

# 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.