



## WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



### Multipurpose Vehicle (MPV)

#### Frequently Asked Questions and Information

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## WYDOT Multipurpose Vehicle (MPV) **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **General Questions**

1. What agency should people contact with questions regarding the Multipurpose Vehicle Frequently Asked Questions and Information Booklet?

**ANSWER** – WYDOT Compliance & Investigation @ 307-777-3815.

2. How will customers obtain the information sheet and checklist to determine if their vehicle is a Multipurpose Vehicle and attest that it has the required equipment?

**ANSWER** – The information sheet and checklist have been provided to MPV dealers in Wyoming and surrounding states, and will be available on the WYDOT website ([www.dot.state.wy.us](http://www.dot.state.wy.us), Motor Vehicle Services, Titles and Registration). The checklist will be available in the County Clerks Offices around the state and required to be submitted along with application for title. In addition, some County Treasurers Offices will require the checklist to be completed for customers who already have a title but will be registering the vehicle as an MPV.

3. Will a customer be required to title and register a Multipurpose Vehicle even if he or she does not want to operate the vehicle on streets or highways?

**ANSWER** – **Yes, a customer will have to obtain a title.** Effective January 1, 2008, every owner of an MPV will be required to obtain a title for that vehicle. However, registration will not be required unless the vehicle is operated on Wyoming streets or highways.

4. Will Multipurpose Vehicle coverage under a Homeowner or Agricultural Insurance Policy suffice as proof of insurance to register an MPV and operate it on streets or highways?

**ANSWER** – **Yes.** If the Homeowner or Agricultural Insurance Policy covers the MPV when it is being operated on streets or highways, the insurance coverage will suffice. Some insurance companies cover operation of ATVs and ORVs on roads under Homeowner or Agricultural policies and may provide the customer with a card to carry in the vehicle. Other companies require the owner to take out a separate automobile policy to cover such vehicles if the owner intends to register them and operate them on streets and highways. Be sure to contact your insurance agent to determine how their policies are administered.

5. If the driver of the Multipurpose Vehicle has an Instructional Class Drivers' License, can he or she operate a multipurpose vehicle?

**ANSWER** – **Yes.** The law states that any person licensed to drive any class of vehicle may also drive an MPV. Any requirements or restrictions that apply to the Drivers' License apply to that person when operating an MPV. Therefore, if the IC license requires the holder to have someone over 18 with a valid Drivers' License present when operating a vehicle, the driver would have to comply with that requirement when operating an MPV.

6. If a person is operating a golf cart to and from a golf course pursuant to WS 31-5-102 (a)(ix)(E), where MPV registration is not required, is that person required to have a valid Drivers' License when operating the golf cart to and from the golf course?

**ANSWER – No.** If a person is operating a golf cart solely to and from a golf course pursuant to WS 31-5-102 (a)(ix)(E), they are not required to have a Drivers' License. However, if the golf cart is registered as an MPV, the driver will have to have a valid Drivers' License even if operating it to and from a golf course.

## **Titling Questions**

7. How do we address proof of ownership if the owner of the Multipurpose Vehicle purchased it several years ago, did not title it, no longer has the paperwork, but wants to title the MPV after January 1, 2008?

**ANSWER –** If the owner of the MPV no longer has the bill of sale, invoice, or MSO proving ownership, the County Clerk may require him to complete an Affidavit of Ownership, attesting that he is the rightful owner of the vehicle, prior to issuing a title.

8. What vehicles will use the ORV body code for titling purposes?

**ANSWER –** The ORV body code may be used on titles for ownership purposes for off-road vehicles that do not meet the requirements of an MPV. This will be an indicator to the County Treasurer that the vehicle does not meet MPV requirements and may not be registered.

9. What is the NCIC Code for Multipurpose Vehicles?

**ANSWER -** The NCIC/RIS code will be "V" (ie. 2-V-1234 to look up a plate number in the system).

10. How can we correlate identification of Multipurpose Vehicles into the VIN Inspection Process to help determine what type of vehicle the customer is submitting an MPV title application for?

**ANSWER –** The consensus from the County MPV Training Sessions was to add a line for "Model" next to the line for "Make" on the VIN Inspection Form (MV-300A). Having the make and model of the vehicle verified by law enforcement (ie. Yamaha Rhino or Chrysler GEM) will assist the customer and Clerk in correctly titling the vehicle as an MPV. WYDOT Motor Vehicle Services agreed to add "Make" to the VIN Inspection Form at the next revision.

11. Will vehicle ID numbers that are less than 17 digits be in NCIC?

**ANSWER – Yes.** If the vehicle is reported stolen, the ID number will be entered into NCIC regardless of how many digits the number contains.

12. Do Multipurpose Vehicles imported into the United States have to go through the same import process as cars, trucks, and motorcycles?

**ANSWER – No.** The Federal Government does not recognize most MPVs (ie. ATVs, Side-by-Sides, mini farm trucks, etc.) as on-road vehicles. These vehicles are imported and marketed in the United States as Off-Road Vehicles and are not regulated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) as on-road vehicles are.

13. Is an Odometer required for a Multipurpose Vehicle?

**ANSWER – No.** There is nothing in Wyoming Statutes requiring a motor vehicle to have a speedometer or an odometer. Therefore, if the MPV is manufactured without an odometer, it is recommended using “Not Equipped” or “Not Applicable” on the Odometer Statement portion of the title.

## Registration Questions

14. How can we determine the factory price of a Multipurpose Vehicle in order to calculate registration fees?

**ANSWER –** Factory price for ATVs is available in NADA/Black Book. If there is not a factory price available, it is recommended that the value of the vehicle be calculated on the suggested retail price of the vehicle less 10%. A local dealer of the make/model of the MPV in question may be contacted to inquire about the factory price or suggested retail price of the MPV.

15. If a customer purchases a Multipurpose Vehicle in August 2007 and does not register it as a motorcycle but wants to register it after January 1, 2008, as an MPV, what is going to be the month of expiration? [W.S.31-2-206 (j) “annual registration month”] Will it be August of 2008 or January of 2009?

**ANSWER -** Since the law does not go into effect until January 1, 2008, registration for MPV’s can only begin on that date, so August of 2008 would not be correct. In reviewing W.S. 31-3-101(g)(ii) it seems the legislature intended to allow an exemption from registration fees for people who do not operate their vehicles on highways “during the registration year” .....upon a verified affidavit explaining why, etc.

Therefore, it seems reasonable that if a person applies for registration in August of 2008 AND the MPV has not been previously registered as any type of other vehicle, it would be allowable to make August 2009 the “annual registration month.” This would reduce the possible “rush” every January of renewals on these types of vehicles and the applicant would still be paying for 12 months registration. However, if the person indicates they have been operating the MPV in an on-road manner, without registration, prior to the August 2008 application date, or they simply wish to register it as soon as they can, then January 2009 would be the “annual registration month.” Ultimately, determination of the month of registration will be up to the respective County Treasurer.

16. What is going to be considered the “first year of service” for a Multipurpose Vehicle that was purchased in June of 2001 and not previously registered (Referencing **W.S. 31-3-101(a)(i)**)? Should the registration fee be based on 3% of 60% (first year of service) of the factory price of the MPV purchased in 2001 OR should the fee be based on 3% of 15% (sixth year of service)?

**ANSWER** - We feel that when W.S. 31-3-101(a)(i) is interpreted literally, the “first year of service” would have been 2001. Prior to January 1, 2008, the MPV class or definition of vehicle did not exist and so using the 60% number might unfairly penalize an MPV owner who has used this vehicle for 7 years, which could very well be worn out. In this example, we feel that the correct answer would be 3% of 15% for a vehicle of this age.

17. How do we address sales tax if the owner of the Multipurpose Vehicle purchased it several years ago, did not title it, no longer has the paperwork, but wants to title and register it after January 1, 2008?

**ANSWER** – If the owner of the MPV no longer has documentation that the sales tax on the vehicle has been paid, the County Treasurer may require him to pay sales tax prior to registering the vehicle.

18. If an ATV is currently registered as a motorcycle, will the owner be required to exchange his motorcycle plate for an MPV plate immediately on January 1, 2008?

**ANSWER** – **No.** It is WYDOT’s recommendation that an ATV currently registered as a motorcycle not exchange the plate for an MPV plate until his registration is required to be renewed during 2008. This will eliminate several ATVs registering during January of 2008 and every January thereafter. However, if the customer wants to trade their motorcycle plate for an MPV plate prior to the registration renewal date, the County Treasurer may provide that service for an \$8.00 transfer fee. Trading the motorcycle plate for an MPV plate prior to registration renewal will not change the registration expiration date but gives the customer an opportunity to obtain a lower MPV plate number.

19. If an ATV is currently registered as a motorcycle, will the owner be required to pay a fee to exchange the motorcycle plate for an MPV plate? If so, what is the fee?

**ANSWER** – Whether a fee will be required to exchange a motorcycle plate for an MPV plate on an ATV and what that fee will be is a decision to be made by the County Treasurer.

20. If an ATV is currently registered as a motorcycle and the annual registration month is after January 2008, is the ATV registered as a motorcycle allowed to operate on the Interstate?

**ANSWER** – **No.** The ATV is classified as an MPV effective January 1, 2008, and may not be operated on the Interstate whether it is registered as a motorcycle or an MPV. There will be a period of time during 2008 when there will be ATVs with motorcycle plates and ATVs with MPV plates operating on streets and highways, which may cause confusion.

21. Will Law Enforcement recall license plates if the vehicle does not meet Multipurpose Vehicle requirements?

**ANSWER** – Whether Law Enforcement will recall license plates if a vehicle has an MPV plate but does not meet the requirements will be a decision to be made between local Law Enforcement and the County Treasurer.

22. Will personalized MPV plates be available?

**ANSWER** – **Yes.** Personalized MPV plates will be available with up to 4 characters.

23. Will “county” and “city” MPV plates be issued?

**ANSWER** – **Yes.** Government MPV plates will be issued.

## **Equipment/Operation Questions**

24. Can the Multipurpose Vehicle be registered if it has the capability to operate with tires or tracks?

**ANSWER** – **Yes.** A vehicle must have 4 wheels in contact with the ground in order to meet the definition of a Multipurpose Vehicle and to be titled and registered as such. If the tires can be removed and replaced with tracks, the vehicle may not operate on streets or highways while equipped with tracks. Operating a vehicle on a street or highway with tracks is an equipment violation.

25. What are the specifications of operating a Multipurpose Vehicle with a slow moving vehicle emblem?

**ANSWER** – The slow moving vehicle emblem, as described in WS 31-5-921 (h), is required to comply with current standards and specifications of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. A reflectorized flag or slow moving vehicle emblem may be used on any MPV that does not reach the maximum speed posted. If the top speed of the MPV is less than 25 mph, a slow moving vehicle emblem must be used.

26. Can the vehicle be titled and registered as a Multipurpose Vehicle if the owner has modified it to meet the definition of an MPV?

**ANSWER** – **No.** The manufacturer’s specifications cannot be modified to allow the vehicle to meet the definition of an MPV for the purpose of title and registration. However, if the vehicle is homemade; the actual measurements of the seat height, count of the tires, unladen weight of the vehicle, and the State-Assigned VIN must be provided to the County Clerk on the checklist in order for the owner to obtain an MPV title. In addition, the homemade vehicle will have to meet the equipment requirements listed on the checklist for registration and operation on public streets and highways. *Note - Operation on Interstates is prohibited.*

27. Will an Air Horn, like those used at sporting events, meet the equipment requirement of a horn pursuant to 31-5-952 (a) if it is securely fastened to the Multipurpose Vehicle?

**ANSWER – Yes.** WS 31-5-952 only requires the horn to be heard within 200 feet and not emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound, and there are no Federal requirements pertaining to horns on vehicles. Therefore, if a person mounts an air horn onto their multipurpose vehicle it would be sufficient for the horn requirement.

28. Do ATVs still fall under 31-5-115 (p), requiring the headlights of the vehicle to be activated at all times including daylight hours to enhance safety?

**ANSWER – No.** WS 31-5-115 only addresses motorcycles and pedestrian vehicles and ATVs will be defined by statute as Multipurpose Vehicles effective January 1, 2008. Requiring Multipurpose Vehicles to operate with headlights activated at all times would take a legislative change.

29. The Multipurpose Vehicle definition requires the vehicle to have “a permanent upright seat or saddle at least 24 inches from the ground”. Where on the seat is the 24 inches measured? Will the word “upright” disqualify an ATV as a Multipurpose Vehicle?

**ANSWER –** The 24 inches is measured from the top of the seat where the operator sits to the ground. The meaning of the word “upright” as it applies to this statute implies that the operator cannot lie down while operating the vehicle as one would in operating a luge or a snow sled.

30. Is there a helmet requirement to operate ATVs as Multipurpose Vehicles?

**ANSWER – No.** There is no requirement to wear a helmet when operating an MPV. Since an ATV is now classified as a Multipurpose Vehicle instead of a Motorcycle, a helmet is no longer required.

31. Can Multipurpose Vehicles be ridden two (beside one another) abreast like motorcycles?

**ANSWER – No.** Only Motorcycles are allowed to operate beside one another in the same lane on streets and highways.

32. Can the driver of a golf cart registered as a Multipurpose Vehicle be cited for Driving while Under the Influence?

**ANSWER – Yes.** With the Multipurpose Vehicle legislation, the provision excluding a golf cart from the definition of a vehicle was stricken. Therefore, a golf cart is now considered a vehicle/motor vehicle and operators may be cited for Driving while Under the Influence if operating the vehicle on streets or highways while impaired by alcohol or other controlled substances pursuant to WS 31-5-233.

## Multipurpose Vehicle (MPV) Information Sheet

- ✍ Effective Date: January 1, 2008
- ✍ Purpose of Law:
- 1.) Provide Definition of multipurpose vehicles;
  - 2.) Provide for issuance of titles and registration;
  - 3.) Provide for registration fees and display of plates;
  - 4.) Provide for equipment and operation of multipurpose vehicles
- ✍ Definition: “Multipurpose Vehicle” means a motor vehicle that is:
- 1.) Designed to travel on at least 4 wheels in contact with the ground,
  - 2.) has an unladen (empty) weight of at least 300 pounds but less than 3,000 pounds,
  - 3.) has an upright seat or saddle for the driver which is mounted at least 24 inches from the ground, and
  - 4.) has an identifying number as defined by W.S.31-1-101(a)(ix)
- \*\*Examples;
- a) Off-Road Recreational Vehicles
  - b) Electric Powered Vehicles
  - c) Golf Carts - **\*\*EXCEPTION\*\*** Golf Carts are not an MPV when they are being used to transport an occupant directly to, or from, or on a golf course; or when they are being used for special events or circumstances authorized by the city, town, or county
  - d) Any other motor vehicle meeting the criteria of a multipurpose vehicle and not otherwise defined in W.S. 31-1-101
- ✍ Registration:
- 1.) After a certificate of title has been issued by the County Clerk; an applicant for registration of a multipurpose vehicle shall upon receipt of an approved application, payment of proper fees and proof of insurance, obtain one multipurpose vehicle license plate from the County Treasurer.
  - 2.) The license plate shall be conspicuously displayed and securely fastened to be plainly visible on the rear of the multipurpose vehicle.
- ✍ Driver License: Any person licensed to drive ANY class of vehicle pursuant to Wyoming Statutes may also drive a multipurpose vehicle upon public streets or highways in the state. Operation on Interstates is prohibited.
- ✍ Operation: Multipurpose vehicles may be operated on public streets or highways subject to the following provisions:
- 1.) Multipurpose vehicles shall not be operated on interstate highways;
  - 2.) If a multipurpose vehicle is incapable of achieving the maximum speed allowed on the specific street or highway, it shall be

operated on the extreme right hand edge of the roadway and shall be equipped with either a reflectorized flag as described in WS 31-5-960(a)(iv) or a slow moving vehicle emblem as described in WS 31-5-921 (h);

- 3.) Multipurpose vehicles designed for operation at speeds less than 25 miles per hour shall be equipped with a slow moving vehicle emblem as described in WS 31-5-921 (h).

- ✍ **Vehicle Dealer License** Pursuant to WS 31-16-102; A person who buys and sells or exchanges retail 3 or more vehicles in any 12 consecutive month period is required to obtain a vehicle dealer license.

## **GENERAL EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

- ✍ **Head Lamps:** A.) A multipurpose vehicle that is **GREATER** than 50 inches in width shall be equipped with at least 2 head lamps, with at least 1 on each side of the front of the multipurpose vehicle.  
B.) A multipurpose vehicle that is 50 inches or **LESS** in width shall be equipped with at least 1 headlamp.
- ✍ **Tail Lamps:** A.) A multipurpose vehicle that is **GREATER** than 50 inches in width shall be equipped with at least 2 tail lamps mounted on the rear of the vehicle.  
B.) A multipurpose vehicle that is 50 inches or **LESS** in width shall be equipped with at least 1 tail lamp mounted on the rear.
- ✍ **Reflectors:** A.) A multipurpose vehicle that is **GREATER** than 50 inches in width shall be equipped with at least 2 reflectors mounted on the rear, either as part of the tail lamps or separately  
B.) A multipurpose vehicle that is 50 inches or **LESS** in width shall be equipped with at least 1 reflector mounted on the rear, either as part of the tail lamps or separately.
- ✍ **Stop Lamps:** A.) A multipurpose vehicle that is **GREATER** than 50 inches in width shall be equipped with at least 2 stop lamps mounted on the rear of the vehicle.  
B.) A multipurpose vehicle that is 50 inches or **LESS** in width shall be equipped with at least 1 stop lamp mounted on the rear.
- ✍ **Brakes:** A multipurpose vehicle shall be equipped with a braking system which will stop the vehicle within 40 feet from an initial speed of 20 mph on a level, dry, smooth, or hard surface. The multipurpose vehicle shall also be equipped with a parking brake adequate to hold the vehicle on any grade.

## GENERAL EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

- ✍ Horn: A multipurpose vehicle shall be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting a sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 200 feet, but no horn or other warning device shall emit an unreasonable loud or harsh sound or whistle.
- ✍ Muffler(s): A multipurpose vehicle shall be equipped with a muffler or other noise suppression system, maintained and operated in good working order so as to prevent excessive or unusual noise or the escape of excessive fumes or smoke. No person shall use a muffler cut-out, bypass, or similar device.
- ✍ Mirrors: A multipurpose vehicle shall be equipped with 1 mirror mounted on the left side of the vehicle and so located as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway to the rear of the vehicle.
- ✍ Windshield: When a multipurpose vehicle is equipped with a windshield AND an enclosed cab, it shall be equipped with a device for cleaning rain, snow, or other moisture from the windshield; which device shall be controlled or operated by the driver of the vehicle. The windshield shall not have any sun screening device that does not comply with WS 31-5-962. There shall not be any material, substance, poster, sign, or crack in or on the windshield that obstructs, obscures, or impairs in any other manner, the driver's clear view of the highway.
- ✍ Tires: A multipurpose vehicle shall be equipped with at least 4 tires pursuant to WS 31-5-956, and no person shall operate any vehicle on any highway or road with tires in an unsafe condition.





**TYPES OF MULTIPURPOSE VEHICLES**

Yamaha Rhino



John Deere Gator



Global Electric Motorcar (GEM)



Sand Rail Dune Buggy



Tiger Mini Truck



Kawasaki ATV

