

Passenger Car Resource Sheet

(RCW 46.04.382) "Passenger car" means every motor vehicle except motorcycles and motor-driven cycles, designed for carrying ten passengers or less and used for the transportation of persons.

Examples:



Licensing

- Valid Drivers License needed ([RCW 46.20.001](#))
- Must be registered and display a valid license plate ([RCW 46.16A.030](#) and [46.16A.200](#))

Equipment Requirements

- 10 passengers or less ([RCW 46.04.382](#))
- Air bags ([49 CFR 571.208](#), [RCW 46.37.640-660](#))
- Brakes ([49 CFR 571.105, 106 & 116 - RCW 46.37.340](#))
- Bumper ([RCW 46.37.410](#) & [WAC 204-10-022](#))
- Defroster System if enclosed ([49 CFR 571.103](#) & [RCW 46.37.410](#) & [WAC 204-10-022](#))
- Door and door latches ([49 CFR 571.208](#) & [RCW 46.37.517](#) & [WAC 204-10-022](#))
- Emergency brake ([49 CFR 571.114](#), [RCW 46.37.340](#) & [RCW 46.37.351](#))
- Fender/Splash apron – the entire width of the wheel must be covered by either the fender or splash apron (mud flap) and it must extend down to the axle of the vehicle ([RCW 46.37.500](#) & [WAC 204-10-022](#))
- Headlights – must have at least 2 headlamps which must be located at a height (measured from the center of the head lamp) of 24-54 inches and will be white in color ([49 CFR 571.108](#), [RCW 46.37.040](#) and [WAC 204-21-040](#))
- Tail lamps – must have at least 2 red tail lamps mounted on the rear, which, when lighted are plainly visible from a distance of one thousand feet to the rear. The tail lamp must be located at a height of 15-72 inches. ([49 CFR 571.108](#), [RCW 46.37.040](#))
- License Plates – every vehicle must have both a front and rear license plate ([RCW 46.16.240](#)). The rear license plate must be illuminated by a white light making the plate visible from 50 feet away ([RCW 46.37.050](#))

- Rear Reflectors – 2 or more red reflectors mounted at a height of 15-72 inches ([49 CFR 571.108](#), [RCW 46.37.060](#))
- Stop lamp – every motor vehicle must have 2 or more stop lamps. Vehicle manufactured after September 1, 1993 must be equipped with an additional high center mounted stop lamp. ([49 CFR 571.108](#), [RCW 46.37.070](#)) These stop lamps shall emit red light ([49 CFR 571.108](#), [RCW 46.37.200](#))
- Turn Signals – Must be equipped with electric turn signals that are visible at a distance of 500 feet ([49 CFR 571.108](#), [RCW 46.37.070](#), [RCW 46.37.200](#))
- Clearance/Side Marker lamps – Must be equipped with lamps which indicate the highest and most outer portion of the vehicle ([49 CFR 571.108](#), [RCW 46.37.090](#) & [RCW 46.37.110-120](#))
- Hood and hood latch – The hood must be without protrusions that may be hazardous and must contain a secondary latching system to hold the hood in place ([49 CFR 571.113](#), [RCW 46.37.517](#) and [WAC 204-10-022](#))
- Horn – Must have a horn capable of emitting audible sound from a distance of 200 feet. ([49 CFR 571.111](#), [RCW 46.37.380](#))
- 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) positioned so that the driver can see a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of the vehicle ([49 CFR 571.111](#), [RCW 46.37.400](#))
- Muffler – must have a muffler that prevents noise. ([RCW 46.37.390](#))
- Odometer/Speedometer ([RCW 46.37.540-590](#) and [WAC 204.10.028](#))
- Tires – Must be pneumatic tires as outlined in ([49 CFR 571.109, 110, 117, 119, 120, 129, 138&205](#), [RCW 46.37.420&425](#))
- Windshield – Must be manufactured of safety glazing materials for use in motor vehicles ([49 CFR 571.205](#), [RCW 46.37.410](#))
- Seat Belt System – Every vehicle must have a safety restraint that meets or exceeds the standards for the year the vehicle was built. ([49 CFR 571.209, 210](#), [RCW 46.37.510](#)) Children under 13 years of age must be transported in the back seat when practical to do so, and children under the age of 8 must be in a child restraint system as outlined in [49 CFR 571.213, 225](#), [RCW 46.61.687](#).
- Steering Wheel – must have a continuous rim, and be constructed and maintained so that no components or attachments, including the horn activating mechanism and trim hardware, can catch the driver's clothing or jewelry during normal driving maneuvers. ([RCW 46.37.375](#) & [WAC 204.10.034](#))
- Suspension system – ([RCW 46.37.375](#))
- Wipers – Must be capable of cleaning the windshield using two separate arcs, each capable of cleaning a surface of not less than 120 square inches. ([49 CFR 571.104](#), [RCW 46.37.410](#))

Note: These are the main requirements for passenger vehicles. Additional requirements may apply depending on the size and type of vehicle. To read additional law requirements please visit the Washington State legislative Web site at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/LawsAndAgencyRules/>