

2019 New Hampshire OHRV Motorcycle Equipment Requirements

This intended to be an informational guide. Merrimack Valley Trail Riders assumes no responsibility for the completeness or accuracy of the following information.

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Dual Sport</u>	<u>Modified Trail Bike for Limited Street Registration (1)</u>	<u>Trail bike without street registration</u>
Head/Tail Lights	Yes	Yes	Yes (2)
Low Beam/High Beam	Yes	No (3)	No
Brake Light	Yes	Yes (4)	No
Brake light actuated by front and rear brake	Yes	No	No
Mirror	Yes	Yes (5)	No
Horn	Yes	Yes (6)	No
DOT Tires	Yes/No (7)	No (7)	No
Turn Signals	Yes	No (8)	No
Speedometer & odometer	Yes	No (9)	No
Spark Arrestor	Yes (1, 10)	Yes (1, 10)	Yes (1, 10)
OHRV Registration	Yes (11)	Yes (11)	Yes (11)
NH Inspection Sticker	Yes	Yes (1)	No (12)
Sound limits	Yes (13)	Yes (13)	Yes (13)

Dual Sport Motorcycles are sold new with a title, and as street legal DOT & EPA compliant for use on all roads and limited access highways.

Modified Trail Bikes are sold new with a Certificate of Origin and are not DOT or EPA compliant for use on roads and limited access (interstate) highways. After modification the trail bike may be titled and registered in NH for use on roads, but not limited access highways (RSA Section 215-A:10). The intent is for use on roads to connect between trails. It is recommended by MVTR that the rider wear appropriate personal protective gear and trail riding clothing to demonstrate their intent to trail ride. A street plated trail bike has full legal access to Class V and Class VI roads (like any other plated vehicle) that other OHRVs may be prohibited from.

Most motorcycle inspection stations are not familiar with the inspection requirements of modified trail bikes and will likely fail your inspection. Verify the station is knowledgeable before you start the inspection.

Trail Bikes without street registration are limited to OHRV trails as defined by the state. Note that some trail systems prohibit trail bikes.

1. **RSA 215-A:35 OHRV Safety Equipment Required.** – Any OHRV or trail bike, as defined by RSA 215-A:1, V and XIV, respectively, which is also registered for use on the highways of the state shall comply with all OHRV requirements concerning safety equipment, sound emission levels, spark arrestors as well as *all other requirements pertaining to the registration of motor vehicles*. Registered motor vehicles for highway use require license plates and inspection stickers.

2. **RSA 215-A:12 V.** No person shall operate in this state any trail bike or other OHRV which is designed, constructed, and sold solely for closed-course competition and is without a headlight and a taillight. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to trail bikes or OHRVs operated at approved OHRV competitions.
215-A:14 OHRV Required Equipment. –
I. No person shall operate an OHRV unless it is equipped with:
 - (a) At least one, but not more than 2 headlights, all in working order, when operating at any time during the period from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise.
 - (b) One or more rear taillights, all in working order, when operating at any time during the period from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise.
 - (c) Adequate brakes in good working order sufficient to control the vehicle at all times. The brakes must be capable of stopping the vehicle within 40 feet at 20 miles per hour or locking the wheels or track to a standstill.
 - (d) The current registration decal affixed to the OHRV as required by this chapter.
 - (e) Mufflers and an exhaust system which comply with the requirements of RSA 215-A:12.

3. **RSA 215-A:38 Headlights.** – For any trail bike registered for use on the highways, a high and low beam headlight shall not be required unless said vehicle had this equipment installed as original equipment by the manufacturer. This section shall not affect the requirements of RSA 215-A:14, I(a).

4. **RSA 266:38 Stop Lamps.** – It shall be unlawful for any person to drive any motor vehicle, including any motorcycle, moped or motor-driven cycle, full trailer, trailer, or semi-trailer in this state unless it is equipped with one or more stop lamps in working order at all times;

5. **RSA 266:78 Footrests and Mirrors.** – Every motorcycle driven upon the ways of this state shall have footrests for each person driving or riding upon the same and a rear-view mirror.

6. **NH Inspection Rule Saf-C 3233.01** Horn. The motorcycle shall be rejected if ... (4) The button or switch that activates the horn is located in such a position that the operator cannot reach it without letting go of the handgrips (Squeeze bulb air horns do not meet this requirement).

7. **RSA 215-A:37 Knobby Pattern Tires.** – OHRVs or trail bikes with knobby pattern tires, which have been registered for highway use, shall be permitted on all highways within the state except interstate highways.
8. **RSA 215-A:36 Directional Flashers.** – For OHRVs or trail bikes registered for use on the highway, directional flashers shall not be required unless said vehicle had this equipment installed as original equipment by the manufacturer.
9. **RSA 215-A:39 Speedometer and Odometer.** – For any trail bike registered for use on highways, a speedometer and odometer shall not be required unless said vehicle had this equipment installed as original equipment by the manufacturer.
10. **RSA 227-L:20 Suitable Exhaust Systems on Motorized Equipment; Penalty.**
 - I. Any motorized vehicle, which does not bear a currently valid state inspection sticker, and other motorized equipment including generators operating in woodlands and which emits exhaust within 4 feet of the ground, shall be equipped with a suitable exhaust system which will inhibit the discharge of sparks and carbon deposits likely to cause fires. Baffled mufflers or spark arresters in good working order, tested and approved by the U.S. Forest Service or the director shall be deemed to meet these requirements. In the case of trucks, pickups, passenger cars, and motor bikes, primarily used for travel over gravel and other mineral soil roads, exhaust systems equivalent to original equipment are suitable.
11. **RSA Section 261:41-a** A motorcycle, trail bike, or agricultural/industrial utility vehicle that meets all the requirements of an off highway recreational vehicle in RSA 215-A:1, VI shall be used as an off highway recreational vehicle only when it has a valid OHRV registration issued under the provisions of RSA 215-A:21
12. **RSA 266:1 Inspection Authorized.** –
 - I. The director may require the inspection of any vehicle, except an OHRV, snowmobile, moped, or any other vehicle exempted under this chapter, to determine whether it is fit to be driven.
13. **RSA 215-A:12 OHRV Manufacturing Specification Requirements (sound)**

This chapter contains several provisions for different sound levels based on year of manufacture and engine displacement. **VII.** No person shall modify the manufacturer's specified exhaust system of any OHRV in any manner which will increase or amplify the noise emitted above that emitted by the original muffler.

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Safety Rules are developed by the responsible departments as authorized by the Legislature. Search Safety Rules

<https://www.nh.gov/safety/commissioner/adminrules/lawsandrules.html>