



# Advisory

To: **MOTORCYCLE MANUFACTURERS  
AND DEALERS  
OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES**

Number 319

October 9, 2003  
Rev. October 31, 2003

## **CHANGES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES' REGISTRATION POLICY FOR OFF-HIGHWAY RECREATIONAL VEHICLES (OHVS)**

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) has had regulations pertaining to on-highway motorcycles since 1978. The on-highway motorcycle regulations pertain to all 50 cubic centimeter displacement and larger on-highway motorcycles imported, offered for sale, sold, used and/or registered in California. The regulations require these on-highway motorcycles to be certified by the manufacturer through the ARB to meet the California emission standards and be properly labeled, in order to be registered for street use by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

In the year 2000, ARB made DMV aware of possible conflicts between the ARB requirements and the procedures used at DMV to register motorcycles on-highway. For many years, the DMV has allowed off-road motorcycles to be converted to street and dual registration without checking the emission status of the vehicles. Upon notification by the ARB of the error, the DMV revised their registration procedures to reflect proper registration under California law.

The attached Vehicle Industry News, VIN 2003-11 published by the DMV in September 2003, explains the new DMV registration procedures pertaining to off-highway motorcycle conversions. VIN 2003-11 can also be viewed at:

[http://www.dmv.ca.gov/vehindustry/vin\\_memos/vin2003/03vin11OHV\\_MC\\_Conversions.pdf](http://www.dmv.ca.gov/vehindustry/vin_memos/vin2003/03vin11OHV_MC_Conversions.pdf)

The following is a summary of the most applicable portions of the VIN. Any off-highway motorcycle purchased after December 31, 2003 is not eligible for on-highway or dual use registration unless the manufacturer originally certified the vehicle to meet the California on-highway emission standards. Off-highway motorcycle owners eligible for a green sticker that purchased their vehicles prior to January 1, 2004 and have applied for on-highway or dual registration with the DMV prior to January 31, 2004, will be eligible for on-highway or dual use registration.

Please see the attached DMV VIN for clarification of the new registration procedures for on-highway and/or dual use registration. Any questions concerning registration should be directed to the DMV Customer Communications Section at (916) 657-6560.

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Please direct any questions regarding on or off highway motorcycle emissions certification and enforcement requirements to our Public Information Office at 1-800-END-SMOG or 1-800-242-4450 or visit [www.arb.ca.gov/enf/enf.htm](http://www.arb.ca.gov/enf/enf.htm).

Please refer to Advisory No. 313 for additional information on OHV enforcement.

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