

# Revisions to Flashing Light Statutes

## Title 14 CGS §§ 96p & 96q

**Public Act 15-5 (Senate Bill 1502) Budget Implementer bill, Sections 213 and 214,**  
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/ACT/PA/2015PA-00005-R00SB-01502SS1-PA.htm>

**Note** – This summary addresses the revisions that apply to emergency services vehicles. The revisions were written to clarify and reorganize the existing statutes, delete some obsolete requirements, and eliminate some internal conflicts.

**Effective Date** – The revisions became effective upon passing (6/30/15).

**14 CGS §96p** – Covers the routine display of lights and flashing lights that do not require a permit, e.g.

- School bus stop on signal lights,
- Turn signals,
- Hazard flashers, etc.

References to green lights on interstate vehicles and purple lights on motor buses in the old statute were deleted as those lights are no longer used.

**14 CGS §96q** – Covers the display of lights and flashing lights that require a permit

- 14-96q(a)
  - Government vehicles do not require a permit to display the lights described in this section (Unchanged)
- 14-96q(b) – Specifies who can issue permits
- Blue Lights 14-96q(c) – Volunteer firefighters
  - Issued by fire chief (Unchanged)
  - Deleted requirement for annual report to DMV of permits issued (New)
  - Department must maintain record of permits issued (New)
  - Clarified permit can be revoked by chief (New)
  - No charge for permit (Unchanged) - The permit form is being revised
- Green Lights 14-96q(d) - Volunteer EMS personnel
  - Issued by EMS chief (Unchanged)
  - Deleted requirement for annual report to DMV of permits issued (New)
  - Department must maintain record of permits issued (New)
  - Clarified permit can be revoked by chief (New)
  - No charge for permit (Unchanged) - The permit form is being revised
- Red Lights 14-96q(e)
  - Issued by DMV Commissioner (Clarified)
  - \$ 20 annual fee (Unchanged)

- Fire Chiefs, Deputies, and Assistants up to 5 (Unchanged)
- Fire Police on a stationary vehicle (Unchanged)
- EMS Chiefs and up to 2 Deputies or Assistants (Unchanged)
- Fire Marshals (Unchanged)
- Emergency Management Directors (Unchanged)
- Yellow Lights 14-96q(f) – Does not apply to fire service
- White Lights 14-96q(g)
  - Issued by DMV Commissioner
    - Fire Chiefs, Deputies, and Assistants up to 5 (Unchanged)
    - EMS Chiefs and up to 2 Deputies or Assistants (Unchanged)
    - Fire Marshals (Unchanged)
    - Emergency Management Directors (Unchanged)
  - Issued by municipality chief law enforcement officer for flashing headlights (Unchanged)
    - Volunteer firefighters (Unchanged)
    - Volunteer EMS personnel (Unchanged)
- Emergency Vehicles 14-96q(g)
  - Incorporated emergency vehicle definition from 14 CGS § 283 (New)

“...“emergency vehicle” means any ambulance or vehicle operated by a member of an emergency medical service organization responding to an emergency call, any vehicle used by a fire department or by any officer of a fire department while on the way to a fire or while responding to an emergency call but not while returning from a fire or emergency call, any state or local police vehicle operated by a police officer...”
  - Blue, Red, Yellow, White lights or any combination of them (New)
  - Rescue vehicles – The original statute included the term rescue vehicles. That term is not in the revised statute because rescue vehicles are covered by the definition of emergency vehicles
- Ambulances 14-96q(h)
  - May use other color lights as specified by the federal government (Unchanged)

**Questions – Bob McGarry**

Director of Organizational Development  
 Department of Motor Vehicles  
 860-263-5236  
 Robert.McGarry@ct.gov