



April 4, 2024

**Registration and Title Bulletin # 01-24
Policy and Procedure**

TO: All County Tax Assessor-Collectors and Licensed Dealers

SUBJECT: Title and Registration Procedures for Mini Vehicles

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide guidance on the titling and registering of mini vehicles.

DETAILS

A mini vehicle includes a mini car, truck, van, and bus manufactured in a foreign country, most commonly in Japan, China, and India. The department previously determined mini vehicles were not eligible for title or registration. The department has re-evaluated the current policy and conferred with the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) regarding safety considerations and inspection requirements. DPS determined that if the vehicle passes current inspection requirements the vehicle can be registered and operated on public roadways. As a result, the department has revised the titling and registration requirements for these vehicles.

Effective immediately, mini vehicles are required to be titled and must be registered if operated on public roadways. Owners may not transfer ownership of these vehicles unless a title has been applied for and issued in their name. Dealers are also required to apply for title in the name of the dealer prior to transfer unless the vehicle was last titled and/or registered in another state and proper ownership evidence was assigned to the dealer.

All applicants must present proper evidence of ownership and will be subject to existing title and registration requirements like any other motor vehicle, as outlined in Transportation Code, Chapters 501 and 502. If the surrendered evidence of ownership or supporting documentation indicates the vehicle is for off-highway use only, the vehicle must be titled with the off-highway use only remark applied to the record, but it is not eligible for registration.

Mini vehicles are imported into the states, and unless the vehicle was last titled and/or registered in another state, owners must provide the appropriate importation documents as required under Transportation Code, 501.030, and outlined in Chapter 19 of the *Motor Vehicle Title Manual*. Owners that do not possess the required importation documents will not be eligible for title and registration, which includes not being eligible to obtain title through a bond or tax assessor-collector hearing. Vehicles that are 25 years old or older are exempt from Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Requirements (FMVSS) and are imported under Box 1 of the USDOT Form HS-7.

An individual who has ownership of a mini vehicle prior to the effective date of this RTB, including a dealer that has a mini vehicle in their inventory that was not titled and/or registered in another state, must have or obtain a Texas title in their name before the vehicle can be sold or



transferred. Owners and dealers must submit the following documents to their local county tax assessor-collector's office to obtain a Texas title:

- Properly assigned evidence of ownership may include:
 - foreign evidence in the name of the owner/dealer or assigned to the owner/dealer,
 - a bill of sale,
 - an out of state title in the name of the owner or assigned to the owner, or
 - a registration receipt in the name of the owner or assigned to the owner, if the vehicle was last registered in a state that does not title these vehicles.
- Application for Texas Title and/or Registration (Form 130-U);
- Government issued photo identification;
- *Law Enforcement Identification Number Inspection* (Form VTR-68-A) if last titled or registered in another country or VIN verification if last titled or registered in another state;
- Proof of US Customs Entry/Clearance, unless the vehicle was last titled and/or registered in another state;
- Proof of Form HS-7, unless the vehicle was last titled and/or registered in another state.

The delinquent transfer penalty does not apply to owners or dealers in possession of these vehicles prior to the effective date of this RTB.

COUNTY ACTION

Counties should begin accepting and processing title and registration applications for mini vehicles and ensure the applicant or dealer provides all required title and registration documents, including import documents when applicable. Ensure any off-highway use only vehicles are titled but not registered. Do not collect a delinquent transfer penalty for mini vehicles impacted by this RTB.

CONTACT

If you have any questions, please contact your local Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Regional Service Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Quintero".

Annette Quintero, Director
Vehicle Titles and Registration Division
Texas Department of Motor Vehicles