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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# Driver and Vehicle Services Update

Bureau of Motor Vehicles – Research and Support Operations Section  
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This bulletin may be downloaded by visiting the Driver and Vehicle Services website at [www.dmv.pa.gov](http://www.dmv.pa.gov).

**Tom Wolf, Governor**

**Yassmin Gramian, Secretary**

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## SPECIAL EDITION

### Short Vehicle Identification Numbers (VINs)

It has come to PennDOT's attention that there are registration plates being issued to some vehicles that do not conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS). A number of these vehicles are commonly referred to as "mini-trucks." Often, these vehicles are accompanied with the proper import documentation but are not regarded in Pennsylvania as on-road vehicles and cannot be titled to operate on Pennsylvania roadways. These vehicles may also come from other jurisdictions on valid titles but are still regarded as off-road vehicles in Pennsylvania. Therefore, these vehicles should be marketed to customers and titled as Off-Road Vehicles (ORV) only.

Previously, we have indicated to agents that all paperwork for vehicles that have short Vehicle Identification Numbers (a VIN with less than 17-digits) and model years newer than 1976, will need to be submitted to PennDOT for review. This process has not changed and should still be followed.

Additionally, if agents have a customer who is attempting to title and register a vehicle of this type, they should be indicating on the MV-1 that the plate will be issued by the department. Agents should not issue a plate to the customer at that time. Any application for Pennsylvania Certificate of Title received by the Department for these vehicles will be issued with the ORV brand and any registration plate issued will be recalled.

**AGENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ENSURE ALL OF THEIR EMPLOYEES RECEIVE PENNDOT'S DRIVER AND VEHICLE SERVICES UPDATE BULLETINS**