

Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles vs. All-Terrain Vehicles

Effective: Immediately

New Information

Some California vehicle registrations erroneously identify recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs) as all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) based on incorrect dealer designations.

Per *California Vehicle Code* §500, an ROV has:

- A steering wheel for steering control.
- Nonstraddle seating provided by the manufacturer for the operator and all passengers.
- A maximum speed capability of greater than 30 miles per hour.
- An engine displacement equal to or less than 1000cc.
- A complying emissions system.

Per *California Vehicle Code* §111, an ATV has:

- Handlebars for steering control.
- A single seat designed to be straddled by the operator and a seat for no more than one passenger.
- Fifty inches or less in width.
- An unladen weight of 900 pounds or less.
- Suspended on three or more low-pressure tires.
- A complying emissions system.

Procedures

Do **not** register non-straddle single seat ROVs as ATVs: register as ROVs (for example, register a Polaris ACE as an ROV).

Background

ROVs may be prohibited from operating in the same off-highway vehicle (OHV) use areas as ATVs because of specific safety requirements and age restrictions. Park rangers cannot issue safety citations to ROV owners when the vehicle registration card shows the vehicle as an ATV. OHV use areas are generally designated by the type of OHV (complying or noncomplying). Addressing this issue at the dealer level will reduce the conflict between law enforcement officers and customers.

Distribution

Notification that this memo is available online, at www.dmv.ca.gov under Publications was made via California DMV's Automated E-mail Alert System in January 2016.

References

California Vehicle Code §§111 and 500

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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rico Rubiono". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

RICO RUBIONO, Deputy Director
Communication Programs Division