

State of Vermont
Department of Motor Vehicles
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Agency of Transportation

January 19, 2015

Bulletin 15-01

REGISTRATION PLATE VISIBILITY ISSUES

Faded Registration Plates

Any Vermont registration plate faded to a point in which its numbers and letters have impaired identification must be replaced. Owners of vehicles displaying faded registration plates should be notified of the following procedure; plates will be replaced at no cost:

- Vehicle owner should fill out a Replacement Plate Application (*DMV Form TA-VD-16*) available on the Vermont DMV website (www.dmv.vermont.gov) and check the box for two replacement registration plates
- Write “**FADED PLATES**” across the top of the form and check the “faded” box
- Advise vehicle owner they will receive a new set of plates, registration and validation sticker within 3 – 4 weeks. Owners will receive a new plate number unless they have vanity or low number plates (four digits or less). Vanity and low number plates will be replaced at no cost. If an owner wishes to keep their registration number and it is not a vanity or low number, they may do so at a cost of \$10.00 per plate

This procedure only refers to the replacement of faded plates due to the manufacturing process or faulty materials. Lost or damaged plates must be replaced at the cost of the owner.

23 VSA §511(a) states in part...“**number plates shall be kept entirely unobscured, and the numerals and the letters thereon shall be plainly legible at all times.**” Operators of vehicles with faded / damaged registration plates can be ticketed under this section (*DP if one plate is faded \$76.00 or DP2 if both plates are faded \$105.00*).

Faded plates can be dropped off at any Vermont DMV location or mailed to 120 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05603 (Attention Stockroom).

Obstructed Registration Plates

23 VSA §511(a) not only includes the registration plate number (*i.e. – ABC123*), but also includes the State identification (*Vermont*) displayed across the top, the words “*Green Mountain State*” displayed along the bottom and the registration validation sticker. License plate brackets covering any of the aforementioned in any manner which obstructs viewing are unlawful. Operators of vehicles with obstructed registration plates can be ticketed under this section (*DP if one plate is obstructed \$76.00 or DP2 if both plates are obstructed \$105.00*).

Registration Validation Sticker Placement

Registration validation stickers should be affixed to the rear registration plate of the vehicle. 23 VSA §511(b) requires vehicle registration plates with a dimension of approximately 12" X 6" inches to have their affiliated validation sticker affixed in the lower right corner. Registration plates with a dimension of approximately 7" X 4" inches must have their affiliated validation sticker affixed in the upper right corner.

Operators of vehicles displaying a validation sticker in any other location can be ticketed per 23 VSA §511(b) (VSP \$76.00).

Registration validation stickers are designed to self-terminate when removed. It may be necessary for a vehicle owner to request a new validation sticker. Vehicle owners seeking to replace destroyed validation stickers may do so at no cost. To obtain only a replacement validation sticker, vehicle owners should be instructed to complete a Duplicate / Corrected Registration / License or Learner Permit Application (DMV Form TA-VL-15) available on the Vermont DMV website (www.dmv.vermont.gov). Owners / operators should write "VALIDATION STICKER ONLY" across the top and check the box for "stickers needed" and one will be provided. Vehicle owners may also go to any DMV office, present their valid registration card and receive a replacement sticker in hand.

Reporting

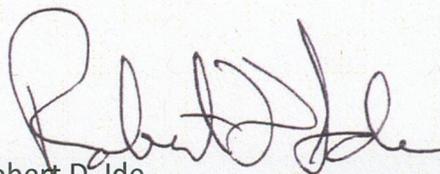
If a vehicle is found to have a newly issued inspection sticker with any of the aforementioned violations, please obtain the inspection sticker number (*located on the front of the sticker*) and notify the Department of Motor Vehicles Enforcement & Safety Division 802-828-2067. Questions regarding this bulletin can also be directed to this number.

Operator Handout

Attached is a copy of a card for officer use with motorists. Officers can check the specific violation(s) identified and provide the card to vehicle owners / operators. The card explains what a vehicle owner / operator must do to rectify the detected violation.

To receive violation cards via mail, contact the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles Stockroom at 802-828-2090 and request the number needed. Or, you can send a request via e-mail to DMV-Stockroom@state.vt.us. If you request cards via e-mail, please be sure to include your agency's mailing address. Orders can also be faxed to 802-828-3723; if faxed, orders must be on department letterhead.

Thank you for your assistance, support and cooperation with this issue.



Robert D. Ide
Commissioner



VT Registration Plate Violations



Faded License Plate(s)

(One or more not properly visible)



Registration Validation Sticker

(Not properly placed or missing)



Obstructed Plate(s)

(Whole plate not visible)



No Front Plate

(Failure to display front plate or missing)

**See back of card for
corrective action
instructions**

You need to act now to correct any registration plate violations.

Here's what to do:

Faded License Plate(s); Complete form TA-VD-16 or TA-VP-169 (replacement plate application) indicating the need for replacement is due to a faded plate and submit it to DMV. A new plate will be provided to no charge.

Registration Validation Sticker; Complete form TA-VD-15 (duplicate registration) to request a replacement sticker. This will be provided at no charge.

Obstructed Plate; Remove any obstructions from the plate area to include plate frame and tinted covers.

No Front Plate; Put the front plate on your vehicle. If you no longer have a front plate request a new one by completing and submitting form TA-VD-16 or TA-VP-169 (replacement plate application). A \$10 fee will apply.

Please contact DMV at 802.828.2000 or visit dmv.vermont.gov for additional information.

