

STATEMENT OF EMERGENCY

601 KAR 23:070E.

This emergency administrative regulation is being promulgated to comply with the provisions for street-legal special purpose vehicles and their use on a state highway, as outlined in Senate Bill 63 of the 2025 Regular Session. This administrative regulation is being filed on an emergency basis to meet the effective date of June 27, 2025, for KRS Chapter 186. This emergency administrative regulation will be replaced by an ordinary administrative regulation pursuant to KRS Chapter 13A. The companion ordinary administrative regulation is identical to this emergency administrative regulation.

ANDY BESHEAR, Governor

JIM GRAY, Secretary

TRANSPORTATION CABINET
Department of Vehicle Regulation
Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing
(New Emergency Administrative Regulation)

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

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

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 186.1(10), 186.020,186.050, 186A.115

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT:

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS Chapter 186 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) "Local government" means a city, county, charter county government, urban-county government, consolidated local government, or unified local government.
- (3) "Low-speed vehicle" means a motor vehicle that is not considered a street-legal special purpose vehicle under this regulation, as defined in KRS 186.010.
- (4) "Kentucky certified inspector" means an inspector certified by the Department of Vehicle Regulation.
- (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)" means an all-terrain vehicle, utility terrain vehicle, minitruck, pneumatic-tired military vehicle, or full-size special purpose-built vehicle, including a vehicle that is self-constructed or built by the original equipment manufacturer and a vehicle that has been modified. This does not include a low-speed vehicle as defined in KRS 186.010.
- (7) "Street-legal special purpose vehicle (SLSPV)" means a special purpose vehicle that meets the safety and registration requirements to operate on public highways, is not a low-speed vehicle as defined in KRS 186.010, and is 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.

Section 2. Registration Requirements.

- (1) All SLSPVs shall be registered with the Department of Vehicle Regulation.
- (2) The 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 an annual 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) 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.

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.

JIM GRAY, Secretary

MATTHEW COLE, Commissioner

APPROVED BY AGENCY: July 9, 2025

FILED WITH LRC: July 10, 2025 at 2:15 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD: A public hearing on this administrative regulation shall be held on August 21, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. EST, at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, 200 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40622. Individuals interested in being heard at this hearing shall notify this agency in writing by five (5) working days prior to the hearing, of their intent to attend. If no notification of intent to attend the hearing is received by that date, the hearing may be cancelled. A transcript of the public hearing will not be made unless a written request for a transcript is made. If you do not wish to be heard at the public hearing, you may submit written comments on the proposed administrative regulation. Written comments shall be accepted through 11:59 p.m. on August 31, 2024. Send written notification of intent to be heard at the public hearing or written comments on the proposed administrative regulation to the contact person below.

CONTACT PERSON: Jon Johnson, Staff Attorney Manager/Assistant General Counsel, Transportation Cabinet, Office of Legal Services, 200 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40622, phone (502) 564-7650, fax (502) 564-5238, email jon.johnson@ky.gov.