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# MOTOR VEHICLE ACT REGULATIONS 26/58

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**(SUB)Definitions**Feb  
01/09**24.01** In this Division:

**"designated area"** means private property, a parking lot, a campground, an airport, a ferry terminal, a golf course or a marina;

**"forklift"** means a motor vehicle with one or more prongs or any similar mechanism for hoisting a load;

**"gold rush snowmobile trail highway traverse"** means that portion of a highway that is traversed by the Gold Rush Snowmobile Trail;

**"limited access island"** means an island that is not accessible by scheduled vehicle ferry service or by bridge;

**"miniature motor vehicle"** means

- (a) a motorized go-cart, skateboard or similar wheeled toy vehicle, or
- (b) motorcycle that has
  - (i) a wheel rim diameter of less than 250 mm,
  - (ii) a wheel base of less than 1 016 mm when measured from the centre of one axle to the centre of the other axle, or
  - (iii) a seat height, when the vehicle is unladen, of less than 650 mm;

**"operation permit"** means a permit issued in accordance with section 24.09;

**"person lift"** means a motor vehicle with a worker platform that may be elevated as a feature central to the vehicle's design;

**"public works"** means operation of a motor vehicle owned, leased or rented by the Province, a municipality, a regional district, a transportation authority, a health authority or a school district for maintenance, landscaping or industrial purposes;

**"travelled portion of a highway"** means the area of a highway that has a prepared surface for vehicle operation, including the shoulder;

**"worksite"** means the specific location where the tools, supplies or equipment carried on or in a motor vehicle are being used, or where a utility vehicle is being used for its utility purpose unrelated to the transportation of people or property.

[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

**(SUB)General restrictions and conditions**Feb  
01/09**24.02(1)** A person must not drive or operate any of the following motor vehicles on a highway except as otherwise authorized by this Division:

- (a) an air cushion vehicle;
  - (b) a golf cart;
  - (c) a neighbourhood zero emission vehicle;
  - (d) a snow vehicle;
  - (e) a snowmobile;
  - (f) a utility vehicle.
- (2) A person must not drive or operate a miniature motor vehicle on a highway except on a route that has been designated as a parade route by a local or provincial government authority.
- (3) A motor vehicle described in subsection (1) must not be driven or operated on a highway unless the owner of the vehicle has
- (a) registered and licensed the vehicle under the *Motor Vehicle Act* or *Commerical Transport Act*, and

- (b) obtained for the vehicle an owner's certificate under the *Insurance (Vehicle) Act*.
- (4) A motor vehicle being driven or operated on a highway as authorized by this Division must conform to the requirements set out in Part 3 of this Division.  
[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

**(SUB)Utility vehicles**

Feb  
01/09

- 24.03**(1) A person may drive or operate a utility vehicle on a highway, subject to the conditions set out in this section, for the following purposes:
- (a) farming;
  - (b) industrial purposes;
  - (c) maintenance;
  - (d) landscaping;
  - (e) law enforcement, by a person exercising powers or performing duties under an enactment;
  - (f) transportation on a limited access island if the utility vehicle is not of a type designed to be ridden astride.
- (2) If a person drives or operates a utility vehicle on a highway for a purpose set out in subsection (1), operation of the vehicle is limited to the following:
- (a) crossing the highway;
  - (b) operation on the untravelled portion of the highway;
  - (c) operation on the travelled portion of the highway if the vehicle is being driven or operated
    - (i) on a limited access island,
    - (ii) within a designated area, or
    - (iii) within 100 m of the worksite where the vehicle is being used for the utility purpose for which it was designed.
- (3) A utility vehicle driven or operated in accordance with subsection 2 (c) (iii) may be driven continuously on the travelled portion of the highway for more than 100 m only if the vehicle is being used for constructing or maintaining the portion of the highway immediately underneath the vehicle.
- (4) A person who drives or operates a utility vehicle on a highway must have an operation permit for the vehicle, unless the vehicle
- (a) is a fork lift or person lift, or
  - (b) is driven or operated
    - (i) in a designated area, by or on behalf of the owner or operator of the designated area,
    - (ii) on a highway adjoining or bisecting a designated area, if the vehicle is being used by or on behalf of the owner or operator of the designated area and the speed limit on the highway is 50 km/hr or less,
    - (iii) for public works on a highway where the speed limit is 50 km/hr or less,
    - (iv) by or on behalf of a university or college within the university or college campus,
    - (v) on a highway adjoining or bisecting a university or college campus, if the vehicle is being used by or on behalf of the university or college and the speed limit on the highway is 50 km/hr or less,
    - (vi)

- for law enforcement purposes, by a person exercising powers or performing duties under an enactment, or
- (vii) on a highway located on a limited access island and the speed limit on the highway is 20 km/hr or less.  
[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

**(SUB)Golf carts**

Feb  
01/09

- 24.04** A person may drive or operate a golf cart on a highway within the parking lot of a golf course, or for the purpose of carrying golfers and their equipment from one part of a golf course to another part of the same golf course.  
[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

**(SUB)Snowmobiles, snow vehicles and air cushion vehicles**

Feb  
01/09

- 24.05** (1) A person may drive or operate a snowmobile, snow vehicle or air cushion vehicle on a highway, subject to the conditions set out in this section.
- (2) A person who drives or operates a snowmobile, snow vehicle or air cushion vehicle on a highway must have an operation permit for the snowmobile, snow vehicle or air cushion vehicle.
- (3) Unless specifically provided for in the operation permit, a person must not drive or operate a snowmobile, snow vehicle or air cushion vehicle on a highway between 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise.  
[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

**(SUB)Neighbourhood zero emission vehicles**

Feb  
01/09

- 24.06** (1) A person may drive or operate a neighbourhood zero emission vehicle in unorganized areas of British Columbia
- (a) on a highway or class of highway that has a speed limit of 40 km/hr or less,
- (b) if authorized by a road use permit granted by the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure under this section, on a highway or class of highway that has a speed limit of over 40 km/hr but no more than 50 km/hr, or
- (c) if the vehicle is being operated in accordance with the provisions applicable to a utility vehicle as provided for in section 24.03.
- (2) A person may drive or operate a neighbourhood zero emission vehicle in a municipality
- (a) on a highway or class of highway that has a speed limit of 40 km/hr or less,
- (b) if authorized by bylaw of the council of the municipality, on a highway or class of highway that has a speed limit of over 40 km/hr but no more than 50 km/hr, or
- (c) if the vehicle is being operated in accordance with the provisions applicable to a utility vehicle as provided for in section 24.03.
- (3) A person who drives or operates a neighbourhood zero emission vehicle as authorized by subsection (1) or (2) may, at an intersection, cross a highway that has a speed limit that is not greater than 80 km/hr to enable the person to continue on a highway on which the person is authorized to drive or operate a neighbourhood zero emission vehicle.

- (4) The Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure may, for the purposes of subsection (1) (b), grant a permit authorizing a person to drive or operate a vehicle on a highway or class of highway that has a speed limit of over 40 km/hr but no more than 50 km/hr.

[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

**(SUB)Grandparenting of neighbourhood zero emission vehicles**

Feb  
01/09

- 24.07** (1) Section 24.06 does not apply to a neighbourhood zero emission vehicle that
- (a) was owned or leased by a person on or before June 5, 2008, and
  - (b) continues to be owned or leased by the same person after that date.
- (2) A neighbourhood zero emission vehicle referred to in subsection (1) may be driven or operated on a highway in accordance with this section.
- (3) Section 4.30 and 7B.02 to 7B.04 apply to a neighbourhood zero emission vehicle described in subsection (1) that is being driven or operated on a highway.
- (4) A person who
- (a) owned or leased a neighbourhood zero emission vehicle on or before June 5, 2008, and
  - (b) continues to own or lease the vehicle after that date
- may apply to the director to exempt that vehicle from subsection (3).
- (5) Despite subsection (1), section 24.06 applies to a vehicle that has been exempted under subsection (4).

[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

**(SUB)Illumination of lamps**

Feb  
01/09

- 24.08** (1) A person may only drive or operate a neighbourhood zero emission vehicle, snowmobile, snow vehicle, air cushion vehicle or utility vehicle on a highway at the times prescribed in subsection (3) if
- (a) the vehicle is equipped with the head lamps and tail lamps described in section 24.12, and
  - (b) the person illuminates the vehicle lamps.
- (2) In addition to the conditions under subsection (1), a person driving or operating a utility vehicle on a highway must, if the vehicle is equipped with non-rotating red or amber lights capable of operating in flashing mode, illuminate the lights in flashing mode at all times that it is being driven or operated on a highway.
- (3) The hours prescribed for illumination of lamps and lights are
- (a) from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise, and
  - (b) at any other time when, due to insufficient light or unfavourable atmospheric conditions, objects on the highway are not clearly discernable at a distance of 150 m.

[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

**(ADD)Operation permit**

Feb  
01/09

- 24.09** (1) If an operation permit is required for a vehicle under this Division, a person driving or operating the vehicle must operate the vehicle in accordance with the limitations and conditions specified in the operation permit.
- (2)

- An operation permit issued under this section must be in the form established by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia.
- (3) An application for an operation permit must be made to, and may be issued by,
    - (a) if the place where the vehicle is to be operated is policed by a municipal police force, a constable of that force,
    - (b) if the vehicle is a snowmobile operated on a gold rush snowmobile trail highway traverse, a member of the R.C.M.P. whose detachment is responsible for any gold rush snowmobile trail highway traverse, and
    - (c) in any other case, a member of the R.C.M.P. detachment who is stationed nearest to the place where the vehicle is to be operated.
  - (4) A member of the R.C.M.P. detachment or a constable of a municipal police force who issues an operation permit may specify limitations and conditions for operation of the vehicle for which the operation permit is issued.
  - (5) The operator of the vehicle for which an operation permit is required must keep the operation permit with the vehicle and present the operation permit on request of a peace officer.
  - (6) If the use of a utility vehicle includes driving or operating the vehicle on the untravelled portion of a highway in an unorganized area of British Columbia, the District Transportation Manager responsible for the transportation district where the vehicle is operated may require that additional limitations and conditions be added to the operation permit.
  - (7) An operation permit issued under this Division may be cancelled by the following persons at the department or detachment where the permit was issued:
    - (a) in the case of a municipal police force, the chief constable of the department, or his or her delegate;
    - (b) in the case of the R.C.M.P., the detachment commander of the detachment, or his or her designate;
    - (c) the officer who issued the permit.
  - (8) An operation permit expires on the earlier of
    - (a) the expiry date specified in the permit, or
    - (b) the date that is one year after the date the permit was issued.

[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

**(ADD)Definition**

Feb  
01/09

- 24.10** In this Part, "**vehicle**" means a motor vehicle that is
- (a) regulated under this Division, and
  - (b) driven or operated on a highway.
- [en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

**(ADD)Neighbourhood zero emission vehicles**

Feb  
01/09

- 24.11** (1) A neighbourhood zero emission vehicle being driven or operated on a highway must conform to the requirements under the *Motor Vehicle Safety Act* (Canada) that applied to the vehicle at the time it was manufactured or imported into Canada.
- (2) The equipment required under this section for neighbourhood zero emission vehicles must be maintained in good working order.
- [en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

**(ADD)General lighting requirements**Feb  
01/09

- 24.12**(1) If any of the following vehicles are being driven or operated at the times prescribed in section 24.08 (3), the vehicle must be equipped with the headlamps and the tail lamps required for motorcycles under section 4.05 [*headlamps*] and 4.15 [*tail lamps*] respectively:
- (a) snowmobiles;
  - (b) snow vehicles;
  - (c) air cushion vehicles;
  - (d) utility vehicles.
- (2) A neighbourhood zero emission vehicle being driven or operated on a highway at the times prescribed under section 24.08 (3) must be equipped with the lamps required for the vehicle by the *Motor Vehicle Safety Act* (Canada) at the time it was manufactured or imported into Canada.  
[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

**(ADD)Flashing lamps**Feb  
01/09

- 24.13** A vehicle may be equipped with lamps that are capable of displaying flashes of light only in accordance with section 4.28 [*flashing lamps*].  
[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

**(ADD)Reflective devices**Feb  
01/09

- 24.14** A vehicle must be equipped with reflective devices in accordance with section 4.21 [*reflective devices*].  
[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

**(ADD)Maintenance of lamps, lighting devices and reflectors**Feb  
01/09

- 24.15** The lamps, lighting devices and reflectors required under this Part must
- (a) be maintained in good working order,
  - (b) be securely mounted on the vehicle,
  - (c) not have any cracked, broken, missing or incorrectly installed lenses and, in the case of a lamp, not have any bent or broken rims that allow water to enter the lamp, and
  - (d) not be shielded, covered or obscured by any part of the vehicle or load or by dirt or other material.
- [en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

**(ADD)Sirens and theft alarms**Feb  
01/09

- 24.16** A vehicle may be equipped with a siren, whistle or bell only in accordance with section 7.02 (2) [*sirens and theft alarms*].  
[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

**Windshields and windows**

(ADD)  
Feb  
01/09

- 24.17**(1) A person must not drive or operate a vehicle if the windshield or any window of the vehicle is in such condition that the vision of the driver is impaired.
- (2) Any glass used for a windshield or window of a vehicle must be safety glass and, in the case of a windshield, must not be heat treated or case hardened glass.  
[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

(ADD)**Operation of a vehicle and trailer**

Feb  
01/09

- 24.18** A person may drive or operate a vehicle and a trailer on a highway only in accordance with section 7.07 [*trailer connections and towed vehicles*].  
[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

(ADD)**Defects in pneumatic tires**

Feb  
01/09

- 24.19** Section 7.161 (1) applies to a vehicle with pneumatic tires in contact with the highway.  
[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

(ADD)**Additional safety and equipment requirements**

Feb  
01/09

- 24.20**(1) Unless exempted in writing by the director under section 24.21, a vehicle must be equipped with
- (a) service brakes in accordance with section 5.02 [*stopping distances*], and
  - (b) if propelled by an internal combustion engine, an exhaust muffler consisting of a series of pipes or chambers that ensures the exhaust gases from the engine are cooled and expelled without excessive noise.
- (2) A utility vehicle being driven or operated on the travelled portion of a highway as authorized under section 24.03 (2) (c) (iii) or (3) must be equipped with a slow moving vehicle warning device as required under section 7B.03 [*warning device*].  
[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

(ADD)**Exemption by director**

Feb  
01/09

- 24.21**(1) A person who owns or leases a vehicle may apply in writing to the director to exempt the vehicle from
- (a) a requirement under section 24.20 (1), or
  - (b) any other requirement under this Part.
- (2) The director may, in writing, unconditionally or on conditions the director considers desirable, exempt a vehicle from
- (a) a requirement under section 24.20 (1), or
  - (b) in exceptional circumstances, any other requirement under this Part.
- (3) The owner or operator of a vehicle to which an exemption applies must keep the exemption with the vehicle and present the exemption on request of a peace officer.

[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]

**General offence**

**24.22** A person commits an offence who drives or operates an air cushion vehicle, golf cart, neighbourhood zero emission vehicle, snow vehicle, snowmobile or utility vehicle in contravention of this Division.

[en. B.C. Reg. 351/2008.]