

4. OTHER EQUIPMENT.

a. Mudflaps, Fenders, Center Flaps.

(1) Statutory Requirements. Sections 27600 and 23114 VC establish vehicle fender and flap requirements.

(a) Trailers and Semitrailers. Fenders and/or flaps, etc., are required on any trailer or semitrailer having an unladen weight of 1,500 pounds or more (except as provided in paragraph 4.a.[5]) and on all vehicles transporting aggregate material. In addition, center flaps are required to the rear of the rearmost dump gate on all bottom-dump vehicles.

(b) Motor Vehicles.

1 All motor vehicles carrying aggregate materials and all motor vehicles having three or more wheels manufactured and first registered prior to January 1, 1971, if the unladen weight is 1,500 pounds or more are subject to the fender and flap requirements. (Exceptions are contained in paragraph 4.a.[5].)

2 Fenders and/or flaps, etc., are required on any motor vehicle having three or more wheels manufactured and first registered on or after January 1, 1971, regardless of the unladen weight.

(2) Requirement for Individual Wheels. All wheels in contact with the road must be adequately shielded to minimize the spray or splash of mud or water to the rear of the vehicle, except that the front wheels of trailers which are not hauling aggregate materials shall not be required to be equipped with fenders or flaps regardless of the body configuration of the vehicle or attendant circumstances. All wheels on vehicles hauling aggregate materials, regardless of their position on the vehicle, are required to be equipped at all times with splash flaps and fenders. Each fender shall start at the splash flap and extend forward at least six inches beyond the center of the axle covering the tops of tires not already covered by the truck, truck tractor, or trailer body. A semitrailer equipped with an auxiliary dolly shall be considered a trailer for the purpose of this requirement.

(3) Requirements for Nonaggregate Hauling Vehicles in Combination. Vehicles not at the rear of the combination shall be subject to enforcement action only when there is evidence that the splash or spray extends to the rear of the combination of vehicles.

(4) Guide for Determining Adequacy of Flaps. The following guide shall be used to determine compliance with Section 27600 VC except that paragraph (a) shall not apply to passenger vehicles.

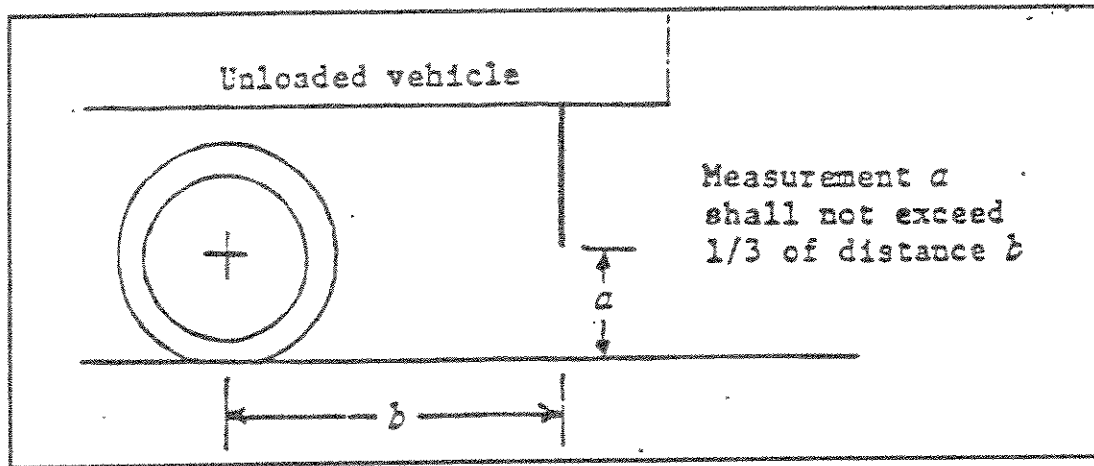


Figure 6-4. Diagram of Flap Measurement.

(a) Height Above Roadway. The vertical distance from the roadway to the bottom of the fender, flap, or other part of the vehicle blocking the spray or splash of water or mud to the rear shall not exceed one-third of the horizontal distance from the mudflap to the center of the axle (see figure 6-4). Flaps need not be closer to the road than six inches when the vehicle is loaded. When a center flap is required on a vehicle, the bottom of the center flap shall extend to within five inches of the roadway surface and the top of the center flap shall extend at least 24 inches upward from the bottom edge of the flap.

(b) Fenders and flaps shall be at least as wide as the tread of the tire or tires but shall not exceed 122 inches in width. The sides of center flaps should extend to within one inch of the inside sidewalls of the interior rear tires.

(c) Position. Splash flaps should be as far to the rear of the wheel as practical for greatest effectiveness. Center flaps may be positioned to the rear of the bottom-dump gates and forward of the rear axle(s). If positioned to the rear of the rear axle, center flaps may be suspended from rear spring hangers. If suspended from spring hangers, the requirement that the top of the center flap shall not be lower than the adjacent tire or set of tires is waived provided other required criteria is met.