



Specialty Vehicle Association of Ontario

Dedicated to the protection and preservation of Specialty Vehicles

www.svao.org

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2018 Newsletter

The executive of the Specialty Vehicle Association of Ontario has been busy during 2017 dealing with a number of issues on your behalf.

Proposal to mandate 10% Ethanol in our Gasoline

The Ministry of Environment for Ontario (MOE) has circulated a proposal to mandate 10% ethanol in all lower grade gasolines. At the present time only 5% is mandated here in Ontario with the top capped at 10%. The MOE says that this is in response to a federal initiative but we have pointed out that there are provinces that don't mandate any ethanol in their gases.

We all know the problems that ethanol in our gas has caused for many old vehicles as well as boats and small engines. Visit our website to see our alert. This issue is still up for debate and we encourage you to discuss this with your MPP prior to the upcoming June provincial election.

Mandated Electronic Stability Control Systems (ESC) on Kits / Home Builds

The SVAO has met with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to discuss their interpretation of a federal directive. Electronic Stability Control Systems are required by the CMVSS for motor vehicles manufactured by an OEM manufacturer, on or after September 1, 2011. The MTO has decided that this applies to any kit / home builds requiring a new ownership and VIN while the SVAO maintains that the regulation should apply to commercial manufacturers who produce large number of vehicles.

The SVAO is asking that the government recognize and acknowledge that it is possible for a home builder to create a safe vehicle that does not rely on computers to the extent that the current regulations appear to demand. We are awaiting a solution from the MTO. In December a senior project engineer stated that the MTO is almost finished a revision of the Handbook which hopefully will cover this problem.

SERVICE ONTARIO and VIN Verifications

This past year has seen the SVAO help a number of specialty vehicle owners get corrections made to their vehicle ownerships where information has been incorrectly registered in the past. In fact some Service Ontario offices have contacted us to help them set up a local verification process. If you need help in this fixing a registration problem, please contact the SVAO as the rules have changed and dealerships are no longer doing letters of verification.

DRIVE CLEAN Issues

2017 seems to have been a much smoother year for environmental testing and specialty vehicles in Ontario, at least if we go by the number of problems we have heard about. Remember that the SVAO does have contacts with the MOE and the Drive Clean enforcement branch we might be able to help you out if you are having problems.

Historic and Year Of Manufacture (YOM) Plates

In our meetings with the MTO, the SVAO reviews issues that we would like to see addressed which would benefit specialty vehicle owners. We would like the MTO to come up with specialty plate or tag that still recognizes the financial incentive to preserve part of our history (like the low historic plate fee) but is not as restrictive as the current historic plate regulations.

2018 is the first year that 30 year old vehicles which are historically plated will not have to automatically take part in the biannual Drive Clean testing. If you are going to plate your 1988 vehicle as historic, please take the time to make yourself aware to the driving restrictions of these plates. The SVAO cannot help you out if you are misusing historic plates.

The SVAO continues to press the MTO to lower the fees for YOM plates to match the current historic fees. That was the intent of the original group who got the YOM plate proposal through the legislature.

HOW CAN YOU HELP OUT?

As can be seen, there continues to be a need for a group to represent our community in its dealings with the provincial and municipal governments. Your continued support is much appreciated. The SVAO is always looking for more volunteers to join us in taking on these projects. The volunteer executive conducts its business online and so you can be in any part of our province and still take an active role in protecting our community from detrimental rules and regulations. Please contact us if you wish to get involved or have heard of a problem area.