

Department of Motor Vehicles

Frequently Asked Questions

Snowmobiles

Note: The snowmobile registration fee will change for snowmobile registrations issued on or after April 30, 2006 or that have an expiration date after April 30, 2006. The fee will change for registrants who are not members of a NYS Snowmobile Association (NYSSA) club. See the information about the fee change in the FAQs below about how to register your snowmobile or renew the registration.

Does my snowmobile require a registration in New York State?

You must register your snowmobile if you operate the snowmobile in New York State. A registration is not required if the snowmobile is operated on the private property of the owner or private property the owner has a contractual right to use. A snowmobile that is registered in another state and owned by a resident of that state, but is operated in NYS, must get a NYS registration. New York State also requires a registration on trailers.

Snowmobile registration numbers are permanently assigned to the snowmobile when it is first registered. If you have a snowmobile that was first registered **before August 1995**, you must supply the numbers that attach to your snowmobile. You must display those numbers on each side of the snowmobile hood. The numbers must be:

- made from a reflective material,
- block style and 3 inches high or taller,
- a color different from the hood and easy to see.
- Be sure to include a hyphen or a space between the last number and the capital letters.

New snowmobile registrations receive a Registration Decal set. Attach the decals to each side of the hood. Validation stickers are issued annually. Put the stickers on the upper left-hand corner of the decal. Put the annual validation stickers to the left of the numbers on snowmobiles registered before 1995.

Beginning on April 30, 2006, the registration fee is \$45 if you certify on form MV-82SN that you are a member of a NYS Snowmobile Association (NYSSA) club and show proof of membership. Beginning September 1, 2007, the only acceptable proof of membership is a valid membership voucher issued by the NYSSA, and your certification on form MV-82SN. If you are not a member, the fee is \$100. Visit [the NYSSA web site](#) for more information about NYSSA clubs.

How do I register my snowmobile?

To register your snowmobile, bring the following items to a DMV office:

- A completed [form MV-82SN](#) (Snowmobile Registration Application).
- A completed [form DTF-802](#) (Statement of Transaction for Sales Tax) or proof of exemption or tax paid. The requirements and forms for snowmobiles are the same as those for motor vehicles. See [the information about sales tax](#).

- Proof of ownership and bill of sale. Non-residents can use photocopies of proof of ownership and are not required to pay the NYS sales tax if the snowmobile is registered in another state.
- Proof of identity.
- Cash, check or credit card for the fee. Pay the registration fee of \$45.

How do I renew my snowmobile registration?

You cannot renew a snowmobile registration on-line. Use your form MV-3SN renewal notice to renew by mail. If you do not have a renewal notice, apply for the renewal with form MV-82SN or visit your local DMV office.

For snowmobile registration that expire after April 30, 2006, the renewal fee is \$45 if you certify on form MV-3SN or MV-82SN that you are a member of a NYS Snowmobile Association (NYSSA) club and show proof of membership. If you are not a member, the fee is \$100. Visit the NYSSA web site for more information about NYSSA clubs.

Are helmets required when on a snowmobile?

Yes. Since April 1, 1998, NYS has required each operator and passenger on a snowmobile to wear protective headgear approved by the Commissioner of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. You are not required to wear a helmet **if:**

- the snowmobile is operated on property where the operator or passenger is the property owner
- the snowmobile is operated on private property which the operator or passenger has a contractual right to use. This exemption does not apply if the owner or passenger is a member of a club or association and the owner does not receive compensation for snowmobile operation.

Is it against the law to operate a snowmobile while under the influence of alcohol or drugs?

Yes. A court can suspend the privilege of a person to operate a snowmobile if the person is convicted of snowmobiling under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The court can also suspend the snowmobile registration. The law also provides for strict penalties and enforcement for these offenses. A person who refuses to take a chemical test (breath test) immediately receives a suspension of the privilege to operate a snowmobile, pending a DMV hearing.

How can I get more information about snowmobile operation in NYS?

The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation web site has information about snowmobile insurance, safety training and other information.