

Golf Cart Style Vehicles Used On The Public Highway

Statement

This fact sheet is produced as general guidance and provides a summary of legislative requirements in Great Britain for powered quadricycles often known as gold carts or golf buggies. Every effort has been made to ensure that it is factually correct but readers should check with the producers of this document if they are unsure about the validity of a particular regulation after the date of publication or if they have reason to believe any part is not correct or is now out of date.

1. General Requirements

On June 17 2003, a system of European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA) was introduced to cover powered two and three-wheeled vehicles which also includes two categories of small, low performance, four-wheel vehicles referred to as "Quadricycles". ECWVTA is a system whereby vehicles are assessed against a harmonised set of technical design and construction standards. These vehicles are issued with a Certificate of Conformity which allows them to be registered.

New and existing vehicles that are not registered nor have type approval which the owners wish to register and use on the highway will have to be examined under the Motorcycle Single Vehicle Approval (MSVA) scheme. This approval scheme assess every single vehicle against a set of technical design and construction standards and was designed for powered two and three-wheeled vehicles and quadricycles. A successful examination will result in the issue of a Ministers Approval Certificate which will allow the vehicle to be registered by the DVLA.

2. Definitions of quadricycles:

Category L6e – Light quadricycles These have four wheels, with a maximum unladen mass of 350kg (not including the mass of the batteries in an electrically powered vehicle), a maximum speed of 45km/h, a spark ignition internal combustion engine with a maximum capacity of 50cc, or maximum power of any other internal combustion engine of 4kW or maximum electric motor continuous rated power of 4kW. The construction requirements are those for a three wheel moped unless otherwise specified in a particular Directive.

Category L7e – Quadricycles These have four wheels, with a maximum unladen mass of 400kg or 550kg for a goods carrying vehicle (not including the mass of the batteries in an electrically powered vehicle) and a maximum net power, whatever the type of engine or motor, of 15kW. The construction requirements are those for a motor tricycle unless otherwise specified in a particular Directive.

Note – The Masses and Dimensions Directive, 93/93/EEC, applies controls on maximum dimensions and laden masses for vehicles.

If the vehicle is over 10 years old or has previously been registered in Great Britain it will not need to be submitted for Single Vehicle Approval but would be subject to The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 (SI 1986/1078) as amended (C&U) and The Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989 (SI 1989/1796) as amended (RVLR). In order to be made suitable to be legally used on the road, the golf cart would need to comply with the relevant requirements detailed above. The vehicles would have to meet the appropriate requirements for motor cars given in these regulations.

A copy of the C&U Regulations or RVLR can be obtained from The Stationery Office. The address of the Stationery Office is: TSO Orders/ Post Cash Dept, PO Box 29, Norwich, NR3 1GN (telephone: 0870 600 5522, website: www.opsi.gov.uk, Virtual Bookstore: www.tso.co.uk).

In addition, details of the Motorcycle SVA scheme (Statutory Instrument 2003 No. 1959 - The Motor Cycles Etc. (Single Vehicle Approval) Regulations 2003) are also available from the Stationery Office at the address above or on line at: www.legislation.hmsso.gov.uk/si/si2003/20031959.htm The RVLR can also be read on line at: www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1989/Uksi_19891796_en_1.htm

Please also see our fact sheet for powered two and three-wheeled vehicles, which gives further details relating to UK Regulations and the Type Approval system.

3 Queries

If you require any further information regarding the regulations covered by this fact sheet, please contact the DfT at the address below:

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