



Vehicle registration & licensing

Exemptions for golf carts, industrial utility vehicles & mobile equipment

It is now easier for people to operate golf carts, industrial utility vehicles and mobile equipment since recent BC *Motor Vehicle Act* amendments were enacted. As of June 2, 2011:

- golf carts and industrial utility vehicles owned or leased by golf course owners/operators are, in most cases, exempt from registration, vehicle licences and ICBC insurance;
- licensed industrial vehicles can now carry loads at worksites that are on a highway if that worksite is not accessible to the public; and,
- “mobile equipment” is removed from motor vehicle requirements (e.g. do not require registration, vehicle licence, ICBC insurance or a driver’s licence.)

Golf carts & industrial utility vehicles



Vehicle registration, licence and ICBC insurance are not required by golf course owners/operators who own or lease these vehicles for use at a golf course; a driver’s licence is required.

Industrial utility vehicles (utility vehicles) are motor vehicles used for a work purpose, including industrial, maintenance or landscaping, and that are not designed to conform to *Motor Vehicle Safety Act* (Canada) standards for motor vehicles designed for use on a highway.

Golf course owners and operators are now exempt from requirements to register, license and purchase ICBC insurance for highway operation of golf carts or utility vehicles that they own or lease.

The exemption applies only if the golf cart/utility vehicle is operated at their golf course, on a parking lot or driveway of their golf course, or to cross a highway between two parts of their golf course.

A golf course’s utility vehicles also may be operated under this exemption on the untraveled part of a road (e.g. boulevard or sidewalk) next to the golf course, and on the travelled part of a highway (e.g., the shoulder) next to the worksite if loading or unloading the utility vehicle from another vehicle.

Other requirements continue to apply, including driver licensing and rules of the road. The exemptions also apply to trailers towed by a utility vehicle operating under the exemption.

In the coming months, similar exemptions are expected for utility vehicles owned/leased by other than golf course owners /operators used at other worksites.

Industrial vehicles



Licensed operation for travel to and from a worksite without load has been expanded to also include the operation on highway at a worksite with load.

Industrial vehicles include backhoes, loaders and other self-propelled construction machinery (but not dump trucks.) They are governed in their operation by the licensing provisions of *Motor Vehicle Act*, s. 10, which has recently been amended to allow carrying of loads on a highway *only if*:

- the load is only being carried in / around the worksite, *and*
- the worksite is not accessible to the public (it must be blocked off or controlled with a flag person to prevent interaction with pedestrians or public vehicles.)

The vehicles may also travel to and from the worksite without load, however extra equipment for the vehicle (e.g. a jackhammer attachment for a backhoe/loader) may be carried if secured in the bucket.

Longstanding provisions continue to exempt road building equipment (i.e., vehicles designed and used primarily for grading of highways, paving of highways, earth moving and other highway construction work) from registration, licensing and insurance while operating within a highway construction project, or when:

- operated by or on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, or
- within its jurisdiction, by or on behalf of a Municipality, while engaged in the maintenance or repair of a highway or in snowploughing of a highway.

Mobile equipment



No licences are required.

Mobile equipment are self-propelled devices that are 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 are a work platform used to raise or lower the operator, tools or supplies.

Mobile Equipment are no longer considered motor vehicles in BC, and as such motor vehicle requirements, e.g. registration, licence, ICBC insurance or driver's licence, do not apply to them.

"**motor vehicle**" means a vehicle, not run on rails, that is designed to be self propelled or propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but does not include mobile equipment or a motor assisted cycle;

Legislation and regulations

Motor Vehicle Act, section 1 – Definitions ("mobile equipment" and "motor vehicle")

Motor Vehicle Act, section 3.1 – Exemptions – registration, licence and insurance

Motor Vehicle Act, section 10 – Special licences for tractors, etc.

Motor Vehicle Act, Part 3 – "rules of the road"

Commercial Transport Act, Section 3 – Act not to apply to some road building machines

Contact

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