

Off-Highway Electric Motorcycle Identification

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New Information

Off-highway electric motorcycles, commonly referred to as eMotos, are classified as off-highway motorcycles and are subject to off-highway vehicle registration requirements.

Procedures

To be qualified as an off-highway electric motorcycle, the vehicle **must** meet the following requirements:

- Designed by manufacturer for operation primarily off the highway
- Powered by an electric motor (a motor number is **not** required)
- Handlebars for steering
- Straddle seat provided by the manufacturer
- Two wheels
- No Pedals

Follow procedures for off-highway vehicles in the *Vehicle Industry Registration Procedures Manual*, Chapter 15.

Background

Senate Bill (SB) 586, added *Vehicle Code* (VC) §436.1 which defines off-highway electric motorcycles and updated VC §38012 to include off-highway electric motorcycles as off-highway motor vehicles subject to identification and must display an OHV permit or plate.

References

Senate Bill 586 eMoto

Vehicle Code (VC) §§436.1, 38010, and 38012

Vehicle Industry Registration Procedures Manual, Chapter 15

Distribution

Notification of this memo (available at dmv.ca.gov by searching Vehicle Industry Services) was sent through the California DMV Automated Email Alert System in January 2026 to:

- Dealers
- Registration Services

Contact

Direct questions related to this memo to DMV Customer Care at (916) 657-6560.