

Motor Vehicle Division Information Memo # 20-34

Specially Constructed or Reconstructed Autocycle Administrative Rule Updates

DATE: November 10, 2020

FROM: Sara Siedsma, Compliance Officer, MVD

TO: All Vehicle and Motor Carrier Services staff, Iowa County Treasurers and County Treasurer's staff

SUBJECT

This informational memo explains an update to administrative rule chapter 761—450, Motor Vehicle Equipment.

SUMMARY

The proposed amendments adopt new rule 761—450.5(321), which outlines the minimum requirements for constructing and equipping specially constructed or reconstructed autocycles. The proposed amendments require an application like what is required for specially constructed or reconstructed motor vehicles and motorcycles. The new rule specifies the type and nature of the required equipment a specially constructed or reconstructed autocycle must contain to be eligible for title and registration. The required equipment includes a seatbelt, seat, lighting equipment, warning devices, brakes, horn, exhaust system, mirrors, tires and floor pan.

By way of background, an autocycle is defined in Iowa Code section 321.1(6A) as a “three-wheeled motor vehicle originally designed with two front wheels and one rear wheel, a steering wheel rather than handlebars, no more than two permanent seats that do not require the operator or a passenger to straddle or sit astride the vehicle, and foot pedals that control the brakes, acceleration, and clutch, where applicable...”

The proposed amendments also clarify current department practice for all vehicles covered under chapter 450. Current practice is that a vehicle will be considered a specially constructed, reconstructed, street rod, or replica vehicle, as applicable, if the addition or removal of parts modifies the external appearance of the vehicle so that it is no longer recognizable as the original make or model.

The administrative rule amendments are effective November 11, 2020.

LINK TO ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/aco/arc/5203C.pdf>

CURRENT

Administrative rule chapter 761—450 did not previously address the type of equipment required for a specially constructed or reconstructed autocycle to be eligible to be titled and registered in Iowa. It also did not clearly provide that addition or removal of parts that modify the external appearance of the vehicle so that it is no longer recognizable as the original make or model will cause the vehicle to be

considered a specially constructed, reconstructed, street rod or replica vehicle and thus subject to the requirements of chapter 450.

NEW

As of November 11, 2020, the rules will now specify the type and nature of the required equipment a specially constructed or reconstructed autocycle must contain to be eligible for title and registration. The rules also will specify that a vehicle will be considered a specially constructed, reconstructed, street rod or replica vehicle, as applicable, if the addition or removal of parts that modifies the external appearance of the vehicle so that it is no longer recognizable as the original make or model.

BUSINESS IMPACT

This directive does not significantly impact the way that VMCS operates as we have not yet received any applications to title and register a specially constructed or reconstructed autocycle in Iowa. Further, the amendments merely adopt the department's current practice for a vehicle that will be considered a specially constructed, reconstructed, street rod, or replica vehicle when parts are added or removed that modify the external appearance of the vehicle.