

Unconventional Vehicles

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All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)

**Definition:**

KSA 8-1402a, "All-terrain vehicle" means any motorized nonhighway vehicle 50 inches or less in width, having a dry weight of 1,500 pounds or less and traveling on three or more nonhighway tires.

Registration:

Exempt from registration in KSA 8-128

Insurance:

Since ATVs are exempt from registration in KSA 8-128, they do not meet the definition of a "motor vehicle" as far as the insurance statutes are concerned. However, city ordinances may require liability insurance.

Driver's License:

Required while operating on public highways, roads and streets. An ATV meets the definition of a motor vehicle as used in KSA 8-235.

Seatbelts:

Not required

Equipment:

Must be equipped with lights as required by statute for motorcycles if operated between sunset and sunrise on any public highway, street or road.

Operation: Synopsis of KSA-8-15,100

- Citizens shall not operate an ATV on any interstate.
- Citizens shall not operate an ATV on any federal or state highway unless it is crossing over the highway, or for agricultural use while remaining as far right as possible so long as the highway has a speed limit of 65 mph or less.
- The County, KDOT or persons contracting with the government to eradicate weeds may operate an ATV along the right-of-way of federal and state highways, and incidentally operate upon such highways.

Work-Site Utility Vehicle (WSUV)

AKA, Utility Task Vehicle (UTV)

Definition:

KSA 8-1493. "Work-site utility vehicle" defined. "Work-site utility vehicle" means any motor vehicle which is not less than 48 inches in width, has an unladen weight, including fuel and fluids, of more than 800 pounds and is equipped with four or more nonhighway tires, a steering wheel and bench or bucket-type seating allowing at least two people to sit side-by-side, and may be equipped with a bed or cargo box for hauling materials. "Work-site utility vehicle" does not include a micro utility truck.



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Registration:

Exempt from registration. WSUVs are classified as a nonhighway vehicle in KSA 8-197. As such, pursuant to KSA 8-198 they are exempt from registration.

Insurance:

Since WSUVs are exempt from registration in KSA 8-198, they do not meet the definition of a "motor vehicle" as far as the insurance statutes are concerned. WSUVs are not required to be insured by state statutes. However, city ordinances may require liability insurance.

Driver's License:

Required while operating on public highways, roads and streets. WSUVs meet the definition of a motor vehicle as used in KSA 8-235.

Seatbelts:

Required if originally equipped with safety belts as described in 49 CFR 571, the usage of safety belts and child restraints could be required. WSUVs meet the definition of motor vehicle in KSA 8-1437, therefore, meeting the definition of "passenger car" in KSA 8-1342a is used within the Child Passenger Safety Act (KSA 8-1343) and Safety Belt Use Act (KSA 8-2503).

Equipment:

If lawfully operated on a public highway or street within city limits, or a county road, a WSUV must comply with the equipment requirements under the provisions of article 17 of chapter 8 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated.

Operation: Synopsis of KSA-8-15,109

- Citizens shall not operate an ATV on any interstate.
- Citizens shall not operate an ATV on any federal or state highway unless it is crossing over the highway, or for agricultural use while remaining as far right as possible so long as the highway has a speed limit of 65 mph or less.
- The County, KDOT or persons contracting with the government to eradicate weeds may operate an ATV along the right-of-way of federal and state highways, and incidentally operate upon such highways.

Micro Utility Truck (MUT)

Definition:

8-1494. "Micro utility truck" defined. "Micro utility truck" means any motor vehicle which is not less than 48 inches in width, has an overall length, including the bumper, of not more than 160 inches, has an unladen weight, including fuel and fluids, of more than 1,500 pounds, can exceed 40 miles per hour as originally manufactured and is manufactured with a metal cab. "Micro utility truck" does not include a work-site utility vehicle.



Registration:

MUTs are exempt from registration per KSA 8-128.

Insurance:

Since MUTs are exempt from registration in KSA 8-128, they do not meet the definition of a "motor vehicle" as far as the insurance statutes are concerned. MUTs are not required to be insured by state statutes. However, city ordinances may require liability insurance.

Driver's License:

Required while operating on public highways, roads and streets. MUTs meet the definition of a motor vehicle as used in KSA 8-235.

Seatbelts:

MUTs are defined as a motor vehicle. They meet the definition of "passenger car" in KSA 8-1343a. If originally equipped with safety belts, the Child Safety Act (KSA 8-1343) and Safety Belt Use Act (KSA 8-2503) apply on public roads.

Equipment:

If lawfully operated on a public highway or street within city limits, or a county road, a MUT must comply with the equipment requirements under the provisions of article 17 of chapter 8 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated.

Operation: Synopsis of KSA-8-15,106

- Citizens shall not operate a MUT on any interstate, federal or state highway unless crossing over the highway.
- Citizens shall comply with the equipment requirements under article 17 of chapter 8 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated when operating on public roadways.

Low Speed Vehicle (LSV) And Golf Carts

Definition:

8-1488. "Low-speed vehicle" defined. "Low-speed vehicle" means any four-wheeled electric vehicle whose top speed is greater than 20 miles per hour but not greater than 25 miles per hour and is manufactured in compliance with the national highway and traffic safety administration standards for low-speed vehicles in 49 C.F.R. § 571.500.



Conventional **golf carts** are originally designed to reach a top speed of no more than 25 miles per hour. They are normally not equipped as required for a LSV. If a golf cart is modified and certified in writing by the modifier/manufacture (not the owner) to meet all of the FMVSS, and if it meets the definition of "Low-speed vehicle," and if it has an MSO that states it is "road worthy"; then it may be registered for operation on a public road by KDOR.

Registration:

Low-Speed Vehicles must comply with 49 CFR 571.500 which makes them "street legal." Vehicle registrations would be required to lawfully operate on a public street as outlined in KSA 8-15,101.

Insurance:

Proof of insurance is required.

Driver's License:

Required while operating on public highways, roads and streets. LSVs meet the definition of a motor vehicle as used in KSA 8-235.

Seatbelts:

LSVs are required by federal regulation to be equipped with safety belts. They meet the definition of "passenger car" in KSA 8-1343a; therefore, the Child Passenger Safety Act (KSA 8-1343) and the Safety Belt Use Act (KSA 8-2501) apply.

Equipment:

Low-Speed Vehicles, 21-25 mph top speed vehicles are subject to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 500 (49 CFR 571.500). The standard requires low-speed vehicles to be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signals, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields, seatbelts and vehicle identification numbers.

Operation: Synopsis of KSA-8-15,101

- May operate on streets and highways with posted speed limits of 40 MPH or less
- May cross streets and highways with posted speed limits greater than 40 MPH.

Golf Carts

Definition:

8-1495. "Golf cart" defined. "Golf cart" means a motor vehicle that has not less than three wheels in contact with the ground, an unladen weight of not more than 1,800 pounds, is designed to be and is operated at not more than 25 miles per hour and is designed to carry not more than four persons including the driver.



Registration:

Golf carts are exempt from registration per KSA 8-128.

Insurance:

Since golf carts are exempt from registration in KSA 8-128, they do not meet the definition of a "motor vehicle" as far as the insurance statutes are concerned. Golf carts are not required to be insured by state statutes. However, city ordinances may require liability insurance.

Driver's License:

Required while operating on public highways, roads and streets. Golf carts meet the definition of a motor vehicle as used in KSA 8-235.

Seatbelts:

Golf Carts are defined as a motor vehicle. They met the definition of "passenger car" in KSA 8-1343a. If originally equipped with safety belts, the Child Safety Act (KSA 8-1343) and Safety Belt Use Act (KSA 8-2503) apply on public roads.

Equipment:

If operating between sunset and sunrise, golf carts must be operated with lights as required by law for motorcycles and a slow-moving vehicle emblem as required by KSA 8-1717.

Operation: Synopsis of KSA-8-15,108

- May not operate on any interstate, federal or state highway (can cross over).
- May not operate between sunset and sunrise unless operated with lights as required by law for motorcycles and a slow-moving vehicle emblem as required by KSA 8-1717.
- May not operate on any street or highway with a speed limit over 30 MPH.

Dirt Bikes

Definition:

Dirt bikes are not defined by Kansas Statute. However, dirt bikes are generally designed for off road use since they often times lack required equipment required by statute to operate on the public roadways. These statutes are located in Chapter 8, Article 18 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated. If equipped with proper equipment, possess a VIN and title, they may be operated on the public roadways just as a traditional motorcycle.

**Registration:**

Vehicle registrations are required to lawfully operate on a public highway, road or street as outlined KSA 8-134a.

Insurance:

Proof of insurance is required

Driver's License:

Class M is required while operating on public highways, roads and streets. Dirt bikes meet the definition of a motorcycle as used in KSA 8-235.

Seatbelts:

Not required

Equipment:

Must conform to requirements set for under Chapter 8, Article 18 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated.

Operation: Synopsis of KSA-8-194

- Can only ride on the permanent and regular seat attached
- Cannot carry any other person nor shall any other person ride on a motorcycle, unless such motorcycle is designed to carry more than one person
- A person shall ride upon a motorcycle only while sitting astride the seat, facing forward, with one leg on each side of the motorcycle.
- No person shall operate a motorcycle while carrying any package, bundle, or other article which prevents such person from keeping both hands on the handlebars.

Motorized Bicycle

Definition:

8-1439a. "Motorized bicycle" defined. "Motorized bicycle" means every device having two tandem wheels or three wheels which may be propelled by either human power or helper motor, or by both, and which has:

- (a) A motor which produces not more than 3.5 brake horsepower;
- (b) a cylinder capacity of not more than 130 cubic centimeters;
- (c) an automatic transmission; and
- (d) the capability of a maximum design speed of no more than 30 miles per hour except a low power cycle.



Registration:

Motorized Bicycles are required to have registration per KSA 8-127

Insurance:

None required under KSA 40-3104. The motorized bicycle is specifically excluded per KSA 40-3103.

Driver's License:

The operator must possess a valid driver's license for any class of motor vehicle, or a driver's license specifically for the operation of a motorized bicycle per KSA 8-235.

Seatbelts:

None Required

Equipment:

Every bicycle when in use between sunset and sunrise shall be equipped with a lamp on the front which shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and either: A red reflector on the rear which shall be visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle; a lamp on the rear that shall emit a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear; or the operator of such bicycle shall be wearing a device that emits a red or amber light that shall be visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear per KSA 8-1592. Every bicycle shall also be equipped with a break.

Operation: Synopsis of KSA-8-1586 to 8-1592a

- Must wear a motorcycle helmet if under the age of 18.
- No passengers unless it is designed for more than one person.
- No clinging to other vehicles
- Use bicycle path when available
- Headlamp and rear reflector require at night.

Electric-Assisted Bicycle

Definition:

8-1489. "Electric-assisted bicycle" defined. "Electric-assisted bicycle" means a bicycle with two or three wheels, a saddle, fully operative pedals for human propulsion, and an electric motor. The electric-assisted bicycle's electric motor must have a power output of no more than 1,000 watts, be incapable of propelling the device at a speed of more than 20 miles per hour on level ground and incapable of further increasing the speed of the device when human power alone is used to propel the device beyond 20 miles per hour.



Registration:

None required per KSA 8-1592b.

Insurance:

None required

Driver's License:

None required per KSA 8-1592b

Seatbelts:

None Required

Equipment:

Every bicycle when in use between sunset and sunrise shall be equipped with a lamp on the front which shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and either: A red reflector on the rear which shall be visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle; a lamp on the rear that shall emit a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear; or the operator of such bicycle shall be wearing a device that emits a red or amber light that shall be visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear per KSA 8-1592. Every bicycle shall also be equipped with a break.

Operation: Synopsis of KSA-8-1586 to 8-1592a

- No passengers unless it is designed for more than one person.
- No clinging to other vehicles
- Use bicycle path when available
- Headlamp and rear reflector require at night.
- All bicycle laws apply

Motorized Bicycle

AKA Moped

Definition:

8-1439. "Motor-driven cycle" defined. "Motor-driven cycle" means every motorcycle, including every motor scooter, with a motor which produces not to exceed five brake horsepower, and every bicycle with motor attached, except a motorized bicycle or an electric-assisted bicycle.

The main difference between the "motor-driven cycle" and the "motorized bicycle" is the maximum allowable brake horsepower.

Motor-driven cycle = 5 brake horsepower, maximum

Motorized Bicycle = 3.5 brake horsepower, maximum



Registration:

Registration is required. Motor-driven cycles meet the definition of "vehicle" and "motorcycle" in KSA 8-126. KSA 8-142(1) requires "vehicles" as defined in KSA 8-126 to display registration.

Insurance:

Proof of insurance is required.

Driver's License:

A Class M (motorcycle) driver's license is required.

Seatbelts:

None Required

Equipment:

Must be equipped as a motorcycle

Operation: Synopsis of KSA-8-1562

- No person shall operate any motor-driven cycle at any time mentioned in K.S.A. 8-1703 at a speed greater than thirty-five (35) miles per hour unless such motor-driven cycle is equipped with a head lamp or lamps which are adequate to reveal a person or vehicle at a distance of three hundred (300) feet ahead.

Mini-Motorcycles / Mini-Chopper Pocket-Bikes / Mini-Scooter

Definition:

No Official definition is in state statute. They are small, unconventional vehicles designed, manufactured and intended for operation on private property and closed courses. They are not “street legal.”

Registration:

Registration cannot be obtained. The owner’s manual and/or manufacturer’s documentation clearly states they are not intended for use on public streets or highways. They do not meet Federal Safety Standards nor EPA emissions requirements.

**Insurance:**

Non-applicable

Driver’s License:

Non-applicable

Seatbelts:

None Required

Equipment:

Non-applicable

Operation:

- These vehicles do not meet Federal Safety standards nor EPA standards and do not have proper vehicle identification numbers. Because they do not conform to these standards, they cannot obtain registration and must be used only on private property or on closed courses.
- They can never lawfully be operated on public streets, sidewalks, roads or highways.