

FactSheet

Safe Operation of Low Speed Vehicles

A

Low Speed Vehicle (LSV) may look like a golf-cart to the casual observer, but it is actually a motor vehicle requiring proper insurance and registration with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). LSVs have four wheels, a license plate, a 17-digit vehicle identification number (VIN), a maximum weight of 3,000 pounds, and a maximum speed of 25 mph. An electric cart, however, may come in various wheel configurations, but does not require DMV insurance and registration, and may lack some of the standard features on an LSV (e.g., rear and side view mirrors, brake lights, headlights, and seat belts). LSVs may be operated on public streets where the speed limit is no more than 35 miles per hour. Like any vehicle, operating a LSV in an unsafe manner can result in a serious injury or even death. Special care must be taken by the driver to ensure the safety of all passengers, pedestrians, bystanders, other vehicles, property, and cargo.

OPERATOR REQUIREMENTS

All LSV operators (e.g., employees, students, student workers contractors, volunteers, and vendors) must:

1. Follow university policy regarding the safe operation of vehicles.
2. Hold a valid driver's license.
3. Successfully complete defensive driver's training.
4. Be familiar with information provided in the LSV's operator manual.
5. Perform pre-operational check at the beginning of each shift.

NOTE: Additional training is required for operation of golf/utility carts. Contact EHS@usc.edu for more information.



SAFE OPERATION

While operating a low speed vehicle, it is important to:

- Ensure that all passengers are wearing seatbelts.
- Operate at a speed respectful of conditions.
- Observe all traffic rules.
- Yield to pedestrians. They have the right-of-way.
- Keep all body parts inside the vehicle.
- Secure all cargo.
- **Never** operate on roads having a speed limit greater than 35 mph.
- **Never** use a cellular phone while operating the vehicle.
- **Never** allow passengers to sit or stand in the cargo area.
- **Never** use a headset or headphones.
- **Never** block fire lanes or ADA access.
- **Never** leave the key unattended.
- **Never** modify any safety feature.
- **Never** overload the vehicle.

REFERENCES

USC Policy - Vehicle/Driver Requirements
<https://policy.usc.edu/vehicle-driver-requirements/>

California Department of Motor Vehicles Information on Electric Vehicles
<http://tiny.cc/dmv-lsv>

