

Navigating vehicle modification regulations in Manitoba

There is many points where you may find some unwanted attention and possibly a ticket. MB has some pretty tight rules we have to keep in mind to maintain compliance regardless of what we think or the "look" we want to have with our rigs.

The full regulations are available here (insert link or PDF) Below are some of the most common areas that can cost you some money in fines or worse depending on the findings. You may just get a ticket or you may be pulled in for a full inspection.

1. "Tire poke" tires extending beyond body or flares. This is very common. As they call it the lack of splash protection. The explanation is somewhat confusing in the regulations. The short of it is any portion of the tread that contacts the road must be covered. This includes 15 forward and 90° to the rear. However it was later added the max height of a mud flap from the ground can not exceed 210mm (8.25"). a snip from the regulations are below.
2. off the ground.
3. Ride height or lift height is another confusing equation that is poorly written they came up with in the 80s. while an attempt was made to change this it was not successful. Although the designs of the newer body styles have less of an issue with this the early bobtail jeeps had the most problems. The Jeep TJ was very limited due to the high arch in the rear frame to make space for coil springs. The extra wheelbase of the LJ helped a little as it got you into the more favorable lift ratio.

These is two levels to the lift limits that was divided by wheelbase, under 100" and over100". The wheelbase decides the ratio.

To measure. Tread width (this is to the center of the tires) to the top of the frame. (this is usually the rear wheel arch) if a body is installed the amount of that lift must be added to the frame height.

Examples

Under 100" wb

64" tread width. 35" frame height. $62/35= 1.83$ this would be an over height scenario

Over 100" wb

Same dimensions 64" tread and a 35" frame the 1.83 would be within legal height.

Unless you also have a body lift.

64" tread, 35" frame height and a 2" body lift for 37" total. 64/37+ 1.73 and over the allowed height.

4. Off road lights are another favorite of city police and the RCMP. In short if you have a light bar, pods or any extra lights other than headlights and DOT approved fog lights invest in covers. If you like night time rock crawling the rules are stacked against you as they must have an interlock to prevent use while the vehicle is on motion. Pretty much works against you as that's when you need them.