



City of Friendswood

May 27, 2009

Dear Forest of Friendswood Residents:

The purpose of this letter to provide you information regarding the operation of golf carts on public roadways.

The attachment provides information from several sections of the Texas Transportation Code that regulates operation and insurance requirements for golf carts.

It is a Class C misdemeanor to violate these sections of the Texas Transportation Code. The Friendswood Police Department will respond to complaints of illegal operation of golf carts on the public roadway and take enforcement action where and when appropriate.

Respectfully,

Robert B. Wieners
Chief of Police

§ 502.0071. GOLF CARTS. An owner of a golf cart is not required to register the golf cart if:

(1) the operation of the golf cart occurs in the daytime, as defined by Section 541.401; and

(2) the operation:

(A) does not exceed a distance of two miles from the point of origin to the destination if driven to and from a golf course;

(B) occurs entirely within a master planned community with a uniform set of restrictive covenants that has had a plat approved by a county or a municipality; or

(C) occurs on a public or private beach.

Explanation: Forest of Friendswood subdivision meets the requirements of TRC 502.0071 subsection "B" meaning that golf carts operated inside the subdivision do not need to be registered (i.e. you do not need to place a license plate on your golf cart).

Sec. 601.052. EXCEPTIONS TO FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REQUIREMENT.

(A) Sections 601.051 does not apply to:

(1) the operation of a motor vehicle that:

(B) is used only for exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest and not for regular transportation; and

(C) for which the owner files with the department an affidavit, signet by the owner, stating that the vehicle is a collector's item and used only as described by Paragraph (B);

(2) the operation of a golf cart not required to be registered under Section 502.284; or

Explanation: You do not need to insure your golf cart if you fall under 502.0071.

Sec. 502.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(7) "Golf cart" means a motor vehicle designed by the manufacturer primarily for transporting persons on a golf course.

Sec. 521.021. LICENSE REQUIRED. A person, other than a person expressly exempted under this chapter, may not operate a motor vehicle on a highway in this state unless the person holds a driver's license issued under this chapter.

Sec. 521.458. PERMITTING UNAUTHORIZED PERSON TO DRIVE. (a) A person may not knowingly permit or cause the person's child or ward who is under 18 years of age to operate a motor vehicle on a highway in violation of this chapter.

(b) A person may not authorize or knowingly permit a motor vehicle owned by or under the control of the person to be operated on a highway by any person in violation of this chapter.

Explanation: You must hold and carry with you a valid driver's license to operate Golf Cart on public roads. Allowing a child to operate a golf cart unlicensed could result in charges of PERMIT UNLICENSED MINOR/PERSON TO DRIVE.

Sec. 547.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

7) "Slow-moving vehicle" means:

(A) a motor vehicle designed to operate at a maximum speed of 25 miles per hour or less, not including an electric personal assistive mobility device, as defined by Section 551.201; or

(8) "Slow-moving-vehicle emblem" means a triangular emblem that conforms to standards and specifications adopted by the director under Section 547.104.

Sec. 547.002. APPLICABILITY. Unless a provision is specifically made applicable, this chapter and the rules of the department adopted under this chapter do not apply to:

- (1) an implement of husbandry;
- (2) road machinery;
- (3) a road roller;
- (4) a farm tractor;
- (5) a bicycle, a bicyclist, or bicycle equipment;
- (6) an electric bicycle, an electric bicyclist, or electric bicycle equipment; or
- (7) a golf cart not required to be registered under Section 502.284.

Sec. 547.703. ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a slow-moving vehicle shall display a slow-moving-vehicle emblem that:

- (1) has a reflective surface designed to be clearly visible in daylight or at night from the light of standard automobile headlamps at a distance of at least 500 feet;
- (2) is mounted base down on the rear of the vehicle at a height from three to five feet above the road surface; and
- (3) is maintained in a clean, reflective condition.

(b) Subsection (a) does not apply to a vehicle that is used in construction or maintenance work and is traveling in a construction area that is marked as required by the Texas Transportation Commission.

(c) If a motor vehicle displaying a slow-moving-vehicle emblem tows machinery, including an implement of husbandry, and the visibility of the emblem is not obstructed, the towed unit is not required to display a slow-moving-vehicle emblem.

(d) A golf cart as defined by Section 502.001 is required to display a slow-moving-vehicle emblem only when it is operated on an arterial street.

(e) In this section, "arterial street" means:

- (1) a roadway assigned a number by this state or the United States;
- (2) a controlled-access highway; or
- (3) a major radial or circumferential street or highway that is in the territory of a local authority and designated by the authority as part of a major arterial system of streets or highways.

Explanation: Chapter 547 has to do with vehicle equipment (i.e. brake, stop, and turn lamps...headlights etc.) Golf Carts who fall under TRC 502.0071 **DO NOT** need to have turn signals, brake lamps, or head lamps. However they may be required to display slow moving vehicle emblem at the rear of the vehicle if it is operated on a arterial road (i.e. FM 2351)