

Vintage MV Original Plates

Introduction:

- Act 2006-612 allows the owner of a motor vehicle classed as “Vintage” (as defined at 40-12-290) to use a metal plate of the same year as the model year of the motor vehicle.
- Metal plates for motor vehicles manufactured in 1912 through 1942 and 1944 through 1976 qualify. No metal plate was issued in 1943 – a window decal was used.
- Beginning with the 1977 model year, motor vehicles were issued 5-year metals renewed by issuing decals.

Fees:

- The Act allows for the collection of the \$10 fee as stipulated at 40-12-290(a) and the issuance fee as stipulated at 40-12-271 and the local Act allowing for an additional 25 cents. The plate will be provided by the owner – we will be issuing a control number decal to be attached to the lower portion of the metal plate. (\$10.00 + \$1.50 = \$11.50)
- If the original metal plate with validation control number decal is lost or stolen and the owner has another original metal plate which qualifies, issue a validation control number decal upon payment of the replacement fee as stipulated by 40-12-265(b). If the validation control number decal (only) is lost or stolen, a replacement control number decal may be issued upon collection of the proper fee (\$2.25).
- If the original metal plate with control number validation decal is lost or stolen and the owner does NOT have another original metal plate which qualifies, a standard Vintage (VQ) plate can be issued for the replacement fee as stipulated by 40-12-265(b) [\$2.25].
- Fees collected will have the same distribution rules as provided by 40-12-296.

Issuing Information:

Tag Types:

- ORIGMC: Original (metal) plate for vintage motorcycle. Seven (7) characters total;
- ORIGPC: Original (metal) plate for motor vehicles up to 26,000 pounds and fire trucks. Seven (7) characters total;

Procedures:

For the owner:

If a motor vehicle has a Vintage (VQ) plate and the owner wishes to use an original plate of that model year; or, if the motor vehicle qualifies for vintage status with or without a plate to surrender, the owner...

1. Must surrender (if one has been issued) the Vintage (VQ) plate to the licensing official;
2. Will not receive credit or refund for the surrendered Vintage (VQ) plate;
3. Must present the original model year metal plate for inspection;

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For the Issuing Official:

The rules are unchanged in qualifying for Vintage Vehicle tags. What is changed is the metal plate which can be used to register a Vintage Vehicle. The issuing official is responsible for determining the authenticity and usability of the metal plate. Therefore, we must see the metal plate before we can “register” the plate. The State Department of Revenue has provided us with a web site to allow us to determine if the tag is legitimate (colors, number format, correctness, et cetera).

MV <http://www.revenue.alabama.gov/motorvehicle/antiquepassengertags.html>

MC <http://www.revenue.alabama.gov/motorvehicle/antiquemotorcycltags.html>

Trucks <http://www.revenue.alabama.gov/motorvehicle/antiquetrucktags.html>

Correctness takes on several meanings; for example...

1. By statute, a metal plate must be mounted on the rear (certain trucks are exempt) of the motor vehicle. In some years, the State offered front and rear plates. We cannot register an original plate to a motor vehicle if the metal plate has FRONT stamped on it;
2. During some issue years, the metal plate has the type motor vehicle (MOTORCYCLE, CAR or TRUCK) stamped on the plate. We cannot register a metal TRUCK plate to a motorcycle; nor, can we register a CAR tag to a truck.

The word *Authenticity* requires the licensing official to inspect the plate and confirm it is not a reproduction. A restored or refurbished (original) metal plate is acceptable.

The word *Usability* requires the licensing official to confirm the legibility of the metal plate. It must be visible and readable from 20 feet. Excessive wear and tear, rust, holes, rubbed off paint shall disqualify a metal plate from being acceptable to law enforcement. [Hint: if the metal plate is of such a condition the validation control number decal will not stay on, the plate is not usable].

We must look up the tag number of the model/year plate on our system and the State Registration system to insure the tag number is not used by another registrant. The clerk will at the conclusion of the registration provide the customer with control number decal, registration receipt and a disclaimer/statement (see below) regarding the timing for attaching the decal to the metal plate. If, due to the lag time in recording registrations on the State system, a duplicate plate number is registered, the State will review the timing of the registrations and allow the first to be registered to retain their registration and will notify the “loser” of the need to re-register their vehicle.

We will treat these (need to re-register) as “registered in error” transactions. To support this claim, we will need a copy of the letter from the State notifying the registrant of the need to re-register the motor vehicle.

Therefore, you will be required to store the surrendered VQ plate for a minimum of 60 calendar days as we will cancel the transaction, refund the fees collected and return the

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surrendered plate to the individual. Write a notation on the ORIGPC/ORIGMC tag receipt the Vintage (VQ) plate was surrendered and initial.

As best as can be done, the issued control number decal will need to be peeled off the original model/year metal plate.

In the event the VQ plate is "missing" a new metal plate will need to be issued. Using the record immediately prior to the record we just cancelled, perform a replacement transaction (the fee will not be waived).

Section 40-12-290

Registration of vintage vehicle.

(a) Subject to the requirements of subsections (b), (c), (d) and (e), the owner of a motor vehicle which is herein defined as a "vintage vehicle", upon application to the judge of probate or commissioner of licenses on special application forms prescribed by the Commissioner of Revenue and the payment of a registration fee of ten dollars (\$10), may register the vehicle as a "vintage vehicle" and procure therefor permanent license plates to be issued and displayed on the vehicle.



ORIGINAL YEAR METAL PLATE REGISTRANTS

ATTENTION: It is recommended you wait a minimum of forty-five (45) days before attaching the decal to the metal plate. Despite our best efforts, there is a chance the metal plate assigned to your motor vehicle, truck or motorcycle is assigned to another motor vehicle within the State of Alabama. Should this occur and the State requires us to cancel the registration, the decal issued for your registration must be returned to the office which issued the decal. At that time, we will cancel the transaction and return the plate you surrendered. Bring the notification letter from the State to support the need to cancel the registration.
