

Selling Vehicles That Have Been Modified

Lessons from a recent fatal vehicle accident

The new vehicle involved in a recent accident was modified by the dealer but not inspected as required under the *Motor Vehicle Act*. Hoping to avoid future fatalities, the Coroners Service has requested the VSA to work with dealers to improve training on this topic.

Two specific concerns were identified in the Coroner's Report

- All light passenger vehicles, including pick-ups, must have full track width bumpers
- Suspension modifications and oversized tires increase blind spots

Legally modifying a vehicle is a two-step process

Once modified, the vehicle must be:

1. Submitted for a provincial inspection at a Designated Inspection Facility
2. Registered as a *modified vehicle* reflecting an *altered status* or brand.



What modifications require an inspection and altered status?

The *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* require an inspection if a vehicle has had one or more of the following replaced or altered:

- Chassis
- Suspension
- Engine and/or power train
- Fuel type
- Steering or braking mechanical components

What is a common example of a modification that needs inspection?

A four inch (10 cm) or higher lift requires an inspection and an application for an altered status. At the time of sale, the APV9T must be marked as altered.

What does this mean?

In addition to putting lives at risk, selling a vehicle that has not been submitted for an inspection, and an amendment to its registration, violates the *Motor Vehicle Act*. This modification and sale could also be a violation of the *Motor Dealer Act* and the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act*.



The VSA is an independent, non-profit agency that oversees the retail sales of personal-use motor vehicles in British Columbia. Please send your questions and comments to communications@mvsabc.com

Vehicle Sales Authority

