processions
Action Title:	Promulgation of regulations to establish standards and specifications for approval of purple warning lights that are consistent with those established by the Society of Automotive Engineers
Date:	02/23/01

Please refer to the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:9.1 *et seq.* of the *Code of Virginia*), Executive Order Twenty-Five (98), Executive Order Fifty-Eight (99) , and the *Virginia Register Form, Style and Procedure Manual* for more information and other materials required to be submitted in the final regulatory action package.

Summary

Please provide a brief summary of the new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or the regulation being repealed. There is no need to state each provision or amendment; instead give a summary of the regulatory action. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation. Do not restate the regulation or the purpose and intent of the regulation in the summary. Rather, alert the reader to all substantive matters or changes contained in the proposed new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or the regulation being repealed. Please briefly and generally summarize any substantive changes made since the proposed action was published.

This proposed regulation was approved as an emergency regulation that became effective January 1, 2000. The 1999 Session of the Virginia General Assembly enacted an amendment to § 46.2-1025 of the Code of Virginia that authorizes flashing purple warning lights on vehicles used to lead or provide escorts for funeral processions. The amendment also directs the Superintendent of State Police to develop standards and specifications for the purple lights. This proposed regulation establishes those standards and specifications that are based on the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) sections J578, J1318, J845, and J595. There have been no substantive changes made since the proposed action was published.

Statement of Final Agency Action

Please provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency: including the date the action was taken, the name of the agency taking the action, and the title of the regulation.

The final action taken by the Department of State Police was completion of the Proposed Regulation stage. The Proposed Regulation was printed in the Virginia Register, Volume 17, Issue 4, on November 6, 2000. No public comments were received. The current action is the Final Regulation stage for this amendment. The title of the regulation is **Regulations relating to standards and specifications for purple warning lights used by vehicles leading or escorting funeral processions.**

Basis

Please identify the state and/or federal source of legal authority to promulgate the regulation. The discussion of this statutory authority should: 1) describe its scope and the extent to which it is mandatory or discretionary; and 2) include a brief statement relating the content of the statutory authority to the specific regulation. In addition, where applicable, please describe the extent to which proposed changes exceed federal minimum requirements. Full citations of legal authority and, if available, web site addresses for locating the text of the cited authority, shall be provided. If the final text differs from that of the proposed, please state that the Office of the Attorney General has certified that the agency has the statutory authority to promulgate the final regulation and that it comports with applicable state and/or federal law.

Virginia Regulation 19 VAC 30-165 was adopted to establish standards and specifications for purple warning lights pursuant to amendments to § 46.2-1025 of the Code of Virginia by the 1999 Virginia General Assembly. This regulation was printed as an emergency in Volume 16, Issue 3, of the Virginia Register, dated October 25, 1999, and is effective from January 1, 2000 until December 31, 2000.

At the present time, the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Lighting Committee is in the process of formally defining the color 'purple' in their established specifications. Captain W. Steven Flaherty, State Police Safety Officer, has consulted experts within that committee and determined the criteria they establish will be based on specifications currently required for the color 'red'. The referenced SAE Standard sections are SAE J578, SAE J1318, SAE J845, and SAE J595. Based on that information, light emission standards have been established in the regulation, which define boundaries of the emission of purple light which will clearly distinguish the purple color from other colors. These boundaries are consistent with the SAE Standards the committee has tentatively approved.

The proposed regulation is intended to:

1. Provide the proper referenced sections of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Standards J578, J1318, J845, and J595 for warning lights.

2. Make the regulation consistent with the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Standards J578, J1318, J845, and J595 for warning lights.

The Office of the Attorney General has certified that the agency has the statutory authority to promulgate the proposed regulation and that it comports with applicable state laws. Copy of letter from Attorney General is on file.

Purpose

Please provide a statement explaining the need for the new or amended regulation. This statement must include the rationale or justification of the final regulatory action and detail the specific reasons it is essential to protect the health, safety or welfare of citizens. A statement of a general nature is not acceptable, particular rationales must be explicitly discussed. Please include a discussion of the goals of the proposal and the problems the proposal is intended to solve.

The statutory responsibility for establishing standards and specifications for purple warning lights mandated by § 46.2-1025 of Code of Virginia rests with the Superintendent of the Department of State Police pursuant to the provisions of § 46.2-1005. To fulfill this responsibility, regulation 19 VAC 30-165 was established. This regulation is based upon the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Standards J578, J1318, J845, and J595.

The referenced portion of § 46.2-1025 of the Code of Virginia reads as follows:

Vehicles used to lead or provide escorts for funeral processions may use either amber warning lights or purple warning lights, but amber warning lights and purple warning lights shall not simultaneously be used on the same vehicle. The Superintendent of State Police shall develop standards and specifications for purple warning lights authorized in this subsection.

The provisions of this act became effective on January 1, 2000. The emergency regulation became effective on the same date and expired on December 31, 2000.

Substance

Please identify and explain the new substantive provisions, the substantive changes to existing sections, or both where appropriate. Please note that a more detailed discussion is required under the statement of the regulatory action's detail.

This regulation relates to establishing standards and specifications for purple warning lights and is necessary to conform with recent changes to state legislation.

Issues

Please provide a statement identifying the issues associated with the final regulatory action. The term "issues" means: 1) the advantages and disadvantages to the public of implementing the new provisions; 2) the advantages and disadvantages to the agency or the Commonwealth; and 3) other pertinent matters of interest to the regulated community, government officials, and the public. If there are no disadvantages to the public or the Commonwealth, please include a sentence to that effect.

This regulation, which establishes approval of purple lighting equipment, is essential to ensure the safety of the motoring public and reduce the risk of death or injury to citizens using our highways. Only those purple warning lights authorized by § 46.2-1025 of the Code of Virginia, to be used by vehicles escorting funeral processions, and which meet or exceed the standards set forth in Virginia regulation 19 VAC 30-165, are approved for sale and/or use. There are no disadvantages to the public or the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Statement of Changes Made Since the Proposed Stage

Please highlight any changes, other than strictly editorial changes, made to the text of the proposed regulation since its publication.

There have been no changes since the proposed stage.

Public Comment

Please summarize all public comment received during the public comment period and provide the agency response. If no public comment was received, please include a statement indicating that fact.

No public comments were received.

Detail of Changes

Please detail any changes, other than strictly editorial changes, that are being proposed. Please detail new substantive provisions, all substantive changes to existing sections, or both where appropriate. This statement should provide a section-by-section description - or crosswalk - of changes implemented by the proposed regulatory action. Include citations to the specific sections of an existing regulation being amended and explain the consequences of the changes.

This is a newly proposed regulation that was developed pursuant to an amendment to § 46.2-1025 of the Code of Virginia by the 1999 Session of the Virginia General Assembly.

Family Impact Statement

Please provide an analysis of the regulatory action that assesses the impact on the institution of the family and family stability including the extent to which the regulatory action will: 1) strengthen or erode the authority and rights of parents in the education, nurturing, and supervision of their children; 2) encourage or discourage economic self-sufficiency, self-pride, and the assumption of responsibility for oneself, one's spouse, and one's children and/or elderly parents; 3) strengthen or erode the marital commitment; and 4) increase or decrease disposable family income.

This proposed regulatory action will have no potential impact on the institution of the family and family stability.