

NEW MEXICO

Definitions

Specially Constructed Vehicle. A vehicle of a type required to be registered under the Motor Vehicle Code [66-1-1 NMSA 1978] not originally constructed under a distinctive name, make, model or type by a generally recognized manufacturer of vehicles and not materially altered from its original construction;

Historic or Special Interest Vehicle. A vehicle of any age that, because of its significance, is being collected, preserved, restored or maintained by a collector as a leisure pursuit;

Horseless Carriage. A motor vehicle at least thirty-five years old that is owned as a collector's item and used solely for exhibition and educational purposes; and

Reconstructed Vehicle. Any vehicle assembled or constructed largely by means of essential parts, new or used, derived from other vehicles or which, if originally otherwise assembled or constructed, has been materially altered by the removal of essential parts, new or used.

Titling & Registration

From New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division:

SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED VEHICLES

There are two types of specially constructed vehicles, HOMEMADE and REPLICA.

A HOMEMADE vehicle is one built from scrap metal or other materials, shop built parts (including the chassis) and parts from other vehicles but may have a pre-fabricated body.

A REPLICA vehicle is one made from a pre-fabricated chassis and body kit purchased from a replica, kit car or trailer manufacturer.

NOTE: For titling and registration purposes, "REPLICA" is a generic term and does not necessarily mean the kit was designed to resemble a specific historic model or classic body style.

In addition to this form (MVD-10015) also provide the following documentation:

1. Invoices and Bills of Sale for major components.
2. Manufacturer's Certificate of Origin for chassis and/or body (if applicable).
3. Weight Certificate.
4. Vehicle Equipment Affirmation (form MVD-10053).

The Motor Vehicle Division will assign a "NM" prefix Vehicle Identification Number. The year in which the vehicle becomes fully assembled and inspected will determine the YEAR. The vehicle MAKE will be identified as "HOMEMADE" or "REPLICA" depending upon the type of chassis and body.

RECONSTRUCTED VEHICLES

A reconstructed vehicle is one that is reassembled or rebuilt from existing factory parts (including the chassis) but may have a pre-fabricated body.

In addition to this form (MVD-10015) also provide the following documentation:

1. Certificate of Title (for the chassis) properly assigned to the applicant or, if the vehicle was
2. reassembled by (or purchased from) a licensed New Mexico Dismantler, a Dismantler's
3. Notification and Bill of Sale for the chassis.
4. Invoices and Bills of Sale for other major components.
5. Manufacturer's Certificate of Origin for the body kit (if applicable).
6. Weight Certificate.
7. Vehicle Equipment Affirmation (form MVD-10053).

The factory chassis will determine the year, make and primary Vehicle Identification Number as indicated on the chassis title. The Motor Vehicle Division will also assign a "NM" prefix Vehicle Identification Number to be used as a secondary V.I.N.. The vehicle model will be identified as "REBUILT".

From New Mexico Statutes:

CHAPTER 66. MOTOR VEHICLES

ARTICLE 3. REGISTRATION LAWS; SECURITY INTERESTS; ANTI-THEFT PROVISIONS; BICYCLES;
EQUIPMENT; UNSAFE VEHICLES; OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLES; OTHER VEHICLES

PART 1. REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATES OF TITLE AND REGISTRATION PLATES GENERALLY

N.M. Stat. § 66-3-5 (2016)

§ 66-3-5. Application for **specially constructed, reconstructed** or foreign **vehicles**

A. In the event the **vehicle** to be registered is a **specially constructed, reconstructed** or foreign **vehicle**, such fact shall be stated in the application and, with reference to every foreign vehicle which has been registered heretofore outside of this state, the owner shall surrender to the division all registration cards and certificates of title, or other evidence of such foreign registration as may be in his possession or under his control, except as provided in Subsection B of this section.

B. Where in the course of interstate operation of a vehicle registered in another state it is desirable to retain registration of said vehicle in such other state, such applicant need not surrender but shall submit for inspection evidence of such foreign registration and the division, upon a proper showing, shall register said vehicle in this state but shall not issue a certificate of title for such vehicle. s

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PART 2. TRANSFER OF TITLE OR INTEREST

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N.M. Stat. § 66-3-109 (2016)

§ 66-3-109. Dealer's guarantee of title

A dealer licensed under the Motor Vehicle Code [66-1-1 NMSA 1978] may guarantee the title to a **specially constructed** or **reconstructed vehicle** for which no title exists, and may guarantee the title of any vehicle for which the certificate of title cannot be obtained. Such guarantee shall be in the form of an affidavit filed with the division. Upon receipt of such affidavit, together with such other information as the division may require, and upon payment of the proper fees, the division, in its discretion, may issue a certificate of title for the vehicle named in the affidavit.

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PART 1. REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATES OF TITLE AND REGISTRATION PLATES GENERALLY

N.M. Stat. § 66-3-27 (2016)

§ 66-3-27. **Horseless carriage** registration

A. A motor vehicle at least thirty-five years old, owned as a collector's item and used solely for exhibition and educational purposes is a "**horseless carriage**." On application to the director of motor vehicles, the owner of a **horseless carriage** may receive a certificate of title and permanent registration upon:

(1) payment of a ten-dollar (\$ 10.00) fee; and

(2) submission of a witnessed bill of sale on the **horseless carriage** or an affidavit that the **vehicle was assembled** by the owner from parts of automobiles at least thirty-five years old.

B. Upon approval of the application, the director shall issue one five-year registration plate with registration numbers and the words "**Horseless Carriage**," "Land of Enchantment" and "New Mexico." The plate, bearing no date, shall be attached to the rear of the vehicle.

C. Upon transfer of ownership of a **horseless carriage**, the new owner shall apply to the director for a transfer of title as provided in, and subject to, the penalties contained in Section 66-3-103 NMSA 1978. The registration plates shall remain with the transferred vehicle.

D. Beginning in 1968, and each five-year period thereafter, every plate shall be revalidated upon application approved by the director, accompanied by a fee of five dollars (\$ 5.00). Upon loss of the original registration plate, a duplicate plate may be obtained by the owner upon payment of a fee of ten dollars (\$ 10.00).

E. Any person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

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PART 5. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES

N.M. Stat. § 66-3-423 (2016)

§ 66-3-423. Year-of-manufacture license plates; procedures; fees

- A. The division may **specially** register and permit the use of year-of-manufacture license **plates** on motor **vehicles** thirty or more years old notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection B of Section 66-3-14 NMSA 1978.
- B. The division shall inspect the year-of-manufacture license **plate** to ensure the **plate** is in good condition and the number on the **plate** is not already assigned or in use. To qualify for use, the year-of-manufacture **plate** shall be an **authentic plate** issued in New Mexico during the motor **vehicle's** model year.
- C. For a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars (\$ 25.00), which shall be in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fees, any owner of a motor vehicle that is thirty or more years old may apply to the division to use a year-of-manufacture plate on his vehicle.
- D. Upon the sale or transfer of a motor vehicle bearing a year-of-manufacture plate, the plate may remain with the **vehicle** and be transferred to the new owner upon payment of a ten dollar (\$ 10.00) fee in addition to the regular motor **vehicle** registration fees.
- E. Ten dollars (\$ 10.00) of the fee **collected** pursuant to Subsection C of this section shall be retained by the department and is appropriated to the department to defray the cost of processing the special year-of-manufacture registration **plates**.

Equipment Exemptions

From New Mexico Statutes:

CHAPTER 66. MOTOR VEHICLES
ARTICLE 11. **VEHICLES OF HISTORIC** AND SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE

N.M. Stat. § 66-11-1 (2016)

§ 66-11-1. Purpose

Recognizing the importance of constructive leisure pursuits by New Mexico citizens, this act [66-11-1 to 66-11-5 NMSA 1978] is intended to encourage responsible participation in the hobby of collecting, preserving, restoring and maintaining motor **vehicles** of **historic** and **special interest**. Further, New Mexico, recognizing that the current pattern of resource recycling leads to an ever-shortening period of existence for **vehicles of historic or special interest** establishes this act to ensure the preservation of our American heritage as it relates to the motor vehicle manufacturing industry. Further, this act recognizes that a vehicle representative of this heritage, being held by a hobbyist, finds significance as an **historic** or **special interest vehicle** through a personal relevance to the life of the collector holding it and through a general relevance as an example-artifact of the transportation history of New Mexico.

CHAPTER 66. MOTOR VEHICLES
ARTICLE 11. **VEHICLES OF HISTORIC** AND SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE

N.M. Stat. § 66-11-2 (2016)

§ 66-11-2. Definitions

For the purposes of this act [66-11-1 to 66-11-5 NMSA 1978]:

- A. "collector" means the owner of one or more **vehicles of historic or special interest** who collects, purchases, acquires, trades or disposes of these vehicles or parts thereof for his own use in order to preserve, **restore** and maintain a **vehicle** for **hobby** purposes;
- B. "parts car" means a motor vehicle generally in nonoperable condition which is owned by a collector to furnish parts that are usually nonobtainable from normal sources, thus enabling a collector to preserve, restore and maintain a motor **vehicle** of **historic** or **special interest**; and
- C. "**historic** or **special interest vehicle**" means a vehicle of any age which, because of its significance, is being collected, preserved, restored or maintained by a hobbyist as a leisure pursuit.

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N.M. Stat. § 66-11-4 (2016)

§ 66-11-4. Special equipment

A. Unless the presence of equipment named by the Motor Vehicle Code [66-1-1 NMSA 1978] was a prior condition for legal sale within New Mexico at the time the **historic or special interest vehicle** was manufactured for first use, the presence of such equipment shall not be required as a condition for current legal use.

B. Any motor **vehicle of historic or special interest**, manufactured prior to the date when any emission controls were standard equipment on that particular make or model of vehicle is exempted from the laws requiring any inspection and use of such controls.

C. Any safety equipment that was manufactured as a part of the vehicle's original equipment must be in proper operating condition when the vehicle is operated for highway purposes.

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N.M. Stat. § 66-11-5 (2016)

§ 66-11-5. Sale or trade

The sale or trade and subsequent legal transfer of a motor **vehicle** or parts **car of historic or special interest** shall not be contingent upon any condition that would require the vehicle or parts car to be in operating condition at the time of sale or transfer of ownership.

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PART 9. EQUIPMENT

N.M. Stat. § 66-3-832 (2016)

§ 66-3-832. Single-beam road-lighting equipment

Headlamps arranged to provide a single distribution of light shall be permitted on motor **vehicles manufactured** and sold **prior** to July 1, 1953, in lieu of multiple-beam road-lighting equipment herein specified if the single distribution of light complies with the following requirements and limitations:

A. the headlamps shall be so aimed that when the vehicle is not loaded none of the high-intensity portion of the light shall at a distance of twenty-five feet ahead project higher than a level of five inches below the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes, and in no case higher than forty-two inches above the level on which the vehicle stands at a distance of seventy-five feet ahead; and

B. the intensity shall be sufficient to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least two hundred feet.

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PART 9. EQUIPMENT

N.M. Stat. § 66-3-844 (2016)

§ 66-3-844. Mufflers; prevention of noise; emission control devices

A. Every motor vehicle shall at all times be equipped with a muffler in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise, and no person shall use a muffler cutout, bypass or similar device upon a motor vehicle on a highway.

B. The muffler, emission control equipment or device, engine and power mechanism of every motor vehicle shall be so equipped and adjusted as to prevent the escape of excessive fumes or smoke.

C. Every registered gasoline-fueled motor **vehicle** manufactured or **assembled**, commencing with the 1968 models, shall at all times be equipped and maintained in good working order with the factory-installed devices and equipment or their replacements designed to prevent, reduce or control exhaust emissions or air pollution.

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N.M. Stat. § 66-3-874 (2016)

§ 66-3-874. Safety belts required

It is unlawful for any person to buy, sell, lease, trade or transfer from or to New Mexico residents at retail an **automobile**, which is manufactured or **assembled** commencing with the 1964 models, unless the vehicle is equipped with safety belts installed for use in the left front and right front seats.

Emissions Exemptions

New Mexico requires emissions testing at the time of registration for vehicles registering in Bernalillo County.

Diesel Vehicles:

Diesel vehicles are not tested for emissions.

Exemptions:

1. New vehicles sold by a dealer with a MCO document
2. Pre-1975 MY vehicles
3. Vehicles with a GVWR of more than 26,000 lbs