Mounting the SMV Emblem

ASABE standards spell out how the SMV emblem is to be positioned on farm equipment:

- As near to the rear and centered, or as near to the left of center of the equipment as practical.
- From 2’ to 10’ above the pavement (measured to the lower edge of the emblem)
- Perpendicular to the direction of travel
- Visible to the rear
- Point of the triangle upward
- Securely and rigidly affixed to the equipment. (Moveable emblems may be mounted with socket and bracket.)

An SMV emblem must be displayed on the back of the trailing implement if:

- The SMV emblem on the tractor is obscured by the implement being towed, or;
- The implement being towed is more than 16 feet long from the point of hitch.

Proper Use

The Illinois Vehicle Code requires that certain vehicle types display the SMV emblem when operated on public roads—day and night. It is NOT contingent on the speed of the vehicle. Vehicle types affected are:

- Implements of husbandry (farm equipment)
- Animal-drawn vehicles
- Special mobile equipment
- Neighborhood vehicles (on-street golf carts)

Any use of the SMV emblem other than for these vehicle types is prohibited by Illinois law.

(See back for more on misuse of the emblem.)

Maintenance

Keep it clean! It’s the simplest thing you can do to ensure you’re seen when out on the road.

Replace faded reflectors. The design standards that specify reflectivity of the SMV emblem are encoded in Illinois law. That means that old, faded emblems no longer meet legal requirements and should be replaced.

Just compare the old emblem to a new one, both in daylight and at night. If there’s a noticeable difference in reflectivity, replace the old one. The new materials can last 8 to 10 years, but fade faster if stored outdoors and constantly exposed to sunlight.
The SMV emblem is specifically designed for slow-moving vehicles
By law, use of the SMV emblem is required on, and limited to:
• Implements of husbandry (farm equipment)
• Special mobile equipment
• Animal-draw vehicles, and
• Neighborhood vehicles (on-street golf carts)

“A slow-moving vehicle emblem may not be displayed in public view of a highway on an object other than a vehicle . . .”
(as listed above.)

Improper use distorts the true meaning of this internationally-recognized traffic symbol. It’s unique triangular shape and red/orange color combination was scientifically engineered to give motorists advance warning that the vehicle they are approaching is slow-moving. That’s why Illinois law prohibits its use on stationary objects and other vehicle types.

Penalty for improper use
Misuse of an SMV emblem is a petty offense subject to a $75 fine.

For safety sake
Please help Illinois farm families and the motoring public stay safe by avoiding misuse of the SMV emblem and preserving its true meaning.

References
• IL Statutes: 625 ILCS 5/12-709
  625 ILCS 5/1-130
  625 ILCS 5/1-191
  625 ILCS 5/11-1426.1
• IL Admin. Code: Title 92, Part 564

Thank you!