

REGISTRATION ISSUES

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT NEW REGISTRATION STICKERS

BILL SEYMOUR: Welcome to DMV Infocast, an audio production of the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. This is Bill Seymour, Infocast editor. Connecticut motorists will soon receive new motor vehicle registration stickers that will be placed inside the windshield rather than on the rear license plate where they are located now. It is an effort to thwart thieves who often target the stickers and sell them. The following are some basic questions and answers regarding the new registration program.

Q. What is a registration sticker and does it expire?

A. All states use a sticker to show that the vehicle is properly registered. It is located on the permanent metal plate, as Connecticut requires, also known as a license plate, or elsewhere on the vehicle. It shows an expiration date for the registration. DMV will now use a windshield sticker to show proper registration and the program will be phased in during the next two years.

Q. Where will the new sticker be located?

A. Drivers will be directed to place the new windshield sticker on the lower inside corner of the driver's side of the front windshield. The sticker will partially destruct upon removal to prevent fraudulent use.

Q. Why is the sticker being removed from the rear license plate?

A. Connecticut police have reported a high incidence of theft of marker plates, also known as plate clipping. The primary reason for relocating the sticker to the inside of the vehicle is to deter and eliminate problems of theft and misuse. Use of invalid plates deprives the state of thieves and may allow individuals to avoid paying municipal property tax. Although owners whose license plates are stolen or clipped may obtain replacement plates, this can be time consuming and inconvenient for them. A task force has

recommended that placing the sticker inside the vehicle will help to eliminate the theft of license plates for their registration stickers.

Q. When will the new stickers be issued?

A. The DMV and licensed car dealers will issue the new windshield stickers with new registrations after September 1, 2006. However, windshield stickers will be mailed started in late July with all paid registration renewals for registrations that expire September the 1st.

Q. What happens to the sticker on the rear plate?

A. DMV advises vehicle owners that they may remove the old sticker and cover it with black marker. There is no obligation to do so though. Proof of a valid or current registration will be both the windshield sticker issued and the certificate of registration mailed after the renewal was paid.

Q. Will the police know that a windshield sticker has been issued?

A. Yes. Police departments will receive updated information from the DMV.

Q. What if a vehicle is sold, transferred or junked?

A. The owner should remove the windshield sticker from the vehicle. The sticker will partially destruct upon removal. DMV is advising owners to attach the remains of the sticker to the certificate of registration and return both to any branch office. DMV may require a customer to complete a lost plate or sticker form, known as an E159, if the customer fails to return the sticker.

Q. What if the windshield sticker is not received from DMV or it is lost or destroyed?

A. Customers can obtain a replacement windshield sticker at any DMV branch office by signing a replacement affidavit.

Q. What happens to the registration when a car is purchased from a dealer?

A. You will either receive a windshield sticker with new plates, or keep your current plates and sticker if you are transferring your plates. Dealers have been instructed by the DMV on the proper procedures for these transactions.

- Q.** What if I purchase a new vehicle from a dealer and I already have a windshield sticker on my current vehicle?
- A.** In this case, the dealer will remove the windshield sticker and will issue a temporary sticker for the new car. DMV will mail a permanent windshield sticker within 60 days.
- Q.** What if I have a windshield sticker and my windshield is replaced?
- A.** The auto glass dealer will provide a temporary windshield sticker valid for 10 days. A permanent windshield sticker can be obtained at any DMV branch office after providing proof, such as an invoice, that the windshield was replaced.
- Q.** What if I drive out of state?
- A.** The windshield sticker, combined with a marker plate and certificate of registration, will be accepted as proof of registration. Several other states also have a windshield location for the expiration sticker.
- Q.** How will DMV prevent fraud?
- A.** DMV has worked to create a windshield sticker with anti-fraud and anti-theft components. People who use fraudulent registration materials are in violation of the law and will be prosecuted.

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