

# OHV REGULATIONS SUMMARY

## OHV Noise Regulations

### BILL NUMBER: AB 2274 CHAPTERED

**BILL TEXT:** CHAPTER 563  
FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE SEPTEMBER 15, 2002  
APPROVED BY GOVERNOR SEPTEMBER 14, 2002  
PASSED THE SENATE AUGUST 27, 2002  
PASSED THE ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 2002  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 15, 2002  
INTRODUCED BY Assembly Members Keeley and Wyland  
(Excerpts related to OHV noise regulations effective January 1, 2003)

SEC. 45. Section 38370 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:  
38370(h) On and after January 1, 2003, off-highway motor vehicles, when operating pursuant to Section 38001, shall at all times be equipped with a silencer, or other device, which limits noise emissions. (1) Noise emissions of competition off-highway vehicles manufactured on or after January 1, 1998, shall be limited to not more than 96 dbA, and if manufactured prior to January 1, 1998, to not more than 101 dbA, when measured from a distance of 20 inches using test procedures established by the Society of Automotive Engineers under Standard J-1287, as applicable. Noise emissions of all other off-highway vehicles shall be limited to not more than 96 dbA if manufactured on or after January 1, 1986, and not more than 101 dbA if manufactured prior to January 1, 1986, when measured from a distance of 20 inches using test procedures established by the Society of Automotive Engineers under Standard J-1287, as applicable. (2) The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division of the Department of Parks and Recreation shall evaluate and reassess the dates specified in paragraph (1) and include the findings and recommendations in the noise report required in subdivision (o) of Section 5090.32 of the Public Resources Code. (i) Off-highway vehicle manufacturers or their agents prior to the sale to the general public in California of any new off-highway vehicle model manufactured after January 1, 2003, shall provide to the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division of the California Department of Parks and Recreation rpm data needed to conduct the J-1287 test, where applicable.

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### J1287 Test Information

The J1287 test standard is in the document entitled Measurement of Exhaust Sound Levels of Stationary Motorcycles. It may be purchased at the Society of Automotive Engineers ([SAE website](#)). You can also get it here under the terms of our license from the SAE:

"SAE J1287\_199807 © 1998 SAE International.

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### [Download J1287 Exhaust Sound Testing Standard \(pdf\)](#)

All vehicles that are operated on public lands must be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The registration fee is \$21 per vehicle, and is valid for a two-year period. The OHV fund is used for acquisition of new OHV areas, development and operation of existing OHV areas, enforcement of the rules and regulations, and protection of the natural resources.

DMV will issue a Green or Red Sticker for off-road vehicles. Vehicles that can be operated both on- and off-highway will be given a street-legal license.

### OHV Registration Requirements

In order to operate any type of motorized vehicle off-road on public land, you must have one of the following:

Street-Legal License Plate: If you want to operate a 4-wheel drive vehicle or dual-purpose motorcycle on-road and off-road, you must have a street-legal license plate.

The Green Sticker Or Red Sticker: If you are going to operate a motorized vehicle off-road only, you must have either a Green Sticker or a Red Sticker that has been issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Green Sticker allows vehicles to operate on public land all year. The Red Sticker is for motorcycles and ATVs, model year 2003 and after, that do not meet the emission standards established by the California Air Resources Board. If the vehicle has a 3 or a C in the eighth position of the Vehicle Identification Number, then it does not meet the emission standards and should be issued a Red Sticker. The Red Sticker is exactly the same as the Green Sticker except that these vehicles can only be operated during certain times of the year. To find out when you can operate your vehicle, call the specific riding area that you want to visit or you can look it up on our web site at [http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=21928](http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=21928).

Closed Course Competition: Some race courses can be designated as a closed course. D.M.V. does require that you obtain a Transportation Permit to transport your vehicle to and from a race course.

Non-Resident Permit: As of January 1, 1998 you will need to purchase a special "Non-Resident OHV Permit" if you are not a California resident AND your off-highway vehicle or snowmobile is not registered in your home state. To find out where these Non-Resident OHV Permits can be purchased and to get more information on the program, please contact a local Ranger or contact the OHMVR Division at:

California State Parks — OHMVR Division, Non-Resident Permit Program  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001  
916-324-4442  
E-mail, [pubinfo@parks.ca.gov](mailto:pubinfo@parks.ca.gov)

### **Possession of Alcohol**

A new law makes it illegal to possess an open container of an alcoholic beverage while riding in or operating an off-highway vehicle. Vehicle Codes sections 23220, 23322, 23223, 23225, and 23226, have been amended to include public lands.

The intent of these laws is to make the possession of alcohol in a vehicle the same whether you are driving on a highway or off-road. The new laws are designed to reduce alcohol-related accidents, but also allow vehicles such as 4-wheel drives and snowmobiles to transport such items in locked containers or even ice chests if they are secured in a manner that are not accessible to the occupants or the operator.

Responsible off-highway vehicle enthusiasts do not drink and drive.

### **Spark Arrester**

Motorcycles must be equipped with a U.S. Forest Service approved spark arrester and adequate muffler, both in working order (PRC 4442).

You may not drive a motor vehicle in a manner that endangers the safety of other persons or their property (CVC 38305, 38314, 38316a, 38317).

No motor vehicle shall exceed 15 mph within 50 feet of any campground, campsite, or concentration of people or animals (CVC 38310).

### **Lights**

Any vehicle operated between sunset and sunrise must display at least one headlight that enables an operator to see clearly 200 feet ahead and one red taillight visible for 200 feet (CVC 3835, 38345).

This is only a partial list of regulations pertaining to OHVs. For a complete listing, see Division 16.5 of the California Vehicle Code available at DMV offices.

You are responsible to know all of the regulations.

## Red Sticker Riding Seasons

### California State Parks OHMVR Division

#### State Vehicular Recreation Areas

Carnegie	Nov 1 - Apr 30
Clay Pit	Nov 1 - Jun 30
Hollister Hills	Oct 1 - May 31
Hungry Valley	Oct 1 - Apr 30
Ocotillo Wells	Oct 15 - May 15
Oceano Dunes	Sep 15 - May 15
Prairie City	Oct 15 - Apr 15
Mammoth Bar	Oct 1 - May 31

### Bureau of Land Management

#### Bakersfield District

Clear Creek	Oct 1 - May 31
Bishop	Year-round

#### BLM Northern California

Fort Sage	Year-round
Samoa Dunes	Year-round
Black Sands	Year-round
Chappie-Shasta	Oct 1 - May 31
South Cow Mountain	Year-round
Knoxville	Year-round

#### California Desert District

Olancho Dunes	Year-round
Panamint (closed)	Year-round
Spangler Hills	Oct 1 - May 31
Jawbone/Dove	Oct 1 - May 31
Dumont Dunes	Nov 1 - Apr 30
Stoddard Valley	Oct 1 - Apr 30.
Johnson Valley	Oct 1 - Apr 30
Superstition Mountain	Oct 1 - May 31
Imperial/Glamis/Gecko	Oct 1 - Apr 30
Plaster City	Oct 1 - May 31
Imperial/Buttercup Valley	Oct 1, Apr 30
Lark Canyon	Dec 1 - Jan 31
Razor	Oct 1 - Apr 30
Imperial/Mammoth Wash	Oct 1 - Apr 30
El Mirage/Shadow Mtns.	Nov 1 - Mar 1
Rice Valley	Year-round
Parker Strip	Year-round

### U.S. Forest Service

#### Angeles National Forest

Mt. Baldy	Dec 1 - Jan 31
Rowher Flat	Nov 1 - March 31
Tujunga	Dec 1 - Jan 31
Littlerock	Nov 1 - March 31

#### Cleveland National Forest

Corral Canyon	Dec 1 - Jan 31
Wildomar	Dec 1 - Feb 28

#### El Dorado National Forest

Mace Mill-Rock Creek	Oct 15 - May 31
Barrett Lake	Year-round

#### Inyo National Forest

Poleta	Year-round
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#### Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Kings Beach	Year-round
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#### Los Padres National Forest

Alamo Mountain	Oct 15 - Apr 30
Ballinger Canyon	Nov 1 - Mar 15
Black Mountain	Oct 1 - Apr 30
Santa Barbara	Nov 15 - Mar 15
Ortega Trail	Nov 15 - Mar 15

#### Mendocino National Forest

Davis Flat	Year-round
Lake Pillsbury	Year-round
Elk Mountain	Year-round

#### Plumas National Forest

Gold Lake	Year-round
Dixie Mountain	Year-round
Mosquito Creek	Year-round
Deadman Springs	Year-round
Cleghorn Bar	Year-round
Big Creek	Year-round

#### San Bernardino National Forest

Lake Arrowhead	Nov 1 - Feb 28
Big Bear	Nov 1 - Feb 28
San Jacinto	Nov 1 - Feb 28
Lytle Creek	Nov 1 - Feb 28

### **Sequoia National Forest**

Tule River	Nov 1 - Apr 30
Frog Meadow	Nov 1 - Apr 30
Kennedy Meadows	Year-round

### **Shasta-Trinity National Forest**

Hayfork	Year-round
McCloud	Year-round

### **Sierra National Forest**

Kings River	Nov 1 - May 31
Shaver Lake	Nov 1 - May 31
Hites Cove	Nov 1 - May 31
Miami Creek	Nov 1 - May 31

### **Six Rivers National Forest**

Smith Rivers NRA	Year-round
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### **Stanislaus National Forest**

Niagara Ridge	Year-round
Date Flat	Oct 1 - May 31
Deer Creek	Oct 1 - May 31
Corral Hollow	Oct 1 - May 31

### **Tahoe National Forest**

Foresthill OHV	Oct 1 - May 31
Fordyce Jeep Trail	Oct 1 - May 31
Truckee	Year-round
Prosser Hills	Year-round
Downieville	Year-round

### **Other Jurisdictions**

Frank Raines	Oct 1 - May 31
Glen Helen	(closed course)
La Grange	Nov 1 - Mar 31
Park Moabi	Year-round
Riverfront Park	Year-round
Santa Clara (Metcalf)	Nov 1 - Apr 30
Black Butte Lake	May 20 - Feb 28
Laguna Seca	(closed course)
Tulare Cycle Park	(closed course)
Hanford Cycle Park	(closed course)
Porterville OHV Park	(closed course)