Nov. 05, 2024

**TURN AROUND TIMES**

**VR**

F-STOP 1 DAY
WHITE TICKET 1 DAY
RENEWALS 1 DAY
SUPERS 2 DAYS
DISCREPANCY 1 DAY
PLACARDS 1 DAY

**DL**

CDL 1 DAY
SUSPENSION 1 DAY
WHITE TICKET 1 DAY
PRIORITY 1 DAY
NON-PRIORITY 1 DAY

**COMM. REG.**

SUPPLEMENTS 45 DAYS
RENEWALS 1 DAY
INVOICE 1 DAY

**OTHERS**

DCNR 30 DAYS
ANTIQUES/CLASSIC 2 DAYS
VANITY PLATES 2 DAYS
RECONSTRUCTED ? DAYS

**DEX TAT/LEG**

CARATS 15 DAYS
OTHER 15 DAYS
REENTRY 3 DAYS

**FLEET**

SUPPLEMENTS 28 DAYS
CRS NOTE PADS 1 DAY

Since it was previously titled in PA, there should not have been any mention of an import procedure in this situation. Vehicles that are being imported into PA or were not previously titled in PA that were imported (if we can catch them) that were imported using the 25 year exemption are vehicles that are typically not up to FMVSS and because they meet the 25 year exemption, they are not required to be brought up to those standards. If it is under 25 years old, the registered importer is required to make the necessary changes to the vehicle so it is in compliance with FMVSS. The other issue with the 25 year import exemption is there are a large number of overseas manufacturers that sell all over the world (Nissan, Mitsubishi, etc.) and manufacturer these vehicles to a variety of standards depending on the geographical market they are in (like these mini trucks that were meant for rural farm use only, think bigger golf cart). These then get mixed in with the ones manufactured for the US market place but are way below standards (lighting, seatbelts, odometer, etc.) are easily confused as a normal vehicle because they also manufacture certain varieties for US standards.

We have recently made the decision that imported vehicles that come into the US on the 25 year exemption should be having an enhanced inspection to determine if they would be considered to be safe for PA roads. This would also mean if they are able to go through the enhanced, they may be able to obtain full, on road registration. This does not apply for all imported vehicles and kei vehicles (another name for mini trucks and similar vehicles) are not permitted to obtain any form of full registration

Moving forward, if it is a kei vehicle, whether it is being imported or not, be forwarded to the reconstructed unit to be reviewed. If it is determined to be a mini truck, it will not require the enhanced inspection but it can only be titled as an antique vehicle, farm cert exemption or an off road vehicle. They will not be permitted to obtain full on road registration. If it is being imported, the import paperwork will be reviewed prior to it going through the other channels.

> Is there any way we can tell up front if they are already titled in Pa that they are a mini-truck? Does the F code always mean it is a mini-truck or is there anything about the VIN number that would tell us? Jo

Typically it is a short VIN. There is no fool proof way to figure it out necessarily on the spot other than seeing the vehicle. Also, the F code means it is an imported vehicle. It is also supposed to mean brought up to FMVSS but there was a lot of confusion and inaccuracies when it came to branding back when this appears to have been originally titled in PA. We also have an FAQ that may help a little more.

**Joshua Kline** | Manager

# Mini Trucks Frequently Asked Questions


What is a Mini Truck?

1.

What are the concerns with Mini Trucks?

2.

What are the common types of Mini Trucks?

3.

How can I register my Mini Truck in Pennsylvania?

4.


(/Pages/Mini-Trucks-FAQ.aspx)

## 1. What is a Mini Truck?

A mini truck is a motor vehicle meeting the requirements of the Japanese "Kei Jidosha" classification or designation, used or maintained primarily for the transportation of property and having four wheels, an engine displacement of 660cc or less, an overall length of 130 inches or less, an overall height of 78 inches or less, and overall width of 60 inches or less.

(/Pages/Mini-Trucks-FAQ.aspx)

## 2. What are the concerns with Mini Trucks?

Mini trucks are currently being imported into the US after they no longer meet vehicle safety standards in their home country, and since they are at least 25 years old at the time of importation they are exempt from having to meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) here in the U.S. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has advised that their agency does not endorse the use of mini trucks on public highways since these vehicles are not manufactured to meet U.S. safety standards. A mini truck less than 25 years old cannot be legally imported into the U.S. as an on-road vehicle unless the vehicle is brought up to FMVSS compliance.

Additionally, a mini truck imported to the U.S. must also meet EPA on-road vehicle emissions standards unless the vehicle is 21 or more years old at the time of importation. Mini trucks are not certified by their manufacturers as meeting EPA emission standards; therefore, only mini trucks 21 years old and older may be imported due to being exempt from this requirement.

Mini Trucks can be imported to the U.S. as off-road vehicles; however, they must be permanently modified to have a maximum speed of 25mph and be certified as meeting applicable non-road emission standards. They do not meet required North American safety or emission standards.

It is also important to note that there are concerns with the safety of these vehicles and the crash protection that they provide – mini trucks manufactured prior to 1998 were not subject to crash testing. Furthermore, if the mini truck cannot pass inspection in its home country, it may not be operated on public roads, and the vehicle must either be repaired, disposed of or exported. These vehicles are most likely another nation's cast-offs that no longer meet that nation's vehicle safety or emission standards. (/Pages/Mini-Trucks-FAQ.aspx)

**3. What are the common types of Mini Trucks?**

- Honda Acty
- Diahatsu Hijet
- Suzuki Carry
- Mitsubishi Minicab
- Mazda Porter Cab or Scrum
- Subaru Sambar
- Isuzu Mini Truck
- Nissan Clipper
- Toyota Lite Ace or Town Ace

(/Pages/Mini-Trucks-FAQ.aspx)

**4. How can I register my Mini Truck in Pennsylvania?**

Pennsylvania will only allow registration of a mini truck one of the following three ways:

1. Off Road Title – This type of title has a one-time title fee, and the vehicle is not subject to an annual vehicle safety or emission inspection. This title will only allow the vehicle to be operated on private property (no public roadways).

2. Farm Exemption – Pennsylvania law allows any farm vehicle used exclusively upon a farm or farms owned or operated by the owner of the vehicle to apply for a farm vehicle, 2-year certificate of exemption. Once the certificate of exemption is obtained, the vehicle may then qualify for an exemption from annual registration. The certificate of exemption must be renewed every two years. Farm exempt vehicles are not subject to an annual vehicle safety or emission inspection. For more information on these restrictions and this type of exemption, please visit:
**https://www.dmv.pa.gov/VEHICLE-SERVICES/Farm-Vehicles/Pages/Titling-Registration-and-Exemption.aspx**
(/VEHICLE-SERVICES/Farm-Vehicles/Pages/Titling-Registration-and-Exemption.aspx)
3. Antique Registration – This type of vehicle has a one-time registration fee, and the vehicle is not subject to an annual vehicle safety or emission inspection. The vehicle must be at least 25 years old, used for occasional transportation needs, and is not used for commercial purposes or for general daily transportation.

Note: Mini Trucks in Pennsylvania may not hold an unrestricted registration for on-road use unless the vehicle owner holds a letter of grandfathered status dated December 1, 2021 from PennDOT. However, once the grandfathered vehicle is sold and ownership is transferred, that vehicle may no longer apply for an unrestricted on-road registration.

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