FAST Low-speed Electric Vehicle (LSEV) Reporting FAQ

1. **How is an LSEV defined for reporting in FAST?**
The Department of Transportation established the definition for low-speed vehicles under 40 CFR 571.3 as follows:

   “Low-speed vehicle (LSV) means a motor vehicle that is 4-wheeled; whose speed attainable in 1.6km (1 mile) is more than 32 km/h (20 mph) and not more than 40 km/h (25 mph) on a paved, level surface; and whose GVWR is less than 1,361 kg (3,000 lbs).”

LSEVs are a subset of low-speed vehicles. LSEVs are low-speed vehicles that use electric motors powered by onboard sources of stored energy (e.g., one or more batteries) for propulsion.

2. **Do LSEVs need to be licensable for use on roads/streets (i.e., “street-legal”)?**
Yes, for a vehicle to be considered an LSEV, it must be licensable (as opposed to actually being licensed) for use on roads/streets.

   All low-speed vehicles—including LSEVs—must comply with the safety requirements of 49 CFR 571.500. This includes lights, signals, mirrors, windshield, seat belts, parking brake, VIN, etc. This classifies low-speed vehicles as federally “street-legal.” Some states have their own regulations for operating LSEVs. In most states, LSEVs are restricted to roads with a speed limit of 35 mph (56 km/h) or less. LSEVs must be titled and registered (and the driver must be licensed) in every state in which they are statutorily authorized.

   49 CFR 571.500 also allows state and local governments to add additional safety requirements (e.g., New York requires additional safety equipment to include windshield wipers, window defroster, speedometer, odometer and a back-up light). Fleet managers are responsible for knowing what additional requirements, if any, state and local governments may impose on these vehicles in order for them to be incorporated into their motor vehicle fleets.

3. **How can I find out what a particular state requires for these vehicles to be considered “street legal”?**
The Department of Energy's Alternative Fuels & Advanced Vehicles Data Center (AFDC) provides a searchable database of Federal and state incentives and laws at the following address: [http://www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/laws/search](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/laws/search)

   This website's search function can be restricted to look at specific states of interest, and to one or more specific technologies or fuels (e.g., “NEVs” in this case), and represents a good starting point for identifying these additional requirements.

4. **What data has to be reported in FAST for LSEVs?**
From a FAST reporting standpoint, information about LSEVs is to be reported just as it is for any other type of vehicle which was in the agency's fleet for some or all of the
fiscal year for which data is being reported.

All organizations with LSEVs in their motor vehicle fleet should ensure they have a process in place for collecting and reporting information on the operational aspects of these vehicles for FY 2011 and beyond, just as they do for any other vehicle within their fleet.

(See also question 8, below, dealing specifically with reporting electricity consumed in these vehicles.)

5. Which Federal agencies must report data on LSEVs in their fleet?  
   Any Federal agency that operates a fleet of motor vehicles must report information about the LSEVs in their fleet. That requirement is regardless of the size or location of the agency fleet, and regardless of whether the agency is considered an EPAct-covered agency for FAST reporting.

6. Are LSEVs considered “alternative fuel vehicles” from an EPAct perspective?  
   No. The Department of Energy (DOE) has determined that, although LSEVs are becoming a key part of the Federal fleet and a key element in many agencies’ efforts to reduce petroleum consumption, they do not meet all of the requirements to be considered to be vehicles covered by the Energy Policy Act (EPAct) and therefore cannot be considered alternative fuel vehicles from an EPAct perspective. As a result, LSEVs will not be included in the totals for each agency's EPAct-covered inventory, nor will EPAct credits be granted for their acquisition.

7. Is the electricity consumed in LSEVs considered to be “alternative fuel”?  
   Yes. DOE has determined that the electricity consumed in these vehicles will be considered alternative fuel and will be included in the alternative fuel consumption totals toward EO compliance.

8. We don’t have a way of specifically tracking the electricity consumed in these vehicles; how should we report that electricity as fuel consumption in FAST?  
   In situations where an organization or facility does not have separate infrastructure with metering capability to track the electricity consumed in these or other dedicated electric vehicles, agencies should contact a representative of DOE’s Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) for guidance on how best to estimate this consumption until such time as the metering capability can be installed.

   DOE-FEMP’s stance is that use of sub-metered data (e.g., data from an electric vehicle charging station or an associated utility sub-meter) will generally provide the most accurate information on electricity consumption in these vehicles. Alternative or interim approaches could include:
   a. Use of informally-metered data obtained from devices such as the Kill A Watt™ (mention of this particular device is provided solely as a representative example and should not be considered to be an endorsement of a particular product or company by DOE), or
   b. Use of vehicle mileage in conjunction with a vendor-provided vehicle efficiency factor to calculate fuel consumption

   Agencies should direct requests for further guidance to:
9. **How do I know if a particular vehicle is considered to be an LSEV for FAST reporting?**
   DOE will work to maintain a reasonably complete list of vehicles known to meet the definition of LSEV. That list, when available, will be available as a publicly-accessible page within the FAST system itself at the following address: 
   https://fastweb.inl.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=lsevlist

10. **Who do I contact if a particular vehicle I believe to be an LSEV is not listed on the FAST LSEV list?**
    All such questions regarding additional manufacturers and models of LSEVs should be directed to the FAST help desk (below); those questions will be forwarded to DOE’s Federal Energy Management Program for verification and potential inclusion in this list.

11. **Who should I contact if I have other questions regarding the reporting of information about LSEVs through FAST?**
    All such questions should be directed to the FAST help desk point of contact:
    Michelle Kirby
    FAST Support Team
    DOE/Idaho National Laboratory
    michelle.kirby@inl.gov
    (208) 526-4273