

Golf Cart Registration Procedures

Information

Due to the increased number of requests to register golf carts as vehicles for on-road use, it is necessary to review the requirements and proper procedures for registration.

Golf carts may not be operated on any highway with a posted speed limit of over 25 mph, except by ordinance or resolution by a local authority, such as city or county government. Customers are encouraged to contact their local authority if they have any questions.

Definition of a Golf Cart

A golf cart is a motor vehicle designed to:

- Carry no more than **two persons** including the driver.
- Carry golf equipment.
- Have at least three wheels in contact with the ground.
- Not exceed a speed of 15 miles per hour (MPH).
- Weigh no more than 1,300 pounds (unladen weight).

NOTE: Golf carts weighing more than 1,300 pounds can not be registered as a golf cart, but are considered to be a regular motor vehicle, and must comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) and California emission standards.

Procedures

The requirements to register a golf cart for on-road use are:

- A properly completed and signed Application for Title or Registration (REG 343).
- A Certificate of Title, Manufacturer's Certificate/Statement of Origin, bill of sale, or other acceptable documents to establish the chain of ownership.
- A Statement of Facts (REG 256) signed by the vehicle owner or an authorized representative indicating that the vehicle has **not** been modified and meets the definition of a golf cart per *California Vehicle Code* (CVC) Section 345.
- A vehicle verification.
- Assigned the body type of "**GC**".

Procedures, *continued*

NOTE: Electric-powered and gasoline-powered golf carts are exempt from emissions testing; however, gasoline-powered golf carts are not exempt from emissions requirements established by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The vehicle verification **must** indicate the golf cart has a label certifying compliance with California emissions requirements for on-road vehicles. If it does not have a complying label, the golf cart can only be registered for off-highway use.

Modified Golf Carts

If the golf cart is modified to go more than 15 MPH or seats more than two persons, the vehicle is considered a regular motor vehicle and must comply with FMVSS for regular passenger motor vehicles.

These standards include:

- Additional vehicle equipment that meets FMVSS for regular passenger vehicles.
- Appropriate FMVSS label(s).
- A compliant 17-digit Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).
- The applicable emissions standards label.
- Body Type is still “GC”.

Background

Some golf carts are being erroneously registered for street use and/or modified to no longer meet the definition of a golf cart per CVC §345, after the registration has been issued, which results in citations to consumers.

Distribution

Notification that this memo is available online at www.dmv.ca.gov under Publications was made via e-mail alert in August 2009.

Contact

Call the DMV Customer Communications Section, at (916) 657-6560 for further clarification of this memo. Upon request, this document can be produced in Braille or large print.



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