

## FACTS ABOUT REGISTERING

**Small On-Road Motorcycles***On-road motorcycles equipped with engines less than 50cc's***Fast Facts**

- All 2006 and newer motorcycles require emission labels. Vehicles without labels can not be registered.
- Vehicles under 50cc's need only show compliance with USEPA standards.
- All new vehicles 50cc's and over must comply with California regulations. New vehicles are defined as any vehicles obtained with less than 7500 miles.)

**Emission regulations for California on-road motorcycles**

California law requires that most new on-road motorcycles meet tailpipe emissions reduction requirements since the 1977 model year. In addition, vehicles meeting these requirements must be equipped by their manufacturer with a permanent "Emission Control Information" label. This label, in addition to required Federal Department of Transportation (DOT) safety labeling, is used by the Department of Motor Vehicles and law enforcement officers to identify vehicles legal for street use in California.

**Definition of a "Motorcycle"**

For emission control purposes, a motorcycle is defined by California Vehicle Code Section 400 as two and three wheel vehicles equipped with a saddle seat and weighing less than 1500 pounds. This definition also includes on-road vehicles commonly referred to as "scooters" and "mopeds".

Please note that these regulations do not apply to "motorized Scooters" (CVC 407.5) or any vehicles intended for off-highway recreational use. For information regarding the registration of Off highway motorcycles and All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) please request a copy of the ARB fact sheet: Facts About Off Highway Recreational Vehicles.

**Vehicles exempt from emission label requirements**

Only 2005 model year and older on-road motorcycles originally equipped with engines less than 50cc's are exempt from emissions and labeling requirements. From the 2006 model year on, ALL motorcycles intended for on road use require emissions labeling to be registered or sold in California.

**Other regulations that apply to small motorcycles**

As an on-road motorcycle, all California Vehicle Code requirements for operator licensing, helmet use, safety certifications and equipment continue to apply to these vehicles. Proof of vehicle liability insurance is also required. In addition, small on-road motorcycles are required to be fully compliant with United States Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS). Please verify compliance with these requirements prior to purchasing small motorcycles for use in California.

**For more information about these and other vehicles**

Please contact the Air Resources Board's Public Information Office at: (800) 242-4450.  
Or visit us on the web at: [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov)

For information regarding compliance with FMVSS requirements please contact the US Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at (202) 366-5291 or at [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)