

Low Speed Electric Vehicles

(RCW 46.04.357 and 46.04.295) Any electric vehicle that travels on four wheels at a speed less than 35 mph may be classified as a Medium Speed Vehicle (25-35mph) or a Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (up to 25mph). These vehicles must meet the state and federal requirements for low speed electric vehicles.

Examples:



Use

May be classified as either:

- a) A Neighborhood electric vehicle (NEV) – for road use on roads 35 mph or under and in accordance to state and local restrictions ([RCW 46.04.357](#)) ([RCW 46.61.725](#))
- b) A Medium Speed Vehicle (MSV) – for road use on roads 35 mph or under and in accordance to state and local restrictions ([RCW 46.04.295](#)) ([RCW 46.61.723](#))

NOTE: In San Juan County, NEV and MSV vehicles may operate on roads 45 mph or under

License

- Valid Drivers License needed ([RCW 46.20.001](#))
- Must be registered and display a valid license plate ([RCW 46.12](#))

Equipment Requirements

- 4 wheels ([RCW 46.04.295](#)& [RCW 46.04.357](#))
- Electrically powered ([RCW 46.04.295](#)& [RCW 46.04.357](#))
- Roll cage or crush-proof body (Medium Speed Vehicles Only [RCW 46.04.295](#))
- 20 mph – 25 mph (Neighborhood Electric Vehicle Only [RCW 46.04.357](#))
- 25 mph – 35 mph (Medium Speed Vehicle Only [RCW 46.04.295](#))
- Headlamps ([49 CFR 571.500](#) – [RCW 46.04.295](#) & [RCW 46.04.357](#))
- Turn Signals ([49 CFR 571.500](#) – [RCW 46.04.295](#) & [RCW 46.04.357](#))
- Tail lamps ([49 CFR 571.500](#) – [RCW 46.04.295](#)& [RCW 46.04.357](#))
- Stop lamps ([49 CFR 571.500](#) – [RCW 46.04.295](#)& [RCW 46.04.357](#))
- Reflectors – one red on each side to the rear ([49 CFR 571.500](#) – [RCW 46.04.295](#)& [RCW 46.04.357](#))
- Mirrors - Must have a mirror on the drivers side of the vehicle and at least one additional mirror located on either the passengers side or in the center of the vehicle (a rearview mirror) that must reflect a distance of at least 200 feet ([RCW 46.37.400](#); [49 CFR 571.500](#) – [RCW 46.04.295](#)& [RCW 46.04.357](#))
- Parking Brake ([49 CFR 571.500](#) – [RCW 46.04.295](#)& [RCW 46.04.357](#))
- Windshield ([49 CFR 571.500](#) – [RCW 46.04.295](#)& [RCW 46.04.357](#))
- VIN ([49 CFR 571.500](#) – [RCW 46.04.295](#)& [RCW 46.04.357](#))
- Seat belts ([49 CFR 571.500](#) – [RCW 46.04.295](#)& [RCW 46.04.357](#))

Note: While we have tried to compile a complete listing of laws regarding this type of vehicle, additional requirements may apply. To read additional law requirements please visit the Washington State legislative Web site at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/LawsAndAgencyRules/>