



OFF HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMATION BULLETIN

FOR CALIFORNIA LAW ENFORCEMENT



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Senate Bill 708- Sanctioned Event Permit; OHV Motorcycles- Update
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The purpose of this Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHV) Information bulletin is to provide information about Senate Bill 708 and the implementation of the Sanction Event Permit Program.

Background:

The State of California has enacted Senate Bill 708, signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 22, 2024. Introduced by Senator Brian W. Jones, this bipartisan legislation addresses critical needs for the off-highway vehicle (OHV) community.

This law will require the Department of Parks and Recreation to issue permits for competition motorcycles that do not qualify for "Green Sticker" or "Red Sticker" identification. These permits apply only to motorcycles from model year 2022 and later, operated during sanctioned events approved by relevant agencies.

Key elements of SB 708:

Special Permit Program: Establishes a system for issuing decals for competition motorcycles used at sanctioned events on public lands.

Support for competitions: Ensures consistent regulations for OHV competitions across the state, reducing confusion among land managers and event organizers.

Effective Date: The new permit system will take effect on January 1, 2026.

Program Development:

Legislation- SB 708 passed with unanimous bipartisan support and has been codified into California law under Vehicle Code Sections 38087.7 and 38231.7

Program Framework- The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has collaborated with key stakeholders, including land managers, OHV clubs, and sanctioned event sponsors to begin outlining permit structure, enforcement protocols, and event criteria.

Permit Design- A new Sanctioned Event Permit decal has been designed for visibility and durability during competitive events. It must be displayed on the left side of motorcycles and is non-transferable.

Online Permit Sales- An online portal for purchasing permits is under development, targeting availability before the official launch in January 2026. Fee structures will be posted once finalized in accordance with Vehicle Code Section 38231.7.

Stakeholder Outreach- OHMVR Division has met with with partners such as the American Motorcyclist Association, Federal Land Managers, and local OHV coalitions to gather input on program administration.

Informational Webpage- OHMVR Division is currently developing a “Sanctioned Event Permit” webpage that will provide all necessary program information for Public Land Managers, Sanctioned event sponsors, and competitors.

For further clarification contact Superintendent Jack Gorman, Assistant Chief, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division HQ at (661) 449-7858.