

Get Where You're Going with GSA's Automotive Solutions: Low-Speed Vehicles



Introduction to Low-Speed Vehicles

Low-speed vehicles (LSVs) are a class of motor vehicle. LSVs may be legally operated on public roads, military facilities, federal facilities, airports, parks, universities and private property, as determined by local and state authorities having jurisdiction. LSVs offer a multitude of uses – including passenger transport, security patrol, and maintenance functions. LSVs may reduce or eliminate emissions, as they are available with efficient internal combustion engines or electric propulsion. LSVs must have a minimum capable speed of 20 mph and a maximum capable speed of 25 mph.

Features of LSVs

LSVs offer users a variety of features, including:

- Heating/defrosting systems;
- AC systems;
- Power mirrors;
- LCD dashboard displays;
- Front and rear wipers;
- Fold-down/removable backseats;
 - AM/FM/CD audio systems;
 - Steel or composite construction;
 - Steel-beam-reinforced doors; and
 - Impact-absorbing bumpers and steering columns.



LSVs are Available through the GSA Multiple Award Schedules Program

GSA offers a variety of makes and models, for purchase or lease, through Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) 23V, Special Item Number (SIN) category 023 LSV. The commodities offered through this program must comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 500 –Low Speed Vehicles.

Online Resources

For an overview of buying vehicles from GSA, visit www.gsa.gov/automotive.

The following websites also contain valuable information about how to order LSVs:

www.gsaadvantage.gov

www.gsaelibrary.gsa.gov

For More Information

GSA's customers may place orders directly with the MAS 23V vendors. For additional information or methods related to acquiring LSVs for your agency, please call the Automotive Program Management Office at (703) 605-CARS (2277).



Safety Regulations for LSVs

LSVs are regulated through the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) and managed by the Department of Transportation (DOT) – National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Prior to 1998 was an emerging trend by local authorities who authorized the operation of golf carts and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) for shared use on public roads with motor vehicles. Because DOT-NHTSA is responsible for regulating the safety content of vehicles used on public roads, in 1998 they created a new class of motor vehicle (low-speed vehicle, a.k.a. LSV) with a minimal set of safety standards to mitigate injuries and hazards to the public, FMVSS 500 (49 CFR 571.500).

FMVSS 500 requires an LSV to be configured with four wheels, with a maximum speed of 25 mph and a maximum gross vehicle weight rating of 3,000 pounds. In addition, FMVSS 500 specifies headlamps, stop lamps, turn-signal

lamps, taillights, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields, seatbelts, and vehicle identification numbers (VINs).

- Local authorities have jurisdiction over and states regulate the operation of vehicles on public roads, excluding the federal interstate system. Vehicles may include motor vehicles (such as passenger cars, trucks, buses and LSVs), golf carts, ATVs, construction equipment, agricultural equipment, and other off-road vehicles (ORVs). Many states authorize the operation of LSVs on public roads with speed limits not exceeding 35 mph.
- The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety is a suggested resource for the most current information about state and local laws related to vehicle operation on public roads. Visit www.iihs.org/laws/LowSpeedVehicles.aspx and www.iihs.org/laws/minitrucks.aspx for more information.

LSVs Compared to All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs)

LSVs	ATVs and ORVs
Basic minimum safety standards subject to FMVSS 500	May include (but are not required to include) similar safety standards but not certified to DOT standards
Gross vehicle weight must be less than 3,000 pounds	Gross vehicle weight rating may be more than 3,000 pounds
Maximum speed is 25 mph	Maximum speed often exceeds 25 mph
GSA MAS 23V, SIN 023 LSV	GSA MAS 78, SIN 251-1 and SIN 251-6



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