

## Vehicle registration & licensing

### Exemptions for industrial utility vehicles, miniature motor vehicles, and beverage carts

Recent amendments to the *Motor Vehicle Act* and its regulations have changed the requirements for non-conforming vehicles used on highways. As of June 7, 2012, the following vehicle classes are exempt from registration, vehicle licensing and ICBC insurance:

- industrial utility vehicles operated in and around worksites
- miniature motor vehicles used on parade routes
- beverage carts owned by and used on golf courses

These changes expand on exemptions introduced in June 2011 for golf carts and industrial utility vehicles owned by golf courses, and mobile equipment, as announced in Bulletin 5.

#### Industrial Utility Vehicles

Industrial utility vehicles are motor vehicles that are not designed to conform to *Motor Vehicle Safety Act* (Canada) standards for vehicles used on highways and which are used exclusively for work, including industrial, maintenance or landscaping purposes. Industrial utility vehicles include the following classes of motor vehicles:



As of June 7, 2012, industrial utility vehicles, and trailers towed by them, are exempt from registration, vehicle licensing and ICBC insurance **where highway operation is limited to:**

- a parking lot or driveway, by or on behalf of the property owner
- crossing a highway that intersects a worksite
- the untraveled part of a highway at a worksite, which includes the boulevard or sidewalk, but not the highway shoulder
- the travelled part of a highway adjacent to the worksite for loading or unloading the industrial utility vehicle from a truck or trailer
- the travelled part of a highway at a worksite that is not accessible to the public (e.g., with barricades or flag persons)

Industrial utility vehicles (IUVs) operating under the exemption must have third party liability insurance in the amount of: \$200,000 for IUV's with a GVW less than 5001 kg and trailers less than 1401 GVW; \$1,000,000 for IUVs greater than 5,000 kg GVW and trailers greater than 1,400 kg GVW; and \$2,000,000 for IUVs over 5,000 kg GVW or trailers over 1,400 kg GVW that are transporting dangerous goods. ICBC does not offer this coverage.

Other *Motor Vehicle Act* requirements continue to apply, including driver licensing and rules of the road.

A police-issued operation permit is required for an industrial utility vehicle operating under the exemption if the vehicle has a net weight less than 1,600 kg and is travelling on or crossing a highway with a speed limit greater than 50 km/hr.

Industrial utility vehicles are also now exempt from having to obtain a Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure/CVSE Highway Crossing Permit to cross a highway that intersects a worksite, unless the vehicle is overweight or over dimension.

Road building machines continue to be exempt from registration, licensing and ICBC insurance when operated:

- within the boundaries of a highway construction project,
- by or on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, or
- by or on behalf of a Municipality for highway maintenance, repair or snowploughing within its jurisdiction

**Please note that** industrial utility vehicles travelling along with traffic on municipal or provincial roadways, including the highway shoulder, or across a highway that does not intersect a worksite continue to require vehicle registration, licensing and ICBC insurance. A restricted plate or an X plate must be displayed depending on the vehicle type. In some cases a police-issued operation permit is also required.

## Miniature motor vehicles

Miniature motor vehicles include motorized go carts, skateboards or similar wheeled toy vehicles and miniature motorcycles that have one or more of the following features:

- a wheel rim diameter of less than 250 mm
- a wheel base of less than 1,016 mm when measured from the centre of one axle to the centre of the other axle
- a seat height of less than 650 mm

Miniature motor vehicles are prohibited from operation on highways except for designated parade routes.

As of June 7, 2012, miniature motor vehicles may not be registered, licensed or insured under the *Motor Vehicle Act* (this includes Temporary Operation Permits); however, the customer must carry an insurance policy with a minimum of \$200,000 third party liability coverage. ICBC does not offer this coverage.

## Beverage carts

As of June 7, 2012, beverage carts (motor vehicles designed or adapted for food and beverage service) owned or leased by golf course owners or operators are allowed on highways but limited to the parking lot or driveway of a golf course or across a highway that intersects a golf course.



Beverage carts may not be registered, licensed or insured under the *Motor Vehicle Act*; however, the customer must carry an insurance policy with the same minimum third party liability limits as described in the industrial utility vehicle section of this bulletin.



## Mobile equipment

Mobile equipment is any self-propelled device incapable of exceeding 10 km/hr and that can only be steered by an operator walking or standing behind, beside or in front of the device, or that is a work platform used to raise or lower the operator, tools or supplies. Mobile equipment may not be registered, licensed or insured under the *Motor Vehicle Act*.



Under the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations, the use of mobile equipment on highways is restricted to:

- crossing the highway
- operating on the untraveled part of the highway
- operating on the travelled part of the highway within a designated area or within 100m of a worksite if being used to perform work
- operating on the travelled part of the highway for more than 100m of worksite if operated by or on behalf of a farmer



Mobile equipment used or parked on a highway that is not cordoned off from motor vehicle access, between ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise, must have reflective devices or one or more lighted lamps that display light at least 150 m to the front and rear of the mobile equipment.

Person lifts must be marked with a clearly visible identifier indicating the owner and unit number.

## Ticketable offences

Operators of industrial utility vehicles used *within* the limits of the exemption but without the requisite third party liability coverage are committing an offence subject to the following fine:

MVAR s.24.02.01	No third party liability insurance coverage	\$598
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Operators of industrial utility vehicles used *outside* the limits of the exemption without a vehicle licence and insurance are committing an offence subject to the following fines:

MVA s.13(1)(a)	No vehicle licence	\$109
MVA s.24(3)(b)	No insurance	\$598

Operators of industrial utility vehicles (licensed or unlicensed) that are used in contravention of Division 24 of the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations are committing an offence subject to the general fine amount of \$109.

## Legislation and regulations

- Motor Vehicle Act*, section 1 – Definitions (“motor vehicle”, “mobile equipment”)
- Motor Vehicle Act*, section 3.1 – Exemptions – registration, licence and insurance
- Commercial Transport Act*, section 3 – Act not to apply to some road building machines
- Motor Vehicle Act Regulations, Division 24—Vehicles of Unusual Size, Weight or Operating Characteristics
- Violation Ticket Administration and Fines Regulation, Schedule 3

## Contact

For more information, contact Judy Bredin, Policy Advisor  
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