



OFF HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION INFORMATION BULLETIN



Volume 21

December 7, 2021

Number 2

NOTE: Senate Bill SB 227 failed to pass in the CA State Legislature 2021 session. It would have provided a title and registration for competition motorcycles and ATVs used on public lands as well as spark arrestor and sound level requirements. It is unknown whether the bill will be revisited later.

Model Year 2022 Competition Labeled Dirt Bikes and ATVs

The purpose of this Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Information Bulletin is to inform the public that pursuant to California Air Resources Board (CA ARB) regulation, Off-Highway Motorcycles (OHM or 'Dirt Bikes') and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs or 'Quads') previously designated as eligible for "Red Sticker" registration, will no longer be able to be registered in California for Model Years 2022 and beyond unless manufacturers build and certify them as emissions compliant Green Sticker models.

Clarification: Air emissions non-compliant OHM and ATVs, which had previously been exempted from being treated as Competition-only vehicles through the Red Sticker program and allowed part-time use on public lands outside of closed courses, are no longer exempt from meeting the clean air standards established by the United State Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and the California Air Resources Board (CA ARB). While the Red Sticker riding season will still exist for the 2003-2021 air emissions non-compliant OHVs with Red Stickers, it will be unlawful for the model year 2022 and newer vehicles to ride on public lands except during sanctioned closed course events. As these vehicles now count as Competition vehicles, there is no means by which they can be registered for trail use on public lands in California. These vehicles are restricted to use on private lands or in sanctioned competition events or practice on closed courses on public lands.

From 2021 through 2024, the existing red sticker vehicles (before model year 2022) must still be registered and must continue using the riding season schedules historically in place on public lands.

CA ARB regulations provide that on January 1st, 2025, all the red sticker vehicles still registered will be "grand-fathered" into a green sticker-type riding status. They will then be allowed to be used year-round on public lands, the same as all the clean air

compliant green sticker vehicles. Whether they will receive Green or Red stickers going forward has not been decided.

Are competition OHM and ATV required to have a permit or identification to be allowed to operate during a sanctioned event on public lands?

Answer: Agencies and organizations that previously required OHV registration (red or green stickers) for sanctioned OHV events should reconsider registration and entry requirements for those events. The CA Vehicle Code is clear that OHVs used exclusively for competition on closed courses are exempt from OHV identification [ATV, CVC 38010 (b)(9); OHM, CVC 38088]. AB 2752 in 2014 removed the requirement for OHV registration for any OHV being transported on a highway, making transportation of competition OHVs legal without a permit.

For further clarification contact Mark Hada, Commander, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division HQ at: mark.hada@parks.ca.gov.