



OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMATION BULLETIN

FOR CALIFORNIA LAW ENFORCEMENT



Volume 24

December 19, 2024

Number 3

Red Sticker Riding Season Sunset December 31st, 2024

The purpose of this bulletin is to update information regarding competition off-highway motorcycles, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Red Sticker Registration Program, and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) off-highway motor vehicle (OHV) identification ("registration"). Information in this bulletin supersedes any conflicting information in previous OHV Information Bulletins. OHV Information Bulletins 21-2 and 22-2 shall be considered obsolete.

Effective January 1, 2025, off-road motorcycles and ATVs previously registered pursuant to California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 13, Section 2415, are now permitted to operate year-round in public areas designated for OHV use. Beginning January 1, 2025, Red Sticker and Green Sticker registration are equally **valid** year-round in all public areas designated for OHV recreation. **DMV continues to issue Red Sticker registrations for model year 2022 and newer.** Until further notice, Law Enforcement shall treat all off-highway motor vehicles with current Red-Sticker registration as valid regardless of model year, so long as the registration matches the vehicle identification number (VIN).

BACKGROUND

CARB regulations contained in CCR Sections 2412(f) and 2415, known as the Red Sticker Program, established an alternative emissions registration for off-highway motorcycles and All-Terrain Vehicles that did not comply with CARB's OHV emissions standards. However, CARB's emissions provisions do not apply to racing vehicles (Health and Safety Code (HSC) §43001 (a)). Most motorcycles registered through the Red Sticker program were designed for competition use. The Red Sticker Program allowed competition/racing motorcycles of model years 2003 through 2021 to be registered by DMV and issued a Red Sticker. The Red Sticker Program also allowed these OHVs and ATVs to be operated in areas identified in CCR, Title 13, Section 2415, with seasonal restrictions. As part of

CARB's Red Sticker Executive Order (EO), OHV manufacturers implemented a coding convention for the eighth character of VIN with a "C" or "3" to streamline the identification process.

GUIDANCE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Although CARB amended its regulations in 2019, phasing out the Red Sticker program for model year 2021 and older, the DMV continues to issue Red Sticker registration for 2022 and later model year competition motorcycles pursuant to CVC §38010. Until further notice, Law Enforcement shall treat all off-highway motor vehicles with current Red-Sticker registration as valid regardless of model year, so long as the registration matches the VIN.

Law Enforcement defer to the DMV and only take possession of an invalid registration sticker. Law Enforcement are reminded to return confiscated indicia to DMV pursuant to CVC§ 4460(b), except when retained as evidence of a separate violation.

GUIDANCE FOR OWNERS

Until further notice, effective January 1, 2025, off-road motorcycles and ATVs previously registered pursuant to CCR, Title 13, Section 2415, are now permitted to operate year-round in public areas designated for OHV use. Beginning January 1, 2025, Red Sticker and Green Sticker registration are equally **valid** year-round in all public areas designated for OHV recreation.

Please note: Guidance related to vehicle identification and registration may change at the discretion of the DMV.

For further clarification, contact Superintendent Jack Gorman, Assistant Chief, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division at (661) 449-7858.