



Vehicle registration & licensing

Off-road vehicle registration

As of November 17, 2014, snowmobile registration requirements will be replaced by provisions for the registration of all off-road vehicles (ORVs). A new off-road vehicle number plate will be available for display on ORVs while operating on Crown land or for incidental highway use and operations.

Broadly applied

Sections of the new *Off-Road Vehicle Act (ORV Act)* related to registration are being implemented to replace longstanding *Motor Vehicle (All Terrain) Act (MVATA)* snowmobile provisions. This will allow registration of a broader range of ORVs, including snowmobiles, snow vehicles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs or quads), golf carts, utility vehicles/side-by-sides (Gators, Argos, Rhinos, etc.) and motorcycles (dirt bikes).

This means that from November 17, 2014 onwards, any type of ORV may be registered – not just snowmobiles. The registration and associated off-road vehicle number plate (ORV plate) currently are voluntary for Crown land operations, which includes travel on Forest Service Roads. On a Forest Service Road, a minimum of \$200,000 third party liability insurance and appropriate class of driver's licence continues to be required.

ORVs on highways

As of November 17, 2014, the existing highway operations set out in the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations, Division 24, for snowmobiles will be extended to allow any type of ORV on a highway. *Motor Vehicle Act (MVA)* and *Commercial Transport Act* requirements continue to apply. For example, it is mandatory for the driver and the ORV to be licensed, to display a vehicle plate, and have Basic insurance as evidenced by a valid licence/insurance decal while on a highway (except while exempt as an industrial utility vehicle under MVA s. 3.1).

Authorized recreational ORV highway use and operation is limited to incidental travel directly across a highway at a controlled crossing (traffic light or stop sign), loading or unloading from another vehicle in a parking lot, or travel on any highway anywhere local police authorize within the limits set out in an MV1815 *Operation Permit*.

Operation Permits




To align with these changes, the MV1815 *Operation Permit* has been revised and can, starting November 17th, 2014, be issued for a term of up to two years.

Law enforcement may continue to exercise discretion as set out in regulation to issue permits for operation within their areas of jurisdiction. However, the existing supplies of permits will need to be replaced with the revised permits.



Law enforcement can obtain the revised permits by faxing a requisition to the ICBC Burnaby Warehouse at (604) 320-2051. More details are available in Appendix A.

What to expect

An ORV operating on or across a highway can display a Restricted number plate, the new ORV number plate, or no number plate at all if exempted as an industrial utility vehicle. Refer to the following guide to off-road vehicles on highway.

Guide to off-road vehicles on highway		
If the ORV is operating on a highway...		
and displays...	then the ORV is..	and can be used/operated:
 <p>No plate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> being operated in contravention of requirements under the MVA and regulations, e.g. to display a number plate; or, considered an industrial utility vehicle exempt from registration/licensing while used/operated at a worksite that overlaps a highway (see Bulletin 2012 8). 	<p>only at a worksite that overlaps a highway (MVA s. 3.1).</p>
 <p>(with valid decal)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> registered, licensed and insured (with valid licence/insurance decal) as a utility vehicle or golf cart; or, a snowmobile or snow vehicle that was registered, licensed and insured with valid licence/insurance decal for highway use/operation prior to November 17th, 2014. (The licence and insurance is valid until expiry, then will be switched to ORV licensing unless used/operated for incidental utility vehicle highway operations*.) 	<p>with restrictions as a golf cart or for incidental utility vehicle highway uses/operations*; and, for ORV highway use/operation*.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> registered, licensed and insured for ORV highway use/operation*, if displaying a valid licence/insurance decal; or, not meeting requirements for highway operation if not displaying a valid licence/insurance decal, unless operating exempt as an industrial utility vehicle (see Bulletin 2012 8). 	<p>for ORV highway use/operation* (ORV Act to govern off-highway operations on Crown land)</p>

* Incidental highway operations for utility vehicles and ORVs are described in the following table.

Summary of incidental highway uses and operations	
	
Utility vehicle highway uses/operations (Restricted plate)	Off-road vehicle highway uses/operations (ORV plate)
<p>For purpose* of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • farming, industrial, maintenance, landscaping; • law enforcement by a person exercising powers or duties under an enactment; or, • transportation on a limited access island if the utility vehicle is not of a type designed to be ridden astride. 	<p>For any purpose other than utility vehicle highway operation purposes that are listed directly to the left.</p> <p>For example, may operate incidentally on highway, as described below, for recreation.</p>
<p>For use/operation*:</p> <p>...across a highway,</p> <p>...within a designated area (e.g. parking lot),</p> <p>...along travelled portion of highway up to 100 meters from worksite (exception for street sweepers) or on limited access island, or</p> <p>...along the untraveled portion of a highway.</p>	<p>For use/operation:</p> <p>.... across highway perpendicular to regular traffic directions at a controlled crossing (e.g. traffic light or stop sign),</p> <p>.... loading or unloading the ORV from another vehicle in a parking lot,</p> <p>.... if authorized by an <i>MV1815 Operation Permit</i>, travel anywhere along or on a highway and/or across a highway (at other than a controlled crossing).</p>
<p>* The Restricted licence, plate and licence/insurance decal also allows incidental Off-road vehicle highway uses/operations, as described in the next column.</p>	<p>The only use/operations authorized by an ORV licence, plate and licence/insurance decal are as listed above. (However, an ORV may continue to display a number plate while operating exempt as an industrial utility vehicle at a worksite (see bulletin 2012 8.)</p>

Documents

When operating on a highway, ORV operators are required to carry their *Vehicle Registration and Owners Certificate of Insurance and Vehicle Licence (APV250)* and, if operating outside of a parking lot or controlled road crossing, their *MV1815 Operation Permit*. Possible exceptions include operating registration and licence exempt as an industrial utility vehicle at a worksite (see [bulletin 2012 | 8](#)); carrying a Temporary Operation Permit while registered with a valid plate displayed; or, if registered with a valid plate from another jurisdiction with proof of highway insurance.



Administration

As of November 17th, ORV registration, licensing and insurance will be serviced at Autoplan broker offices. Driver Licensing Offices will not be registering snowmobiles after November 16th and the owner's decal for display on snowmobile cowls will no longer be issued.

Crown land requirements and expectations

On March 24, 2014, the *ORV Act* achieved Royal Assent and is being implemented by regulations. The first stage of its implementation starts on November 17th, 2014 with voluntary registration to enable ORV owners to register their vehicle and obtain the new ORV plate.

Voluntary registration means that the ORV operator does not need to carry registration or other vehicle documents while operating on Crown land (e.g. this includes a Forest Service Road). It also will not be mandatory for snowmobiles to be registered under the MVATA or to display a cowl decal for Crown land use/operations during the voluntary registration period.

All other *MVATA* provisions remain in effect, such as violations for careless operation. A minimum of \$200,000 third party liability insurance and appropriate class of driver's licence continues to be required for Forest Service Road use/operations.

On June 1, 2015, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations expects new limits and conditions for use and operation on Crown land to become mandatory, in tandem with compulsory registration and display of the ORV plate. By November 17, 2015, it is expected that all ORVs operating on Crown land will be registered and display a number plate.

Further information is available in Appendix B.

Related bulletins and information

This bulletin supersedes [bulletin 2011 | 6 Changes to Operation Permit requirements for snowmobiles and snow vehicles](#).

[Bulletin 2012 | 8 \(Exemptions for industrial utility vehicles, miniature motor vehicles, and beverage carts\)](#) remains valid.

British Columbia's Off-Road Vehicle Management Framework: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/orv/>

Legislation and regulations

Motor Vehicle Act, Section 3 – Registration, licence and insurance

Motor Vehicle Act, Section 3.1 – Exemptions – registration, licence and insurance

Motor Vehicle Act, Section 12 – Number plates

Motor Vehicle Act Regulations, Division 3 – Display and Use of Number Plates

MVAR Div. 24 – Vehicles of unusual size, weight or operating characteristics

MVAR Div. 24.09 – Operation permit

Off-Road Vehicle Act

Off-Road Vehicle Regulation

Motor Vehicle (All Terrain) Act

Snowmobile Regulation, Div. 9 – Owner's decal (owner's cowl decal)



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Contact

For more information, contact Rob or Judy in Driver and Vehicle Licensing Policy:

Rob Miller 250-414-7907 / email rob.miller@icbc.com

Judy Bredin 250-414-7901 / email judy.bredin@icbc.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Francis'.

Mark Francis
Manager, Provincial Vehicle Registration & Licensing
ICBC



Appendix A

MV1815 Operation Permit (no fee)

Vehicles that may require the permit

Operation permits are required for certain use/operations of non-conforming vehicles restricted to incidental highway use/operation under *MVA* section 3.1 and Division 24 of the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations. These are generally light duty work utility vehicles, ATVs, snowmobiles, off-road motorcycles and side-by-sides, and other vehicles designed primarily for off-road operation.

Law enforcement determines the details

A member of the R.C.M.P. detachment or a constable of a municipal police force may use their discretion to issue the operation permit; specify limitations and conditions of operation within the permit (for example, the time of day, days of week, areas of operation); and specify how long the permit is valid for any period of up to two years.

If the vehicle will be operated on the untraveled portion of a highway in an unorganized area of BC, the district transportation manager responsible for the transportation district where the vehicle is operated may require that additional limitations and conditions be added to the operation permit.

An operation permit may be cancelled by the officer who issued the permit, their chief constable, or the detachment commander, as the case may be, or their designate.

Further information

Law enforcement can obtain the permit by faxing a requisition to the Burnaby Warehouse at (604) 320-2051.



Appendix B

Crown land requirements and expectations

June 1, 2015 is the target date to fully implement the ORV Act, along with improved enforcement provisions and the requirement for mandatory registration and display of number plate when using or operating an ORV on Crown land, including all resource roads on Crown land.

This means it is anticipated that from June 1, 2015 onwards, ORV operators will have to carry a registration document (bottom portion of the APV250) and display an ORV plate (or a Restricted number plate with a valid licence/insurance decal attached), except for snowmobiles previously registered under the MVATA.

In terms of transition, snowmobiles registered under the MVATA will have one year to re-register under the ORV Act. Between June 1, 2015 and November 17, 2015, MVATA-registered snowmobiles that are used or operated on Crown land that display the owner's cowl decal are still in compliance. This means that all ORVs, unless exempted by regulation under the ORV Act, must be registered and display a number plate on or after November 17, 2015 when using or operating an ORV on Crown land.

For further information on Crown Land ORV requirements and expectations, please contact:

Vera Vukelich, Manager responsible for Off-Road Vehicles
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Phone: 250 356-7040 or email Vera.Vukelich@gov.bc.ca



Distribution list

B.C. Ministry of Environment

Conservation Officer Service

B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Compliance and Enforcement Branch
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Land Tenures Branch (Manager responsible
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B.C. Ministry of Justice

CPPO (Directors of Policy & Legislation and
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Police Services Division, Road Safety Unit
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B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

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