

N.C.P.I.-Motor Vehicle 215.38
OUTSIDE MIRRORS-MOST MOTOR VEHICLES.
MOTOR VEHICLE VOLUME
OCTOBER 1988
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-126(b) and (c)

215.38 OUTSIDE MIRRORS - MOST MOTOR VEHICLES.¹

The motor vehicle law provides that (*here use the one of the following bracketed paragraphs which the evidence justifies*)

[a motor vehicle, registered in this State, when operated on a [street] [highway] must be equipped with at least one outside rearview mirror, of a type approved by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, mounted on the driver's side of the vehicle. A violation of this law is negligence within itself.]²

[a motorcycle, when operated on a [street] [highway] must be equipped with a rearview mirror so mounted as to provide the operator with a clear, undistorted and unobstructed view of at least 200 feet to the rear of the motorcycle. A violation of this law is not negligence within itself. However, the evidence with regard to it is to be considered with all other facts in evidence in determining whether (*name operator*) was negligent.]³

1. Farm tractors, self-propelled implements of husbandry and construction equipment and all self-propelled vehicles not subject to registration are exempted from mirror requirements by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-126(a). Additionally, if the vehicle involved is a pickup truck, use N.C.P.I.-Civil 215.36 rather than the above instruction. Similarly, if the vehicle is so constructed or loaded as to render an inside mirror ineffective, use N.C.P.I.-Civil 215.37.

2. Use this paragraph only if the vehicle was "manufactured, assembled or first sold on or after January 1, 1966 and registered in this State." Except for the vehicles covered by N.C.P.I.-Civil 215.36 and 215.37, no outside mirror is required on vehicles of more ancient vintage.

3. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-126(c) prohibits registration, after January 1, 1968, of a motorcycle not equipped with a proper rear view mirror. Even if this refers only to original registration, the rest of the subsection is so worded as apparently to require a motorcycle operated on a street or highway to have such a mirror, regardless of its vintage.