



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE  
SECRETARY

September 20, 2021

Official Bulletin #260

To: All License Plate Agencies  
Vehicle Services Personnel  
License and Theft Bureau  
DMV Communications  
CVR  
Dealertrack  
Franchise Dealers  
Independent Dealers

From: Paula Windley, Director of Vehicle Services  
NC Division of Motor Vehicles

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*Paula Windley*

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Subject: SB241 Modified Utility Vehicles Laws Amended

Effective October 1, 2021 NCGS 20-4.01 is amended by modifying the definition and specifications for Modified Utility Vehicles, and NCGS 20-121.1 is also modified for the use of the modified utility vehicles on public streets or highways. Please attached SB241 for specifics.

The modified utility vehicle is manufactured for off-road use with equipment required by G.S. 20-121.1(2), and must meet the following statutory requirements:

- Vehicle is manufactured for off-road use and must have 4 wheels
- Upfitted by a licensed manufacturer, dealer, or person or business otherwise engaged in vehicle manufacturing or modification for off-road use.
- Length: minimum 110 inches or greater
- Width: minimum 58 inches or greater
- Height: minimum 60 inches or greater
- Max Speed capability of 40mph or greater
- Does not require operator or passenger to straddle a seat.
- A modified utility vehicle shall be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, a speedometer, seat belts, and a vehicle identification number.

Mailing Address:  
NC DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
VEHICLE SERVICES DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
3145 MAIL SERVICE CENTER  
RALEIGH, NC 27697

Telephone: 919-615-8100  
Fax: 919-733-6948  
Customer Contact Center: 919-715-7000

Website: [www.ncdot.gov/dmv](http://www.ncdot.gov/dmv)

Location:  
DMV HEADQUARTERS BUILDING  
1613 NORTH CHURCH STREET  
ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804

The following is required for a customer to title and license the vehicle in North Carolina.

- The fee is the same as a fee for a private passenger vehicle
- The body style will be MU
- Requires a North Carolina Safety Inspection prior to titling and registering.
- Requires a Modified Utility Vehicle Affidavit (MVR-59) that will be completed and signed by the licensed manufacturer, dealer, or person or business otherwise engaged in vehicle manufacturing or modification for off-road use. (See attached) The forms will also be available on the NCDOT website.
- Manufactured assigned vehicle identification numbers will be accepted unless it has been altered, incorrectly assigned, or is missing. If a VIN is needed, then License and Theft will require an NCU number be assigned through the same process as other NC numbers for vehicles.

Additionally, these vehicles may not be operated on any street or highway having four or more travel lanes unless the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.

The operator of and all passengers on a modified utility vehicle that is not equipped with a windshield and windshield wipers shall wear a safety helmet, with a retention strap properly secured, that complies with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 218.

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