



TRUSSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Eric Rush, Chief of Police

131 Main Street Trussville, AL 35173

From the Chief's desk

The Trussville Police Department has been seeing an increase in golf carts being operated illegally on public streets and roads within the City. Due to the increase, we are also receiving more and more complaints about golf carts. The complaints range from reckless driving, near-miss accidents with other vehicles, kids operating golf carts, and infants or small children riding on them, unrestrained.

The main reason this issue is being addressed is SAFETY. We have had two horrible accidents in the past that are relative to this issue; one involving a golf cart that flipped and the other involving a side by side UTV that flipped. **The likelihood of being seriously injured or killed in an accident involving a golf cart is far greater than in any car.** I do not want anything like that to happen again, PERIOD.

I will be directing my Officers to take enforcement action on any violations they see. Officers will use discretion but enforcement actions can range from a warning to a citation. The current fine for operating a vehicle without a plainly visible tag is \$215.00. Any golf carts that are being operated by a child under the age of 16 will have to be picked up by a parent or impoundment may be necessary.

While there are some golf carts manufactured as low-speed vehicles (LSV) that are street legal, I have only seen one during the 25 years I have been a police officer in Trussville. The ones that we are seeing are simply not legal to be operated on a public street and it is becoming a safety issue. These golf carts lack the proper equipment that is required for them to be operated safely on public streets and do not meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) that are required for them to be registered in the state of Alabama.



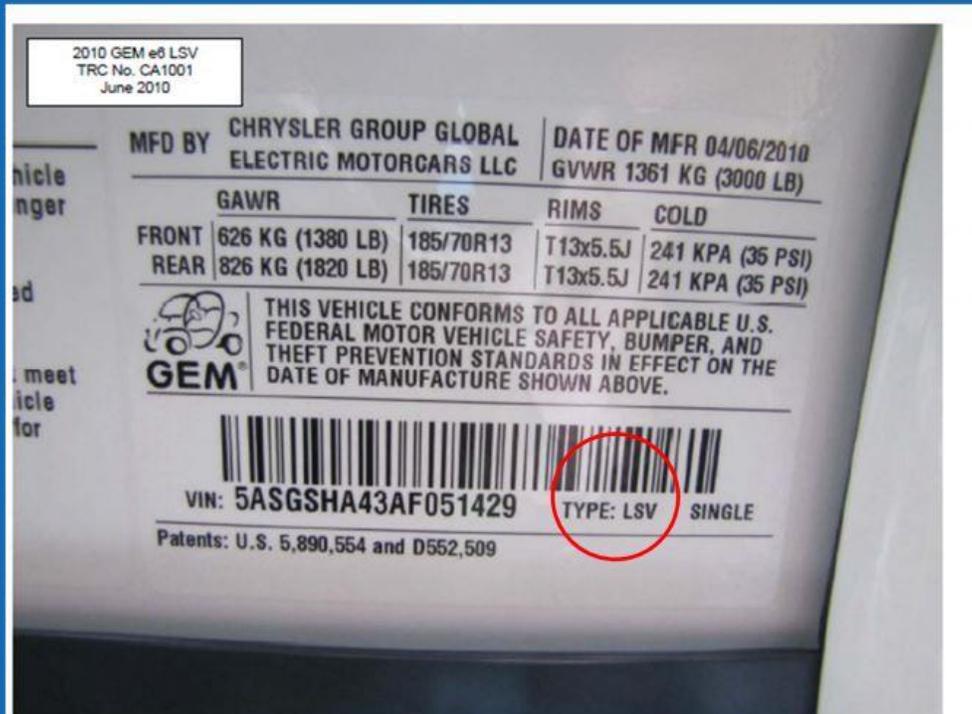
These are the Federal requirements:

FMVSS No. 500 Requirements for LSVs

- Max Speed must be between 20 and 25 mph
- Required equipment (verified by visual inspection)
 - (1) Headlamps
 - (2) Front and rear turn signal lamps
 - (3) Tail lamps
 - (4) Stop Lamps
 - (5) Reflex reflectors -red on sides/red rear
 - (6) Driver side mirror and passenger side or interior mirror
 - (7) Parking Brake
 - (8) Windshield AS1/AS4 (FMVSS 205)
 - (9) VIN/Certification Label
 - (10) Type 1 or Type 2 Seat Belt (FMVSS 209) Primarily to mitigate ejection.
- States can adopt own performance requirements for lighting equipment, mirrors, and parking brakes; not preempted by federal regulations.

If these requirements are met, a FMVSS certification label, similar to the one pictured below, will be attached to the vehicle by the manufacturer:

Part 567 Certification Label



So, if your golf cart does not meet the federal requirements, it will not have the certification label and is not able to be registered in the state of Alabama. Therefore, it will not have the required license plate to be operated on public streets.

I have had discussions in the recent past about adopting an ordinance that would allow golf carts to be operated in certain residential areas of the city. Those discussions ended when it was determined that the proposed city ordinance would have contradicted state law.

I sincerely hope this situation will be taken seriously by the citizens of Trussville and that the issue with the safety of our community will prevail over any perceived convenience that golf carts may afford.

Sincerely,



Eric Rush
Chief of Police

