



Low-Speed Vehicles Are Now Legal to Operate in Connecticut

Quick Facts About the New CT Low-Speed Vehicle Law

- **Low-Speed Vehicles are legal to operate in CT, but Golf Carts aren't.** To avoid confusion, in conversations with the Department of Motor Vehicles or local traffic authorities, always refer to your vehicle as a Low-Speed Vehicle, not as a Golf Cart.
- **Low-Speed Vehicles and Golf Carts are not the same thing.** In 1998, the National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA) established a Federal Regulation listing 12 safety equipment and compliance requirements for LSVs, including the requirement for a Vehicle Identification Number.
- **The new Low-Speed Vehicle law in CT passed with overwhelming support in the 2024 General Assembly.** LSV operation in CT was legalized in 2024 with the passage of Public Act 24-20. It was approved by a 36-0 vote in the Senate on May 1, 2024 and a 132-19 vote in the House on May 6, 2024, and was signed into law by Governor Lamont on May 21, 2024.
- **The new Low-Speed Vehicle law went into effect on October 1, 2024.** Low-Speed Vehicles are now legal to operate on CT roads with an established speed limit of not more than twenty-five miles per hour.
- **Low-Speed Vehicles are now included in the definition of Motor Vehicles under CT state law.** LSV operation in Connecticut is now subject to the same laws as motor vehicles, including the requirements for a valid driver's license and insurance. Connecticut traffic violations and infractions also apply to the operation of LSVs including driving under the influence, speeding, and reckless driving, among others identified in CT General Statute.
- **Connecticut's new state law and the NHTSA Federal Code are attached.** Relevant language in the CT General Statute is consolidated for convenience.

GENERAL STATUTES OF CONNECTICUT

Revised to January 1, 2025



(Prepared under the direction of the Legislative Commissioners' Office)

Sec. 14-1. Definitions. Terms used in this chapter shall be construed as follows, unless another construction is clearly apparent from the language or context in which the term is used or unless the construction is inconsistent with the manifest intention of the General Assembly:

(52) "Low-speed vehicle" has the same meaning as provided in 49 CFR 571.3, as amended from time to time;

(60) "Motor vehicle" means any vehicle propelled or drawn by any nonmuscular power, including a low-speed vehicle.

Sec. 14-289m. Operation of low-speed vehicles. Penalty. (a) A person may operate a low-speed vehicle on a highway with an established speed limit of not more than twenty-five miles per hour, unless the traffic authority of any town, city or borough or the Office of State Traffic Administration, as provided in section 14-298, prohibits or otherwise limits the operation of low-speed vehicles on any highway under the jurisdiction of such traffic authority or office.

(b) No person may operate a low-speed vehicle unless such vehicle is equipped in accordance with the requirements of sections 14-80 to 14-106b, inclusive, except insofar as any requirement of said sections is inapplicable to or inconsistent with the design and equipment standards for low-speed vehicles as required by 49 CFR 571.500, as amended from time to time.

(c) Any person who operates a low-speed vehicle in violation of any provision of this section shall have committed an infraction.

Sec. 14-12. Motor vehicle registration. Application. Issuance by dealers.

(7) The commissioner shall not issue a certificate of title for a homemade low-speed vehicle or a golf cart that has been retrofitted from the original manufacturer's specifications in an attempt to qualify as a low-speed vehicle.



Code of Federal Regulations

A point in time eCFR system



Title 49

Title 49 / Subtitle B / Chapter V / Part 571 / Subpart A / § 571.3

Low-speed vehicle (LSV) means a motor vehicle,

- (1) That is 4-wheeled,
- (2) Whose speed attainable in 1.6 km (1 mile) is more than 32 kilometers per hour (20 miles per hour) and not more than 40 kilometers per hour (25 miles per hour) on a paved level surface, and
- (3) Whose GVWR is less than 1,361 kilograms (3,000 pounds).

Title 49 / Subtitle B / Chapter V / Part 571 / Subpart B / § 571.500

§ 571.500 Standard No. 500; Low-speed vehicles.

- S1. **Scope.** This standard specifies requirements for low-speed vehicles.
- S2. **Purpose.** The purpose of this standard is to ensure that low-speed vehicles operated on the public streets, roads, and highways are equipped with the minimum motor vehicle equipment appropriate for motor vehicle safety.
- S3. **Applicability.** This standard applies to low-speed vehicles.
- S4. [Reserved]
- S5. **Requirements.**
 - (a) When tested in accordance with test conditions in S6 and test procedures in S7, the maximum speed attainable in 1.6 km (1 mile) by each low-speed vehicle shall not more than 40 kilometers per hour (25 miles per hour).

§ 571.500 Standard No. 500; Low-speed vehicles.

- (b) Each low-speed vehicle shall be equipped with:
 - (1) Headlamps,
 - (2) Front and rear turn signal lamps,
 - (3) Taillamps,
 - (4) Stop lamps,
 - (5) Reflex reflectors: one red on each side as far to the rear as practicable, and one red on the rear,
 - (6) An exterior mirror mounted on the driver's side of the vehicle and either an exterior mirror mounted on the passenger's side of the vehicle or an interior mirror,
 - (7) A parking brake,
 - (8) A windshield that conforms to the Federal motor vehicle safety standard on glazing materials ([49 CFR 571.205](#)).
 - (9) A VIN that conforms to the requirements of part 565 *Vehicle Identification Number* of this chapter, and
 - (10) A Type 1 or Type 2 seat belt assembly conforming to Sec. 571.209 of this part, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 209, *Seat belt assemblies*, installed at each designated seating position.
 - (11) Low-speed vehicles shall comply with the rear visibility requirements specified in paragraphs S6.2 of FMVSS No. 111.
 - (12) An alert sound as required by [§ 571.141](#).