

Memo

To: Municipal Agents & Excise Tax Collectors
Cc: Catherine Curtis, Director of Vehicle Services
From: Richard Nickless, Senior Section Manager, Registration & Title Sections
Date: June 16, 2006
Re: Custom Vehicle Plates

BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES
DIVISION OF VEHICLE SERVICES
TITLE & REGISTRATION SECTIONS



Effective July 1, 2006, a new law authorizes the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to issue Custom Vehicles plates. **“Custom Vehicle”** means a motor vehicle that is at least 30 years old and of a model year after 1948 or a motor vehicle that was manufactured to resemble a motor vehicle that is at least 30 years old and of a model year after 1948 and that has been altered from the manufacturer’s original design or has a body constructed from non-original material. The plates will be issued by the main office, each branch office, and by municipal agents who process new registrations and issue new plates. Each of these offices will receive plates on or about June 15, but the plates can not be issued until July 1, 2006. Low digit plates are not available and requests to reserve a number will not be accepted.

Motor vehicles that meet the above definition can be registered as Custom Vehicles. Any vehicle registered as a Custom Vehicle will be issued a registration certificate and a set of custom vehicle registration plates in a unique numbering sequence as follows: starting with plate number 101-AHA through 999-AHA; continuing on with 101-AHB through 999-AHB; and so on. Custom Vehicle plates cannot be issued to motorcycles or to motor vehicles that exceed 6,000 pounds rww. The registrant must garage or maintain the vehicle in the State of Maine. Excise tax must be paid to the town where the vehicle is garaged or maintained.

If the Custom Vehicle does not have a public VIN, the applicant must apply for a Maine Assigned VIN which will be permanently affixed to the vehicle. There is a \$23.00 application fee. The applicant must list the name of each component part used to construct, repair or modify the vehicle on the reverse side of form MVT-6. If the part is from a titled year vehicle, the VIN of the vehicle that the part was taken from must be listed as well. A copy of the bill of sale or receipt showing ownership of each part listed is required. Once the VIN has been assigned by an Investigator, the registration can then be completed using the Maine Assigned VIN attached to the vehicle. Applicants are encouraged to ask about the Assigned VIN process by calling the BMV Title Section at 624-9000 ext 52139.

The registration fee for a Custom Vehicle is \$25.00 and no additional specialty plate fee is required. The class code is **CV**. The registration must indicate the year, make & model that the body of the custom vehicle resembles. The words, MODIFIED VEHICLE, will be printed on each registration issued. For each new registration, the attached affidavit for Antique Auto, Custom Vehicle, Horseless Carriage, or Street Rod Registration (Form MV-65) must be completed by the applicant. If a custom vehicle is sold, a new affidavit is required in the new registrant’s name at time of registration. You can ask if the new registrant has a copy of the prior owner’s original affidavit, as this may be helpful (but not required) in showing that the vehicle was previously registered as a custom vehicle. Please note that you should fill-in the information in the “BMV Use Only” box in the upper right corner of the affidavit (Form MV-65). These forms are available through the Main Office Stockroom.

Vanity Custom Vehicle plates are available for the annual fee of \$15.00 and can be issued with a sequence of seven maximum characters, plus one space or dash. Vanity plates issued in this class code cannot duplicate a vanity plate issued in any other class code. However, a registrant can turn in a current vanity plate, in another class code, for a Custom Vehicle vanity plate, **only** if that vanity plate sequence is not taken in any other class code. Please use Application for Initial Plates (MV-45) when applying for a Custom Vehicle initial plate. (Refer to **“INITIAL/VANITY**

PLATES” section of the manual for further information). Revised vanity plate applications are available through the Main Office Stockroom.

Example: Ms. Jones is requesting the Custom Vehicle vanity plate JONESY and decided to turn in and replace her current Lobster Plate JONESY. However, a search of the vanity plate records shows that JONESY is also being used as a motorcycle and passenger car plate. Therefore, we cannot issue Ms. Jones the Custom Vehicle vanity plate JONESY.

Registrants who want to exchange their existing registrations and plates for new Custom Vehicle plates can do so by going to any Motor Vehicle Branch Office, or to those municipal offices that issue new plates. This type of plate change will not include payment of excise tax or registration fee on vehicles already registered. The affidavit (Form MV-65) mentioned above is required, and if the vehicle has no VIN, a Maine Assigned VIN is required as well. The registrant will receive a corrected registration showing the appropriate year, make, and model that the body of the custom vehicle resembles. A new set of custom vehicle plates will be issued with the same expiration date as the original registration.

Once the vehicle has been registered as a Custom Vehicle, it must remain registered as a Custom Vehicle unless approved by the Director of Vehicle Services.

If a registrant would like to request a different type of plate, the request must be submitted in writing to the Director of Vehicle Services. The written request must explain why a different plate is desired and it must contain information about the make, model, and year of the chassis. If the request is approved, a corrected registration will be issued; however, the make, model, and year will reflect the information pertaining to the chassis.