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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 The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles 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