

Motor Vehicle Procedure Manual
Registration
INFORMATION FOR REGISTERING TOOLS

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Legal Authority

[Section 320.08\(5\)\(b\)](#), Florida Statutes, states that a special purpose vehicle is a motor vehicle equipped with machinery and designed for the exclusive purpose of well drilling, excavation, construction, spraying or similar activity, and which is not designed or used to transport loads over the public roads.

Description and Use

This procedure provides information and instructions to assist tax collector employees, license plate agents and Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) for establishing guidelines for identifying vehicles which qualify to be registered as tools.

General Information

WHAT IS A TOOL?

- A. A tool is a street legal motor vehicle which is a “special purpose” vehicle equipped with machinery and designed for the exclusive purpose of well drilling, excavation, construction, spraying or similar activity, and which is not designed or used to transport loads over the public roads.

- B. When determining whether to register a vehicle as a tool (class 94), gather all pertinent information concerning the vehicle's use. The primary question to ask the customer is:

"Do you haul a load with this vehicle in addition to using it as a tool?" Hauling a load means "any load."

Example: If the vehicle being registered is a street legal boom truck with side bodies that carry tools and/or supplies or if the truck tows a trailer, DO NOT register it as a tool but rather as a heavy truck (Class Code 41).

- C. Registration as a tool is only for a street legal motorized vehicle, NEVER a trailer. DO NOT title or register frontend loaders, bulldozers, road graders, tractors, or similar types of equipment, as they do not qualify as a street legal motor vehicle.

Miscellaneous

- A. Any vehicle type that is registered as a tool will be issued a restricted license plate with the inventory code "RSR." This means that the tool has a restricted use depending on the specific reason it was issued.
- B. Use class code 94 when registering a tool. Vehicle types requiring a title should be titled as a tool.
- C. A vehicle registered with a vehicle type of TO (tool) is not required to have proof of insurance.

Revision(s) to Procedure

5/25/22 Updated the procedure to the new format.

Completed Statutory Review and added Historical Revisions section

7/19/2012 - Revised Section III Item C regarding insurance.

3/30/2010 - Created new procedure for tools

Exhibit A

To assist with determining when to title and/or register as a tool, see the examples below of vehicle types that are considered tools and vehicle types that are not considered tools

TOOLS? Yes or No

YES: EXAMPLES OF STREET LEGAL TOOLS

Titled and registered as motor vehicles, which may be legally driven on streets and highways.



Crane



Concrete Pump Truck



Crane



Excavator/Ditch Digger

TOOLS? Yes or No

NO: EXAMPLES OF TRAILERS

Titled (if the trailer weighs 2,000 pounds or more) and registered.

See RS-63 for additional information.



Concrete Pump



Grill on Wheels



Transportable Speed Sign



Tree Spade



Stump Grinder

TOOLS (Yes or No?)

NO: EXAMPLE OF A CONVERTER GEAR AND A TOW DOLLY

Not titled or registered.

See RS-63 for additional information.



Converter gear

A Converter Gear is a coupling device of one or two axles and a fifth wheel by which a semi-trailer can be coupled to the rear of a tractor-trailer combination forming a double rig. **A converter gear does not require registration; however, both vehicles coupled to the gear must be registered.**



Tow dolly

A Tow Dolly is a type of hitch not intended to be used to carry a load, but only manufactured to pull another motor vehicle. **A tow dolly does not require registration nor does the vehicle it is transporting. However, the towing vehicle must have a current registration.**

TOOLS (Yes, or No?)

NO: EXAMPLES OF OFF ROAD AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT (not street legal)

Not titled or registered.



Street Sweeper



Tractor



Grader