

TRANSPORTATION CABINET
Department of Vehicle Regulation
Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing
(Amended at ARRS Committee)

601 KAR 23:070. Street-legal special purpose vehicles.

RELATES TO: KRS 186.010,186.020,186.050, 186A.115

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 186.010, 186.020,186.050, 186A.115

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT:

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 186.077 requires the Transportation Cabinet to establish procedures for inspection, registration, operation, and compliance of street-legal special purpose vehicles (SLSPVs) on designated public roadways in Kentucky.

Section 1. Definitions.

- (1) "Cabinet" means the Transportation Cabinet.
- (2) "Kentucky certified inspector" means an inspector certified by the Department of Vehicle Regulation.
- (3) "Local government" is defined by KRS 186.077.
- (4) "Low-speed vehicle" is defined by KRS 186.010 (16).
- (5) "Proof of ownership" means that the owner has provided either a current title to the vehicle, MCO, manufacturer's certificate of origin, bill of sale, or affidavit of ownership.
- (6) "Special purpose vehicle (SPV)" is defined by KRS 186.077.
- (7) "Street-legal special purpose vehicle (SLSPV)" is defined by KRS 186.077.

Section 2. Registration Requirements.

- (1) SLSPVs shall be registered with the Department of Vehicle Regulation.
- (2) SLSPVs shall be registered with the county clerk in the county where the owner resides or if not owned by a local resident, the county clerk in the county where the street-legal SPV is principally operated.
- (3) The registration fee shall be ten (10) dollars per year pursuant to KRS 186.050.
- (4) SLSPVs shall be plated with a motorcycle registration plate.
- (5) Proof of insurance, as required under KRS 304.39-110, shall be submitted at the time of registration and shall be insured as a motorcycle.
- (6) Registration applications shall include:
 - (a) Vehicle Identification Number (VIN);
 - (b) Make, model, and year of the SLSPV;
 - (c) Owner's full name and address; and
 - (d) Proof of vehicle safety compliance with proof of inspection, pursuant to 601 KAR 9:090, by a Kentucky certified inspector with detailed checklist verifying the SLSPV meets the safety equipment requirements of Section 4 of this administrative regulation.

Section 3. Operating Restrictions.

- (1) SLSPVs may operate on public highways, subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) Operation is prohibited on highways located within the jurisdictional boundaries of a local government where operation of SLSPVs is not allowed by local ordinance.
 - (b) Operation is prohibited on controlled-access systems, including interstates or parkways.
 - (c) Operation is prohibited where the United States Department of Agriculture prohibits SLSPVs.
 - (d) SLSPVs are prohibited from traveling a distance greater than twenty (20) miles on a highway displaying centerline pavement markings.

(2) Operators shall obey all traffic laws and carry proof of registration and insurance.

Section 4. Vehicle Safety Requirements.

- (1) A SLSPV shall be equipped with:
 - (a) One (1) or more headlamps;
 - (b) One (1) or more tail lamps;
 - (c) One (1) or more brake lamps;
 - (d) A trail lamp or other lamp constructed and placed to illuminate the registration plate with a white light;
 - (e) One (1) or more red reflectors on the rear of the vehicle;
 - (f) An amber electronic turn system, one (1) on each side of the front of the vehicle;
 - (g) An amber or red electric turn signals on the rear of the vehicle;
 - (h) A braking system, other than a parking brake;
 - (i) A horn or other warning device;
 - (j) A working muffler;
 - (k) Rearview mirrors on the right and left side of the driver;
 - (l) A windshield, unless the operator of the vehicle wears eye protection while operating the vehicle;
 - (m) A speedometer, illuminated for nighttime operation;
 - (n) A roll bar or roll cage;
 - (o) For multi-passenger vehicles, a seatbelt assembly that conforms to the federal motor vehicle safety standard provided in 49 C.F.R. sec. 571.209 for each designated seating position; and
 - (p) Tires that have at least two thirty-seconds (2/32) of an inch or greater tire tread.
- (2) The vehicle shall pass a safety inspection conducted by a Kentucky certified inspector.

Section 5. Compliance and Enforcement.

- (1) Law enforcement officers shall verify the compliance of SLSPVs pursuant to this administrative regulation.
- (2) The license plate shall be the same size as the Kentucky motorcycle license plate.
- (3) A SLSPV may be equipped with a motorcycle temporary tag.
- (4) Failure to comply with the registration, operation, and equipment requirements shall result in a citation and potential fines as established in KRS Chapter 186.
- (5) Repeat offenders may face suspension or revocation of SLSPV registration.

Section 6. Appeals and Hearings.

- (1) An owner cited for non-compliance may request a hearing within thirty (30) days of the citation issuance.
- (2) The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B.

Section 7. Severability. If any provision of this administrative regulation is found invalid, the remaining sections shall remain in effect.

Section 8. Incorporation by Reference.

- (1) The following material is incorporated by reference:
 - (a) "Application for Kentucky Certificate of Title or Registration", TC 96-182, (01/2024 Edition); and
 - (b) "Street-Legal Special Purpose Vehicle Inspection", TC 96-365, (06/2025 Edition).
- (2) This material may be inspected, copied, or obtained, subject to applicable copyright law, at the Transportation Cabinet Office Building, Department of Vehicle Regulation, 2nd Floor, 200 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40622, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- (3) This material is also available on Transportation Cabinet's website at drive.ky.gov.

(601 KAR 023:070. 52 Ky.R. 331, 742; eff. 2-3-2026.) COMPILER'S NOTE: 2025 RS HB 6, enacted by the General Assembly on March 27, 2025, altered the information to be provided at the time an administrative regulation is filed. Aside from formatting changes necessary to upload the regulation into the LRC's publication application, this regulation has been published as submitted by the agency.

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