

“UNCONVENTIONAL VEHICLES”: WHAT THIS MEANS FOR DEALERS IN OHIO

In 2012 the 129th General Assembly passed **SENATE BILL 114**, which established conditions for the operation of certain specified vehicles. Those vehicles included **low-speed** and **under-speed vehicles, scooters, cab-enclosed motorcycles, and mini-trucks**. **Autocycles** were added in HOUSE BILL 429, 2016.

MOTOR VEHICLES – Required to be titled and registered in the state of Ohio in order to be operated

VEHICLE TYPE	ALL-PURPOSE VEHICLES (APV)	AUTO CYCLE	CAB-ENCLOSED MOTORCYCLE	LOW-SPEED VEHICLE (LSV)	MOTORCYCLE	MOTOR SCOOTER
BODY TYPE	AT	AU	CE	LS	MC	MS
DEALERS LICENSE REQUIRED TO SELL	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

MOTOR VEHICLES LIMITATIONS

VEHICLE TYPE	ALL-PURPOSE VEHICLES (APV)*	AUTO CYCLE	CAB-ENCLOSED MOTORCYCLE	LOW-SPEED VEHICLE (LSV)	MOTORCYCLE	MOTOR SCOOTER
ROAD USE	NO (OFF-ROAD USE ONLY)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
LIMITATIONS FOR ROAD USE	N/A	NONE	NONE	ROADS OF 35 MPH OR LESS	NONE	ROADS OF 45 MPH OR LESS

Each motor vehicle (bolded above) will be defined in sections 4501.01 and 4519.01 of the Revised Code. However, not all of the vehicles fall within the definition of a “Motor Vehicle” (see the underlined section in the definition below).

As defined in 4501.01 (B) **“Motor vehicle”** means any vehicle, including mobile homes and recreational vehicles, that is propelled or drawn by power other than muscular power or power collected from overhead electric trolley wires. **“Motor vehicle”** does not include utility vehicles as defined in division (VV) of this section, under-speed vehicles as defined in division (XX) of this section, mini-trucks as defined in division (BBB) of this section, motorized bicycles, road rollers, traction engines, power shovels, power cranes, and other equipment used in construction work and not designed for or employed in general highway transportation, well-drilling machinery, ditch-digging

machinery, farm machinery, and trailers that are designed and used exclusively to transport a boat between a place of storage and a marina, or in and around a marina, when drawn or towed on a public road or highway for a distance of no more than ten miles and at a speed of twenty-five miles per hour or less.

VEHICLES – Titled and registered if operated on roadways

VEHICLE TYPE	MINI-TRUCK	UNDER-SPEED VEHICLE (USV) Commonly Known as a Golf Cart	UTILITY VEHICLE (UTV)
<i>BODY TYPE</i>	MT	US	UV
DEALERS LICENSE REQUIRED TO SELL	NO	NO	NO

VEHICLE LIMITATIONS

VEHICLE TYPE	MINI-TRUCK	UNDER-SPEED VEHICLE (USV) Commonly Known as a Golf Cart	UTILITY VEHICLE (UTV)
<i>LIMITATIONS FOR ROAD USE</i>	YES ROADS OF 35 MPH OR LESS	YES ROADS OF 35 MPH OR LESS	YES ROADS OF 35 MPH OR LESS
<i>INSPECTION DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED (AT TIME OF TITLE ISSUANCE)</i>	YES	YES	YES

Each vehicle listed in the chart above will be defined in section 4501.01 of the Revised Code and **DOES NOT** fall within the definition of a “Motor Vehicle.”

The authorization to operate these vehicles on public roads is at the discretion of the local authority of the jurisdiction where the vehicle will be operated. Section 4511.215 (A) of the Revised Code states in part, *“By ordinance or resolution, a local authority may authorize the operation of under-speed or utility vehicles or mini-trucks on a public street or highway under its jurisdiction.”*

CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITY FOR ROAD OPERATION

Section 4511.215 (A)(2) states that the local authority shall, *“Require the vehicle owner who wishes to operate an **under-speed or utility vehicle or a mini-truck** on the public streets or highways to submit the vehicle to an inspection conducted by a local law enforcement agency that complies with*

inspection requirements established by the department of public safety under section [4513.02](#) of the Revised Code.”

Section 4511.215 (A)(3) states that the local authority shall “Permit the operation on public streets or highways of only those vehicles that successfully pass the required vehicle inspection, are registered in accordance with Chapter 4503. of the Revised Code, and are titled in accordance with Chapter 4505. of the Revised Code.”

Through the collaboration of Highway Patrol and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), an inspection form was designed for use by local law enforcement if they choose to utilize it. The “Authorization for the Operation of Under-Speed Vehicle/Utility Vehicle or Mini-Truck on Public Streets and Highways”, inspection form *DPS 1373, will be made available on the BMV website. Local law enforcement agencies may use their own document that confirms the vehicle meets all equipment requirements in accordance with *Chapter 4501-30 of the Administrative Code.

* Publications of form DPS 1373 and Administrative Code Chapter 4501-30 will be available by January 1, 2017.