



## What BCSF Members need to know about registering a snowmobile

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This is a document drafted by the BC Snowmobile Federation (BCSF) in an effort to help educate our members. We have tried to make it in layman terms and pull out the items that are specific to snowmobiling.

We have had reports of misinformed Insurance brokers on the new requirements. With all new things comes growing pains. If you encounter anything during registration that does not match what is stated in this document please have your broker verify with their internal help line. If you are unable to resolve it please report the issue to the BCSF at 1 (877) 537-8716 or office@bcsf.org

*As this document has been drafted by the BCSF if you want to read exact wording or see how it applies to other Off Road Vehicles please go to: <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/orv/>*

### *Do I have to register my snowmobile?*

Yes, snowmobile registration has been mandatory in BC since the 1970's. The old system was a manual paper based system and as part of the new Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Act snowmobiles will continue to have to be registered.

### *How long do I have before the new computer registration system comes into effect?*

You can register at any time but it is mandatory that you have your snowmobile registered before June 1, 2015.

### *If I am already registered, do I have to register again?*

Yes. The old system was paper based and you are now required to re-register your snowmobile in the new computerized system. If your snowmobile was previously registered you have until November 17, 2015 to transfer your registration over to the new system. You will be provided a \$10 credit at the time of registering. This is to reflect what you paid to register the first time.

### *How often do I have to register my snowmobile?*

It is a one-time registration. It will then be the same as cars in that the snowmobile will be transferred or registered at each point of sale.



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### *Why is the registration decal being replaced with a number plate?*

Currently snowmobiles can appear to be registered if they display a registration number decal that belonged to a prior owner. The new requirement for a number plate which is retained by the seller will fix this issue – this is the same approach used for motorcycles and other on-highway vehicles.

The BC snowmobile Federation continues to work at a solution to the metal plate that will allow a decal to be used instead. The education side of the decal would be that if you sell your snowmobile you must remove the decal or the new owner could incur fines that you may be liable for. We will continue to push for this option and keep you posted.

In the meantime, the BC Snowmobile Federation has no suggestions on where to affix your plate. We want our members to be aware that if you drill into your tunnel that there is a possibility of having your snowmobile warranty cancelled by the manufacturer. In an effort to be compliant we would suggest that you inquire with [vera.vukelich@gov.bc.ca](mailto:vera.vukelich@gov.bc.ca) on where the best place to mount the plate would be. Please include a cc'd copy of the email to [office@bcsf.org](mailto:office@bcsf.org) so that we can monitor the responses.

### *What information do I need to bring to the broker to register my snowmobile?*

To demonstrate you are the legal owner of the snowmobile, one or more of the following is required:

- A New Vehicle Information Statement or a Certificate of Origin if purchased new, but never registered previously.
- A Bill of Sale or other document acceptable as a Bill of Sale, such as a Transfer Tax Form (APV9T) signed by seller - Transfer Tax forms are widely available from any Autoplan broker.
- A completed B. C. Consumer Taxation Branch Gift of Vehicle Form (FIN 319)
- Proof of payment of the applicable sales tax on or after July 1, 2010 (tax on designated property, provincial portion of the HST, or provincial sales tax).
- For snowmobile imported from the U.S., a Title Certificate; Form 1 or B15 Accounting Document.
- For snowmobiles imported into B.C. from another Canadian jurisdiction, the previous registration documents.

In the absence of the above, or where 'continuity of ownership' going back to the origin of the vehicle is not documented, a sworn statutory declaration (MV1484) will be required with information about how you came into possession of the snowmobile and your attempts to get the one or more of the other documentation as described above. This can be done at any Service BC centre or by a Notary.



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### *What are the rules regarding Provincial Sales Tax and snowmobile registration?*

For detailed information on Provincial Sales Tax see the Ministry of Finance notice located at: [http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/documents\\_library/notices/notice\\_2013-011.pdf](http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/documents_library/notices/notice_2013-011.pdf)

- **Before July 1, 2010**, if you purchased the snowmobile in BC, brought it into BC, or received a snowmobile as a gift you will not be required to provide sales tax documentation at the time of registration under the ORV Act.
- **On or after July 1, 2010**, if you purchased the snowmobile in BC, brought it into BC, or received a snowmobile as a gift and did not pay tax, you will be required to provide proof of payment of tax or pay the applicable sales tax at the time of registration, unless a specific exemption applies. Similar to other vehicles, ICBC will collect any tax owing at the time of registration.

Tax generally applies to the purchase price. In the case of the new owner of the older snowmobile traded in by someone else – tax will be payable on the purchase price that the new owner paid. Note: motorsport dealers in BC should be registered to collect PST which means the purchaser of the snowmobile should be paying tax at the time of purchase, not at the time of registration.

### *When do I need to buy Insurance?*

There are two levels of insurance requirement. This was set up so that people can just purchase insurance based on their individual usage of their snowmobile. The BCSF believes that all of our members should protect themselves and their assets by purchasing Liability Insurance even if you only ride on crown land.

1. If you are only riding your snowmobile on Crown or privately owned land you do not require insurance.
2. If you are crossing a plowed Forest Service Road (FSR) or unloading in a plowed parking lot off of a FSR you are required to purchase Liability Insurance. This can be purchased from Capri Insurance with your BCSF membership or from your broker of choice.
3. If you are crossing highways, using highway right of ways, or unloading in plowed parking lots off the side of the highway than you are required to buy ICBC ORV Insurance. This can be purchased at any ICBC location and you will be provided with an annual decal to affix to your plate verifying your insurance.



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### *Key Points*

- ✓ You must register no later than June 1, 2015
- ✓ You must be given a metal plate to prove you are registered.
- ✓ You are not required to pay tax if you purchased the snowmobile through a dealer
- ✓ You are not required to pay tax if you purchased the snowmobile before July 1, 2010
- ✓ You are required to buy Liability Insurance if you cross plowed Forest Service Road (FSR) or unload in plowed parking lots off of a FSR.
- ✓ You are required to buy ICBC insurance if you are crossing paved roads, highways, or using highway right of ways.