

**SPECIAL PLATES**  
*VEHICLE INDUSTRY REGISTRATION PROCEDURES*

# 21

<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
<b>21.000 Introduction</b>	<b>21-2</b>
<b>21.010 Special Plate Applications</b>	<b>21-2</b>
<b>21.020 Environmental License Plates</b>	<b>21-2</b>
<b>21.030 Special License Plate Retention</b>	<b>21-7</b>
<b>21.040 Amateur Radio Call Letter Plates</b>	<b>21-8</b>
<b>21.050 Former Prisoner of War Plates</b>	<b>21-8</b>
<b>21.060 Antique Motorcycle Plates</b>	<b>21-10</b>
<b>21.070 Arts Council License Plates</b>	<b>21-11</b>
<b>21.080 Bicentennial Bill of Rights License Plates</b>	<b>21-12</b>
<b>21.100 Coastal Commission (Whale Tail) License Plates</b>	<b>21-12</b>
<b>21.110 Commemorative Collegiate License Plates</b>	<b>21-13</b>
<b>21.120 Congressional Medal of Honor License Plates</b>	<b>21-14</b>
<b>21.130 Disabled Person License Plate</b>	<b>21-16</b>
<b>21.140 Disabled Person Parking Placards</b>	<b>21-18</b>
<b>21.150 Disabled Veteran License Plates</b>	<b>21-21</b>
<b>21.160 Exempt Agency Plates</b>	<b>21-23</b>
<b>21.170 Firefighter License Plates</b>	<b>21-24</b>
<b>21.180 Foreign Organization Plates</b>	<b>21-26</b>
<b>21.190 Historic Value Vehicles</b>	<b>21-27</b>
<b>21.200 Honorary Consul Plates</b>	<b>21-28</b>
<b>21.210 Kids (Have a Heart, Be a Star, Help our Kids) License Plates</b>	<b>21-28</b>
<b>21.220 Lake Tahoe Conservancy License Plates</b>	<b>21-30</b>
<b>21.230 Legion of Valor License Plates</b>	<b>21-31</b>
<b>21.240 Legislative License Plates</b>	<b>21-32</b>

<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
<b>21.250 Livery Plates</b>	<b>21-32</b>
<b>21.260 California Memorial License Plates</b>	<b>21-33</b>
<b>21.270 Motorized Bicycle (Moped) Identification Plates</b>	<b>21-34</b>
<b>21.280 Olympic training Center License Plates</b>	<b>21-35</b>
<b>21.290 Pearl Harbor Survivor License Plates</b>	<b>21-36</b>
<b>21.300 Press Photographer License Plates</b>	<b>21-37</b>
<b>21.310 Privately Owned School Bus</b>	<b>21-38</b>
<b>21.315 Temporary Registration for Exempt School Bus</b>	<b>21-39</b>
<b>21.320 Temporary Registration for Privately-owned School Bus</b>	<b>21-40</b>
<b>21.325 Purple Heart License Plates</b>	<b>21-40</b>
<b>21.330 Veterans Organization License Plates</b>	<b>21-41</b>
<b>21.340 Year of Manufacture (YOM) License Plates</b>	<b>21-43</b>
<b>21.350 Yosemite License Plates</b>	<b>21-46</b>
<b>21.360 Reassignment of Special License Plates</b>	<b>21-47</b>
<b>21.370 Transfer of Vehicle with Special License Plates</b>	<b>21-49</b>
<b>21.380 Special License Plate Interchange</b>	<b>21-51</b>
<b>21.390 Conversion of ELP to Special Interest License Plates</b>	<b>21-51</b>
<b>21.400 Duplicate/Substitute Special License Plates</b>	<b>21-51</b>
<b>21.410 Window Decals for Vehicles with Wheelchair Lifts or Carriers</b>	<b>21-53</b>

## Special Plates

### 21.000 Introduction

The department issues a variety of special plates. The information in this chapter answers the more frequently asked questions regarding special plates and special plate applications.

- Refer to *Appendix 1F* for special plate fees. Many of the special plate fees are deposited into a specific fund for that special interest group.
- For more information, refer to the *California Vehicle Code (CVC)* section shown for each license plate.

**NOTE:** Information on Special Equipment plates may be found in Chapter 16, Special Equipment.

### 21.010 Special Plate Applications

Except as noted, a *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17) or a *Special License Plate Application* (REG 17A), plus required fees and additional documents, may usually be submitted **independently** of any other transaction.

- The special license plates will usually be mailed to a field office for pick-up by the owner and assignment of the plate to a vehicle.
- The field office will notify the applicant when the plates are received.
- An application for special plates may also be submitted **in conjunction** with other registration transactions, such as original registration or transfer of ownership.
- A request for special plates must include:
  - the appropriate plate application completed by the requestor,
  - the required fee for the plate, *and*
  - any other documentation that may be required for issuance of the plate as explained in this chapter.

### 21.020 Environmental License Plates (VC §§5101-5106)

Environmental License Plates (ELP) are the basic personalized plate.

- The ELP configuration can be two to seven characters and cannot conflict with another plate series.
- Limitations of the number of characters and other restrictions are listed in this section.
- The configuration restrictions also apply to any special plates that are available as personalized plates.
- The registered owner or lessee of a vehicle may apply for an Environmental License Plate (ELP) separately or in conjunction with a registration application.

**21.020 Environmental License Plates (VC §§5101-5106), *continued***

An ELP may be transferred to another vehicle owned by the recipient.

**Offensive ELP Configurations**

The department **must refuse** special plate requests with any configurations that:

- may carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency, *or*
- which would be misleading based on criteria which includes, but is not limited to, any configuration that:
  - Has been deleted from regular series license plates.
  - Has a sexual connotation or is a term of lust or depravity.
  - Is a vulgar term; a term of contempt, prejudice, or hostility; an insulting or degrading term; a racially degrading term; or an ethnically degrading term.
  - Is a swear word or term considered profane, obscene, or repulsive.
  - Negatively identifies a specific group **or** misrepresents a law enforcement entity.
  - Is a foreign or slang word or term.
  - Is a phonetic spelling or mirror image of a word or term, falling into the categories described above.
  - Has the number **69** unless the year model vehicle to which the plates will be assigned is a 1969.

**Unacceptable ELP Letter/Number Substitutions**

The following letter/number substitutions **are not** acceptable and **will be** rejected if presented:

- Number **1** for the letter **I** and vice versa
- Letter **Q** for the letter **O** and vice versa
- Number **0** for the letters **O** or **Q** (Zero is never allowed)

**Restricted ELP Letter/Number Combinations**

The following license plate configurations **are not** available for ELPs or personalized special interest plates since they conflict with current plate series.

**Restricted Letter/Number Combinations**

<i>Plate Configuration</i>	<i>Example(s)</i>	<i>License Type</i>
<b>Letters in First Position</b>		
1 letter; 1 or 2 numbers	A12	State Assembly
1 letter; 1 or 2 numbers; 1 letter	S99A	State Senate

## Restricted Letter/Number Combinations (continued)

<i>Plate Configuration</i>	<i>Example(s)</i>	<i>License Type</i>
1 letter; 1 or 2 numbers; 1 letter; 1 number (restricted only if first letter is A, S, or C)	C84R1	U.S. Congress
1 letter; 2 numbers; 1 letter; 2 numbers	A12B34	OHV
1 letter; 4 numbers	H1234	Honorary Consul
1 letter; 5 numbers	A12345	Commercial
1 or 2 letters; 1 through 6 numbers (restricted only if the letters are E or SE.)	SE300000	Special Equipment
	E123456	Exempt
1 or 2 letters; 1 number; 1, 2 or 3 letters (restricted only if first letter is A, K, N, or W)	W6AB, WE7XY, or KA6RPZ	Amateur Radio
2 letters; 1 number	US1 & US2	U.S. Senate
2 letters; 1 number; 1 letter	US1A - C US2A - C	
2 letters; 1 number; 1 letter	US1R - US9R	U.S. Senate Retired
2 letters; 1 number; 1 letter; 1 number (restricted only if first two letters are US)	US1R1 - US1R9	
2 letters; 1 through 4 numbers (restricted only if HC or HV and 4 numbers)	HC1004 HV3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horseless Carriage</li> <li>• Historical Vehicle</li> </ul>
2 letters; 3 numbers, 1 letter	HV000A	Historical Vehicle
2 letters; 3 numbers	LV000	Legion of Valor
2 letters; 4 numbers	AF1234 PP0001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trailers</li> <li>• Press Photographer</li> </ul>
2 letters; 5 numbers	DP00000	Disabled Person
3 letters; 4 numbers (restricted only if the three letters are POW)	POW1234	American Ex-Prisoner of War

## Restricted Letter/Number Combinations (continued)

<i>Plate Configuration</i>	<i>Example(s)</i>	<i>License Type</i>
<b>Numbers in First Position</b>		
1 number; 1 letter; 4 numbers	1A1234	Motorcycle
1 number; 1 letter; 5 numbers	1A23456	Commercial
1 number, 2 letters, 4 numbers	2AA0000	Trailer
1 number; 3 letters; 3 numbers	2SAM123	Automobile
2 numbers; 1 letter; 2 numbers	12A34	Exempt Motorcycle
2 numbers; 1 letter; 4 numbers	12A3456	Motorcycle
3 numbers; 2 letters (restricted only to letters AA through E0)	000AA-000E0	Reserved
3 numbers; 3 letters	123SAM	Automobile
4 numbers; 2 letters	0000PH 1234AB 0000DP 0000DV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purple Heart</li> <li>• Vessels</li> <li>• Disabled Person</li> <li>• Disabled Veteran</li> </ul>
7 numbers	1234567	CA Exempt

**Original ELP Application Requirement**

The application must include:

- *Application for Special License Plates* (REG 17) completed by the requestor. The REG 17 **must**:
  - Be complete, including the ELP configuration meaning.
  - Be signed by the requestor (a plate reservation for a gift will be issued in the intended recipient's name).
  - Show the type of vehicle (auto, commercial, etc.) to which the plates will be assigned.
  - Show an asterisk (\*) for a full space and a slash (/) for a half-space. For example, full spaces desired (\*\*TOM\*\*), half-spaces desired (CLEN/AIR).
- Surrender of any plates currently assigned to the vehicle if submitted in conjunction with a registration application.
- ELP original fee (The reflectorized plate fee charged for regular series plates **is not** due.).

**21.020 Environmental License Plates (VC §§5101-5106), *continued***

**Original ELP Application Requirement, *continued***

- If the REG 17 is submitted in conjunction with a registration application, the usual registration and/or transfer documents and fees are required **in addition** to the REG 17 and ELP fee.

<i>If the ELP requested is...</i>	<i>then the department will...</i>
acceptable and available	Reserve the plates and send the buyer a receipt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the reservation is independent of a registration application, the plates will be mailed directly to the buyer in approximately eight weeks.</li> <li>• Otherwise, the plates will be mailed to the field office specified on the special plate application for pick-up and assignment of the plates to a vehicle.</li> </ul>
<b>not</b> acceptable	Issue regular plates and refund the ELP fee with the reason the request cannot be processed.
unavailable	

**Renewal and Reassignment**

Environmental license plates require an additional fee for renewal and for reassignment of the plates to another vehicle.

**21.030 Special License Plate Retention (VC §§5106, 5109)**

- A special plate owner may remove and retain his/her plates without reassigning them to another vehicle provided the plate retention fee is paid each year.
- Failure to pay the annual retention fee may result in loss of priority to the plates and re-issuance of the plates to another person.(VC §5106[b])
- Plate Retention—The requirements are:
  - *A Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17), which shows the personalized special plate and requests retention of the plates.
  - The appropriate retention fee for the special plate (*See Appendix 1F*).
    - » The retention fee for multiple years may be paid.
    - » The fee is due for each year the plates are/were not assigned to a vehicle.

**NOTE:** Some sequential plates do not require a fee for retention of the sequential plates. See *Appendix 1F* and the section for the specific special plate to determine what fees may be due for retention of that special plate.

**21.040 Amateur Radio Call Letter Plates (VC §5005)**

Persons holding an unexpired amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) may apply for **one** set of Amateur Radio Call Letter license plates, which may be assigned to any automobile, commercial vehicle, or motorcycle registered to the licensee.

- The plates **cannot** be assigned to trailers.
- The Amateur Radio Call Letter License Plates belong to the owner and may be transferred to another vehicle.

**Original Plate Application**

The application **must** include:

- A *Special License Plates Application* (REG 17A) completed by the applicant.
- The registration card in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant
- A copy of the applicant’s FCC license showing the class of the operator. The call letters on the license must match the call letters entered on the REG 17A.
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle
- The amateur radio plate fee in addition to any other fees due.

**Renewal and Reassignment**

Amateur Radio Call Letter license plates require an additional fee for reassignment of the plates to another vehicle. There is no additional fee required for renewal.

**21.050 Former Prisoner of War Plates (VC §§324.5, 4001, and 9105)**

- A “former prisoner of war” is any person who, while serving as a member of the United States Armed Forces:
  - as a member of the Philippine Commonwealth Armed Forces, as a part of the United States Expeditionary Force, or a United States citizen,
  - was held as a prisoner of war by forces hostile to the United States during any armed conflict and
  - is currently a resident of California.
- Qualified former prisoners of war may obtain Ex-Prisoner of War (POW) plates for **one** passenger motor vehicle, motorcycle, or commercial motor vehicle with an unladen weight of 8,000 pounds or less, which he/she owns.
- The POW is exempt from payment of **all** fees, except fees for duplicates, on that **one** vehicle only.
  - The vehicle **cannot** be used for transportation for hire, compensation, or profit.
- Vehicles with POW plates are assigned a regular expiration date and must be renewed annually for no fee.
  - The POW plates may be transferred to any vehicle owned by the POW.



**21.050 Former Prisoner of War Plates (VC §§324.5, 4001, and 9105), *continued***

- An individual who qualifies for POW and Disabled Veteran plates **cannot** obtain both.

**Plate Application**

In addition to the usual registration and/or transfer documents and fees, the application **must** include:

- A *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17) completed by the applicant.

**NOTE:** The applicant can request **four** specific numbers. The applicant should indicate two choices on the REG 17 in case the first choice has been issued.

**Evidence of eligibility**

The applicant **must** present written documentation of eligibility, which **must** indicate he/she was held prisoner of war by forces hostile to the United States during a period of conflict.

- Acceptable evidence includes any of the following:
  - A letter of verification from the National Personnel Records Center.
  - An official document marked POW.
  - Discharge papers declaring the bearer to be an ex-prisoner of war.
- Written documentation of eligibility may be obtained by sending a letter with name, birth date, service number or social security number, branch of the service, capture date, capturing country, and any other pertinent information to:

Modern Military Records (NWCTM)  
National Archives at College Park  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, MD 20740

**Retention of Plates by Surviving Spouse**

The surviving spouse of the POW plate owner may retain the plates upon the death of the former POW, and will be eligible for the fee exemption until the death of that spouse (VC §5101.5d).

If there is no surviving spouse, the plates must be returned to the department as indicated in the next section.

**21.050 Former Prisoner of War Plates (VC §§324.5, 4001, and 9105), *continued*****Surrender of Plates required**

The license plates **must be surrendered** to the department within 60 days following the death of the former POW, or surviving spouse, or upon the vehicle expiration date, whichever occurs first.

**Family Heirlooms**

A family member (limited to: parent, step-parent, child, step-child, grandparent, step-grandparent, sibling, or step-sibling) may keep one POW plate as a family heirloom upon the death of the plate owner and the surviving spouse (if any).

- The exemption from registration fees **is not** extended to family members.
- Additional POW plates will not be made for family members as heirlooms.
- A *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) must be submitted to the department by the family member stating his/her relationship to the POW plate holder and that he/she will not use the plate for registration purposes.

**Renewal and Reassignment**

POW license plates **do not** require a fee for renewal or for reassignment of the plates to another vehicle.

**21.060 Antique Motorcycle Plates (VC §5004.5)**

Antique Motorcycle license plates may be issued for motorcycles manufactured in **1942, or prior**.

- These motorcycles are subject to all regular fees and are not available as a personalized plate.
- If ownership of the motorcycle is transferred, the **license plate remains with the motorcycle**.

**Original Plate Application**

The application **must** include:

- A completed *Special License Plate Application* (REG 17A).
- The current registration card in the applicant's name **or** the documents required to register the vehicle in the applicant's name.
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the motorcycle.
- Antique Motorcycle Fee in addition to any other fees due. The reflectorized plate fee **is not** due.

**21.060 Antique Motorcycle Plates (VC §5004.5), *continued*****Renewal**

No additional fee is required for renewal of the Antique Motorcycle Plate.

**21.070 Arts Council License Plates (VC §5074)**

- Arts Council license plates:
  - are available in a sequential series or personalized with two to six characters, *and*
  - may be issued to automobiles, commercial vehicles, and trailers.
- Arts plates are **not** available for motorcycles.
- A qualified existing ELP may be converted to an Arts Council plate.
- The Arts Council plates may be transferred to any vehicle owned by the applicant.

**Original *Personalized* Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- Original Arts Council Personalized Plate fee
- If the REG 17 is submitted in conjunction with a registration application, the usual registration and/or transfer documents and fees are required **in addition** to the REG 17 and Arts Council personalized plate fee.
  - The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle must be surrendered.

**Original *Sequential* Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- The registration card in the applicant's name **or** the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Original Arts Council Sequential Plate fee in addition to any other fees due.

**Renewal and Reassignment**

Arts license plates require an additional fee for renewal and for reassignment of the plates to another vehicle.

**21.070 Arts Council License Plates (VC §5074), *continued*****Retention**

Arts Council license plates, both ELP and sequential, may be retained when the registration is not renewed **if** the plate owner pays the annual retention fee.

**21.080 Bicentennial Bill of Rights License Plates (VC §5101.9)**

- Bicentennial Bill of Rights license plates (four numbers followed by the Liberty Bell and the letters “US”) were issued between July 1, 1990, and December 31, 1991, to automobiles, commercial vehicles, and trailers.
- Bicentennial Bill of Rights plates **are no longer** available for issuance or replacement, but existing plates **may be** reassigned to another vehicle.

**Renewal and Reassignment**

Bicentennial Bill of Rights license plates require an additional fee for renewal and for reassignment of the plates to another vehicle.

**21.090 Coastal Commission (Whale Tail) License Plates (VC §5067)**

Coastal Commission (Whale Tail) license plates are available in a sequential series or personalized with two to seven characters for automobiles, commercial vehicles, and trailers, and two to five characters for motorcycles.

- A qualified existing ELP may be converted to a Whale Tale plate.
- The Coastal Commission (whale Tail) License Plates belong to the owner and may be transferred to another vehicle.

**Original *Personalized* Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- Original Coastal Commission Personalized Plate fee
- If the REG 17 is submitted in conjunction with a registration application, the usual registration and/or transfer documents and fees are required **in addition** to the REG 17 and Coastal Commission personalized plate fee.
  - The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle must be surrendered.

**21.090 Coastal Commission (Whale Tail) License Plates (VC §5067), *continued*****Original Sequential Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- The registration card in the applicant's name **or** the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Original Coastal Commission Sequential Plate fee in addition to any other fees due.

**Renewal and Reassignment**

Coastal Commission (Whale Tail) license plates require an additional fee for renewal and for reassignment of the plates to another vehicle.

**Retention**

Coastal Commission license plates, both ELP and sequential, may be retained when the registration is not renewed if the plate owner pays the annual retention fee.

**21.100 Commemorative Collegiate License Plates (VC §5024)**

Commemorative Collegiate license plates are available in a sequential series or personalized with two to six characters for automobiles and commercial vehicles, and two to five characters for trailers.

- Collegiate plates are **not** available for motorcycles.
- A qualified existing ELP may be converted to a Collegiate ELP. **The only collegiate participant is UCLA.**
- The Commemorative Collegiate License Plates belong to the owner and may be transferred to another vehicle.

**Original Personalized Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- Original Commemorative Collegiate Personalized Plate fee
- If the REG 17 is submitted in conjunction with a registration application, the usual registration and/or transfer documents and fees are required **in addition** to the REG 17 and Commemorative Collegiate personalized plate fee.
  - The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle must be surrendered.

**21.100 Commemorative Collegiate License Plates (VC §5024), *continued*****Original Sequential Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- The registration card in the applicant's name **or** the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Original Commemorative Collegiate Sequential Plate fee in addition to any other fees due.

**Renewal and Reassignment**

Commemorative Collegiate license plates require an additional fee for renewal and for reassignment of the plates to another vehicle.

**Retention**

Commerative Collegiate license plates, both ELP and sequential, may be retained when the registration is not renewed if the plate owner pays the annual retention fee.

**21.110 Congressional Medal of Honor License Plates (VC §5101.6)**

A Congressional Medal of Honor (CMOH) recipient may obtain CMOH plates for **one** passenger motor vehicle, motorcycle, or commercial motor vehicle with an unladen weight of 8,000 pounds or less, which he/she owns.

- CMOH license plates are not available as an ELP.
- The CMOH recipient is exempt from payment of **all** fees, except fees for duplicates, on that **one** vehicle only.
  - The vehicle **cannot** be used for transportation for hire, compensation, or profit.
- Vehicles with CMOH plates are assigned a 12/31 expiration date and must be renewed annually for no fee.
- The CMOH plates may be transferred to another vehicle owned by the recipient.
- An individual who qualifies for two types of plates, such as CMOH plates and Disabled Veteran plates, **cannot** obtain both.

**21.110 Congressional Medal of Honor License Plates (VC §5101.6), *continued*****Original Plate Application**

In addition to the usual registration and/or transfer documents and fees, the application **must** include:

- A *Special License Plate Application* (REG 17A) completed by the applicant.
- A copy of the letter they received when they were awarded the CMOH, or a copy of their service record showing the award.
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.

**Retention of Plates by Surviving Spouse**

Upon the death of the CMOH plate owner, the surviving spouse of the CMOH plate owner may retain the plates and will be eligible for the fee exemption until the death of that spouse.

If there is no surviving spouse, the plates must be returned to the department as indicated below.

**Surrender of Plates required**

The license plates **must be surrendered** to the department within 60 days following the death of the CMOH recipient, or surviving spouse, or upon the vehicle expiration date, whichever occurs first.

**Family Heirlooms**

A family member (limited to: parent, step-parent, child, step-child, grandparent, step-grandparent, sibling, or step-sibling) may keep **one** CMOH plate as a family heirloom upon the death of the plate owner and the surviving spouse (if any).

- The exemption from registration fees is not extended to family members.
- Additional CMOH plates will not be made for family members as heirlooms.
- A *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) must be submitted to the department by the family member stating his/her relationship to the CMOH plate holder and that he/she will not use the plate for registration purposes.

**Renewal and Reassignment**

CMOH license plates **do not** require a fee for renewal or for reassignment of the plates to another vehicle.

**21.120 Disabled Person License Plate (VC §§295.5, 5007)**

- A **disabled person** is any person who:
  - Has lost, or lost the use of, one or more lower extremities **or** both hands.
  - Has a significant limitation in the use of lower extremities, **or**
    - » » a diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs or interferes with mobility, **or**
    - » » is so severely disabled as to be unable to move without the aid of an assistance device.
  - Is blind.
  - Is suffering from lung disease.
  - Is impaired by cardiovascular disease.
- Disabled Person (DP) license plates may be issued at no additional fee for:
  - any/all passenger and commercial vehicles or motorcycles **currently registered** to a qualified **permanently** disabled person, **or**
  - an organization or agency involved in the transportation of disabled persons if the vehicle is **used solely** for the purpose of transporting those persons.
- The DP plates belong to the owner and may be transferred to another vehicle owned by the recipient.
  - A fee is required, however, for substitute DP plates.
- DP plates are **not** issued to temporarily disabled persons.

**Parking Privileges**

Vehicles with DP plates and/or a DP Placard are entitled to certain parking privileges which are not granted to other vehicles (VC §22511.5).

**Certification Card**

A disabled person must present a *Disabled Person or Disabled Veteran License Plate Certification Form* (REG 3060), upon request, to law enforcement or parking enforcement personnel.

- This form verifies the person's eligibility for DP license plates.
- The plate owner must be the driver or a passenger for the vehicle to be eligible for disabled person parking privileges.

**Commercial Vehicles**

- One commercial vehicle with an unladen weight of **8,000 pounds or less** per disabled person, is exempt from the weight fee.
- Any additional commercial vehicles assigned DP plates are subject to all registration fees.



**21.120 Disabled Person License Plate (VC §§295.5, 5007), *continued*****Disabled People with Special Interest Plates**

A qualified permanently disabled person who chooses to have special license plates on his/her vehicle, rather than DP plates, **must** have a DP placard displayed in the vehicle to receive the disabled person parking privileges.

**Government Agency or Private Organization**

Any government agency or private organization providing transportation to disabled persons may obtain DP plates if the vehicle is **used solely** for the purpose of transporting those persons.

**Medical Certification not required**

A medical certification **is not** required for applicants who have been issued California DV plates **or** a California Permanent DP placard.

In this case, write the DV plate or permanent DP placard number on the *Application for Disabled Person Placard or Plates* (REG 195).

**Surrender of Plates required**

DP plates **must be** returned to the department within 60 days of the plate owner's death **or** upon expiration of the registration, whichever occurs first.

**Original DP Plate Application**

In addition to the usual registration and/or transfer documents and fees, the application **must** include:

- A completed and signed *Application for Disabled Person Placard or Plates* (REG 195).
  - The application must include:
    - » » the certification of the applicant's disability by a U.S. physician, surgeon, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife, chiropractor, or optometrist, **and**
    - » » include the California or out-of-state medical number.
  - The signature and medical number of out-of-country medical person is **not acceptable**.
- The current registration card in the applicant's name **or** documents to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- A *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) for issuance of DP plates to an organization or agency that certifies the vehicle is used **solely** for the purpose of transporting disabled persons.
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- No fee is required for the issuance of a DP plate.

**21.120 Disabled Person License Plate (VC §§295.5, 5007), *continued*****Renewal and Reassignment**

Disabled Person license plates **do not** require a fee for renewal or for reassignment of the plates to another vehicle.

**21.130 Disabled Person Parking Placards**

There are several types of Disabled Person Parking Placards:

**Permanent Parking Placard (VC §22511.55)**

For permanent disabilities:

- Valid for two years and expires on June 30, of an odd numbered year.
- A renewal year placard is issued on original applications submitted on or after January 1 of the expiration year.
- A disabled person is **not** eligible for more than one permanent placard at any time.
- No fee.

**Temporary Parking Placard (VC §22511.59b)**

For temporary disabilities:

- Valid for up to 180 days (six months) or until the date noted by the qualified medical person certifying the disability on the application, whichever is less.
- Fee of \$6.
- A maximum of 6 temporary placards may be issued to one person.

**Travel Parking Placard for California Residents (VC §22511.59d)**

- For **California residents** who:
  - currently have a California permanent parking placard, Disabled Person license plates, or Disabled Veteran license plates,
  - are travelling out of California, *and*
  - require an additional placard for travel.
- Valid for 30 days from the date DMV issues it. No fee.

**Travel Parking Placard for Nonresidents (VC §22511.59c)**

For **nonresidents** who are disabled and plan to travel in California.

- Valid for up to 90 days, or until the date noted by the qualified medical person certifying the disability on the application, whichever is less.
- No fee.

**21.130 Disabled Person Parking Placards, *continued*****Automatic Renewal of Permanent Placards**

- A renewal placard and ID card are automatically issued to placard owners prior to June 30, of the expiration year **unless** the Bureau of Vital Statistics records show the owner as deceased.
- The department compares its parking placard records with the Department of Health Services Bureau of Vital Statistics to ensure renewal placards are not mailed to deceased placard owners.

**Government Agency or Private Organization**

- Any city, county, or state government agency or private organization providing transportation to disabled persons may obtain a no-fee parking placard for each vehicle maintained for that purpose.
- The applicant's birth date and a qualified medical person's certification are not required on the application.

**Medical Certification not required**

- A medical certification **is not** required for applicants who have been issued California DV or DP plates.
- In this case, write the applicant's DV or DP plate number on the REG 195.

**Minor Children**

The REG 195 may be signed by the parent or guardian of a disabled minor child.

**Parking Privileges**

A parking placard:

- provides the same parking privileges as Disabled Person license plates, **and**
- may be used in any vehicle transporting the placard owner.

**Surrender of Placards (VC §22511.55)**

A placard must be returned to the department within 60 days of the placard owner's death.

21.130 Disabled Person Parking Placards, *continued***Permanent Placard Application**

The requirements are:

- An *Application for Disabled Person Placard or Plates* (REG 195).
  - The application must include:
    - » » the certification of the applicant’s disability by a U.S. physician, surgeon, physician’s assistant, nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife, chiropractor, or optometrist, **and**
    - » » the California or out-of-state medical number.
  - The signature and medical number of an out-of-country medical person is **not acceptable**.
- A *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) if the applicant is an agency or organization certifying that the vehicle is used to transport disabled persons.

**Temporary/Travel Placard Application**

The requirements are:

- An *Application for Disabled Person Placard or Plates* (REG 195).
  - The application must include:
    - » » the certification of the applicant’s disability by a U.S. physician, surgeon, physician’s assistant, nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife, chiropractor, or optometrist, **and**
    - » » the California or out-of-state medical number.
  - The signature and medical number of out-of-country medical person is **not acceptable**.
  - The certification is **not required** if the application:
    - » » is for a California resident travel placard, **and**
    - » » reflects the current permanent DP placard number or the current DP or DV license plate number.
- Temporary Placard fee. (Travel Placards are no fee).

**Application for DP Plates and DP Placard Submitted at the Same Time**

Permanently disabled persons may use one *Application for Disabled Person Placard or Plates* (REG 195) to apply for DP plates and a permanent DP placard at the same time.

The procedure is:

- Make a photocopy of the REG 195 submitted.
- Use the **original copy** of the REG 195 to process the DP placard application.
- Use the **photocopy** of the REG 195 to process the DP plates application.

**21.140 Disabled Veteran License Plates (VC §§295.7, 5007 and 9105)**

A **disabled veteran** is a veteran who, as a result of an injury or disease suffered while on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces, **and**:

- Has a **service-connected disability rated at 100%** by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, due to a diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs or interferes with mobility.
- Is so severely disabled as to be unable to move without the aid of an assistive device.
- Has lost, or lost the use of, one or more limbs.
- Has permanent blindness, as defined in Section 19153 of the *Welfare and Institutions Code*.

**NOTE:** A disability *compensation* rating **does not** qualify a veteran for Disabled Veteran plates. The applicant must have a **service-connected disability rating** of 100% to qualify for Disabled Veteran plates.

**Disabled Veteran Plates**

A qualified disabled veteran may obtain Disabled Vet (DV) plates for **one** passenger motor vehicle, motorcycle, or commercial motor vehicle with an unladen weight of 8,000 pounds or less, which he/she owns.

- The Disabled Veteran is exempt from payment of **all** fees, except fees for duplicate certificates, plates, or stickers, on that **one** vehicle only.
  - The vehicle **cannot** be used for transportation for hire, compensation, or profit.
- Vehicles with DV plates are assigned a 12/31 expiration date and must be renewed annually for no fee.
- The DV plates may be transferred to another vehicle owned by the recipient.
- An individual who qualifies for two types of plates, such as CMOH plates and Disabled Veteran plates, **cannot** obtain both.

**Certification Card**

A disabled veteran must present a *Disabled Person or Disabled Veteran License Plate Certification Form* (REG 3060), upon request, to law enforcement or parking enforcement personnel.

- This form verifies the person's eligibility for Disabled Veteran license plates.
- The plate owner must be the driver or a passenger for the vehicle to be eligible for disabled person parking privileges.

**21.140 Disabled Veteran License Plates (VC §§295.7, 5007 and 9105), *continued*****Disabled Veterans with Special Interest Plates**

A qualified disabled veteran who chooses to have special license plates on his/her vehicle rather than DV plates **must** have a DP placard displayed in the vehicle to receive the disabled veteran parking privileges.

**Disabled Veterans Who are also Purple Heart Recipients**

- A disabled veteran who is also a Purple Heart recipient may request the DV fee exemption and issuance of Purple Heart license plates in lieu of DV license plates.
- In this case, the applicant must display a Disabled Person Parking Placard in the vehicle to receive the disabled person parking privileges.

**Original Plate Application**

The application **must** include:

- Current registration card in the applicant's name **or** the documents required to register the vehicle in the applicant's name.
- *Disabled Veteran Certification on the Miscellaneous Certifications form* (REG 256A) completed by the applicant.
- Medical Statement for Service-Connected Disabled Veteran form (REV. 5/09 or later) from the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) signed by a CDVA physician, surgeon, ophthalmologist, or chiropractor certifying that the veteran has a service-connected:
  - disability which has been rated as 100% disabled due to a diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs or interferes with mobility, or
  - disability that limits movement without the aid of an assistive device, or
  - loss of or loss of the use of one or more limbs, or
  - permanent blindness as defined in Section 19153 of the Welfare & Institutions Code.
- Surrender of the current license plates.
- No fee is due even if prior fees are due on the vehicle to which the plate is being assigned.

**Surrender of DV Plates required**

DV license plates must be surrendered to the department within 60 days of the disabled veteran's death or by December 31 of the current registration year, whichever occurs first.

**21.140 Disabled Veteran License Plates (VC §§295.7, 5007 and 9105), *continued*****Renewal and Reassignment**

DV license plates **do not** require a fee for renewal or for DV plate reassignment to another vehicle.

**21.150 Exempt Agency Plates (VC §§4001, 4155, 9101-9106)****Qualified Exempt Agencies**

California Exempt (CA Exempt) license plates are issued to vehicles registered, or leased for 30 or more consecutive days, to the following agencies:

- Agencies formed under the Joint Powers Agreement.
- American National Red Cross.
  - Considered to be an agency of the United States Government, it qualifies the same as other federal government agencies.
- Civil Air Patrol. (VC §9106)
- Governments (federal, state, and local).
- Nonprofit Volunteer Fire-Fighting Organizations registered with the county clerk and located in an unincorporated area.
- Quasi-political subdivisions/agencies of the state, such as a bridge district.
- Federally recognized Indian tribes (under a mutual aid agreement with a state, county or other government municipality and used exclusively for fire protection and emergency response.)

**NOTE:** The exempt agency:

- must be shown as the lessee for a leased vehicle to qualify for exempt plates.
- **does not** have the option of paying fees and receiving regular license plates except as shown below.

Vehicles which display CA Exempt plates are assigned an expiration date of 12/31/2099.

**21.150 Exempt Agency Plates (VC §§4001, 4155, 9101-9106), *continued*****Non-qualified Exempt Agencies**

Applicants that have applied for exempt plates in the past which are **not** qualified for exempt registration/plates include:

- Foundations, programs (such as Headstart), and other similar entities (such as senior citizens organizations) **do not qualify** for exempt registration/license plates.
- The Humane Society and the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), which are private organizations (not accountable to a government agency), and **are not eligible** for exempt registration/license plates.

**Application for Exempt Plates**

In addition to the regular registration transaction requirements, an *Exempt License Plate Statement* (REG 5050):

- must be completed and signed by the exempt agency, **and**
- submitted with the application.

**NOTE:** Not all field offices carry exempt plates. In this case, the license plates will be issued by DMV headquarters in Sacramento.

**Regular Series Plates Assigned to Government Vehicles  
(VC §§5001, 5002.6, 5002.7)**

- Regular series license plates may be issued for vehicles exempt from registration fees when requested by an authorized person to DMV.
- The vehicle is issued the same plate series issued for non-exempt vehicles. The issuance of these regular series plates is still no fee.
- The request must be submitted with the original or non-original registration application. Contact DMV for further requirements.

**Exempt Registration to Regular Registration**

- Regular transfer requirements apply when a vehicle is sold by an exempt agency. See Chapter 11, Transfers.
- Full year fees must be submitted and regular license plates are issued unless the applicant requests a “transfer only” or partial year registration.

**21.160 Firefighter License Plates (VC 5101.2)**

Firefighter license plates are available in a sequential series or personalized with two to six characters for automobiles, commercial vehicles, and trailers, and two to five characters for motorcycles.



**21.160 Firefighter License Plates (CVC 5101.2), *continued*****Plate Eligibility**

- A qualified existing ELP may be converted to a Firefighter ELP.
- The Firefighter plates may be transferred to another vehicle owned by the recipient.
- Only regularly employed or retired firefighters or volunteer firefighters may obtain these plates.
  - They **cannot** be purchased by the general public.
- The applicant must be:
  - currently, or retired, in good standing as an officer, an employee, or a member of a fire department, **or**
  - a fire service of the state, a county, a city, a district, **or**
  - any other political subdivision of the state, whether in a volunteer, partly paid, or fully paid status.
- The applicant's principal duties **must** be, or have been prior to retirement, within the scope of active firefighting, and of providing:
  - fire prevention service,
  - fire training,
  - hazardous materials abatement,
  - arson investigation, **and**
  - emergency medical services.
- The applicant's fire department ID card **or** International Association of Firefighters' membership card:
  - **must** be presented, **and**
  - verified as proof of eligibility.

**Original Personalized Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- Original Firefighter Personalized Plate fee
- If the REG 17 is submitted in conjunction with a registration application, the following are required:
  - The usual registration and/or transfer documents and fees.
  - The REG 17 and Firefighter personalized plate fee.
  - The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle must be surrendered.

**21.160 Firefighter License Plates (CVC 5101.2), *continued*****Original Sequential Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- The registration card in the applicant's name **or** the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Original Firefighter Sequential Plate fee in addition to any other fees due.

**Renewal and Reassignment**

Firefighter license plates require an additional fee for renewal and for reassignment of the plates to another vehicle.

**Retention**

Firefighter license plates, both ELP and sequential, may be retained when the registration is not renewed **if** the plate owner pays the annual retention fee.

**21.170 Foreign Organization Plates (CVC §5006.5 and R&TC §10781)**

- Foreign automobiles:
  - owned or leased by an officer or designated employee of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) are issued Foreign Organization plates, **and**
  - are exempt from registration fees and/or use/sales tax, but **are not exempt** from transfer fees, duplicate and/or substitute fees on the vehicle.
- The plates **cannot be**:
  - issued as an ELP or special interest license plate, **and**
  - transferred between vehicles.

**Original Plate Application**

In addition to the usual registration and/or transfer requirements, the application **must** include:

- A *Miscellaneous Certifications* (REG 256A), Taipei Economic and Cultural Office section, completed by the applicant.
- Photocopies of the applicant's:
  - Tax Exemption Card issued by the California Board of Equalization.
  - ID card issued by the U.S. Department of State.

**21.170 Foreign Organization Plates (CVC §5006.5 and R&TC §10781), *continued*****Renewal**

Foreign Organization license plates require no additional fee for renewal.

**21.180 Historic Value Vehicles (CVC §5004 and R&TC §10753.5)**

- Special Horseless Carriage or Historical Vehicle plates may be obtained for vehicles of historic value/interest.
- These plates:
  - are **permanently** assigned to the vehicle, *and*
  - remain on the vehicle when and if ownership of the vehicle is transferred.
  - cannot be reassigned to another vehicle.
  - are subject to the annual registration fee (*including any miscellaneous city/county fees collected with the registration fee*) and a **\$2** vehicle license fee **each** registration year.

**Horseless Carriage Plates**

Issued to motor vehicles with an engine of 16 or more cylinders manufactured prior to 1965 and to any motor vehicle manufactured in the year 1922 or before.

**Historical Vehicle Plates**

Issued to motor vehicles or trailers manufactured after 1922 which are at least 25 years old **and** of historic interest.

- Vehicles assigned Historical Vehicle or Horseless Carriage plates are limited to operation or movement over the highway primarily for the purpose of historical exhibition or other similar, noncommercial purposes, such as parades or historic vehicle club activities.

**Original Plate Application**

In addition to the usual registration and/or transfer requirements, the application must include:

- *Special License Plate Application* (REG 17A) completed by the applicant.
- Registration card in the applicant's name or documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- Surrender of the current license plates.
- Original Historical Vehicle or Horseless Carriage Vehicle license plate fee, in addition to any other fees due.

**21.180 Historic Value Vehicles (CVC §5004 and R&TC §10753.5), *continued*****Renewal**

Horseless Carriage and Historical Vehicle license plates **do not** require an additional fee for renewal.

**21.190 Honorary Consul Plates (CVC §5006)**

Honorary Consuls (U.S. citizens or residents appointed by a foreign jurisdiction), may be issued Honorary Consul plates by the department.

- The plates must:
  - remain on a vehicle currently registered to the Honorary Consul, *or*
  - be surrendered to the department.
- The vehicles have a 12/31/XX expiration date and **must** be renewed annually.
- Honorary Consul license plates belong to the owner and may be transferred to another vehicle.

**Original Plate Application**

In addition to the usual registration and/or transfer requirements, the application must include:

- *Special License Plate Application* (REG 17A) **signed** by the Honorary Consul.
- A certified copy of the Letter of Notification issued by the U.S. Department of State denoting the applicant's Honorary Consul status.
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Fee for original Honorary Consul plate.

**Renewal and Reassignment**

Honorary Consul license plates require an additional fee for renewal and for reassignment of the plates to another vehicle.

**21.200 Kids (Have a Heart, Be a Star, Help our Kids) License Plates (CVC §5072)**

- Kids license plates are available in a sequential series or personalized with:
  - two to six characters for automobiles, commercial vehicles, and trailers, *and*
  - two to five characters for motorcycles.
- **Personalized** Kids plates have a space within the license configuration for a **heart, a star, or a hand**.
  - The customer must choose the symbol **and** placement of the symbol when reserving the plate.

**21.200 Kids (Have a Heart, Be a Star, Help our Kids) License Plates (CVC §5072),  
*continued***

- ***Sequential*** Kids plates have a heart, star, or hand at the beginning of the configuration.
  - The customer must choose the symbol, but there is no choice of where it is placed.
- A qualified existing ELP may be converted to a Kids plate.
- Kids Plates belong to the owner and may be transferred to another vehicle.

**Original Personalized Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- Original Kids Personalized Plate fee.
- If the REG 17 is submitted in conjunction with a registration application, the following are required:
  - The usual registration and/or transfer documents and fees.
  - The REG 17 and Kids personalized plate fee.
  - The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle must be surrendered.

**Original Sequential Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- The registration card in the applicant's name **or** the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Original Kids Sequential Plate fee in addition to any other fees due.

**Renewal and Reassignment**

Kids license plates require an additional fee for renewal and reassignment of the plates to another vehicle.

**Retention**

Kids license plates, both ELP and sequential, may be retained when the registration is not renewed **if** the plate owner pays the annual retention fee.

**21.210 Lake Tahoe Conservancy License Plates (CVC §5075)**

- Lake Tahoe license plates are available in a sequential series or personalized with:
  - two to seven characters for automobiles, commercial vehicles, and trailers,  
*and*
  - two to five characters for motorcycles.
- A qualified existing ELP may be converted to a Lake Tahoe Conservancy plate.
- Lake Tahoe Conservancy Plates belong to the owner and may be transferred to another vehicle.

**Original Personalized Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- Original Lake Tahoe Conservancy Personalized Plate fee
- If the REG 17 is submitted in conjunction with a registration application, the following is required:
  - The usual registration and/or transfer documents and fees.
  - The REG 17 and Lake Tahoe Conservancy personalized plate fee.
  - The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle must be surrendered.

**Original Sequential Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- The registration card in the applicant's name **or** the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Original Lake Tahoe Conservancy Sequential Plate fee in addition to any other fees due.

**Renewal and Reassignment**

Lake Tahoe Conservancy license plates require an additional fee for renewal and for reassignment of the plates to another vehicle.

**Retention**

Lake Tahoe Conservancy license plates, both ELP and sequential, may be retained when the registration is not renewed **if** the plate owner pays the annual retention fee.

**21.230 Legion of Valor License Plates (CVC §5101.4)**

- Legion of Valor license plates may be assigned to vehicles owned by a recipient of any of the following decorations for valor listed below.
  - Army Medal of Honor
  - Air Force Medal of Honor
  - Navy Medal of Honor
  - Army Distinguished Service Cross
  - Air Force Cross
  - Navy Cross
- The plates are **not** available for motorcycles.
- The plates display an adhesive sticker denoting which of the decorations for valor the recipient was awarded.
  - There is no additional fee due for the issuance of Legion of Valor plates.
- The Legion of Valor plates belong to the owner and may be transferred to another vehicle.

**Original Plate Applications**

In addition to the usual registration and/or transfer requirements, the application must include:

- A *Special License Plate Application* (REG 17A).
- A photocopy of the applicant's *Department of Defense (DD) Form DD 214*, **or** service record. The forms must indicate the award of one of the named military decorations.
- The registration card in the applicant's name **or** the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Any fees due.

**Surrender of Plates Required**

Plates must be surrendered to the department:

- within 60 days following the death of the Legion of Valor license plate holder or the surviving spouse, as appropriate, **or**
- upon the vehicle registration expiration date, whichever occurs first.

**Renewal and Reassignment**

Legion of Valor license plates **do not** require an additional fee for renewal or for reassignment of the plates to another vehicle.

**21.240 Legislative License Plates (CVC §5002.8)**

A current or retired federal or state legislator may obtain **fee-paid** Legislative license plates displaying the Legislator’s district number for his/her personal vehicle(s).

- Legislative plates may be transferred between vehicles owned by the Legislator.
- Legislative plates have a permanent 12/31/XX expiration date and must be renewed annually.
- Authority to approve, issue, and reassign Legislative license plates is granted **only** to the Capitol Legislative Office staff.
- **All** Legislative license plate applications **must** be processed at the department’s Capitol Legislative Office.

**21.250 Livery Plates (CVC §§5011.5, 5011.6, and 5011.9, PUC §5371.4)**

- Limousines operated by a charter-party carrier that pick up and deliver airport passengers:
  - are commercial vehicles, *and*
  - **must** display special “Livery” license plates (1ZZA000 through 1ZZZ999).
- All other limousines operating “for hire” are issued regular commercial license plates.
- An additional fee **is not** due for Livery plates.
  - If the request is for an ELP Livery plate, ELP fees **are due**.
  - A qualified existing ELP may be converted to a Livery plate.
- Livery license plates belong to the owner and may be transferred to another vehicle.
- A new set of livery plates **must** be applied for when the vehicle is transferred to a new owner.
  - Although the new owner may qualify for the plates, the plates cannot remain on the vehicle.
  - They must be reassigned to another vehicle or surrendered to the department.

**Livery Limousine Definition**

A livery limousine is defined by the Public Utilities Code (PUC):

- as a luxury **sedan** or **sports utility vehicle** (standard or extended length),
- with a **maximum seating capacity of not more than 10 passengers, including the driver**,
- which transports passengers on a prearranged basis within this state (usually to and from an airport).



## 21.250 Livery Plates (CVC §§5011.5, 5011.6, and 5011.9, PUC §5371.4), *continued*

### Original Plate Application

In addition to the usual registration and/or transfer requirements, the application must include:

- A *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17) completed by the applicant.
- A **valid** PUC Livery Plate Authorization Letter (may list multiple vehicles).
  - The letter or photocopy made by a *department* employee **must** be attached to the application.
- Surrender of the current license plates on the vehicle
- Livery Personalized plate fee, if appropriate.

**NOTE:** If the body type on the registration is other than *LM (limousine)* the following **are also required:**

- Certificate of Title or *Application for Duplicate Title* (REG 227)
- *Vehicle Verification* (REG 31)
- An unladen weight certificate, if the vehicle is not currently registered as a commercial vehicle.
- Prorated weight fees for the number of months remaining in the registration year, if not currently registered commercially.

### Renewal and Reassignment

Livery license plates do not require an additional fee for renewal. Reassignment of the plates to another vehicle is allowed only if the Livery plate is an ELP. In this case, an additional fee is due.

### Retention

- Livery ELP license plates may be retained when the registration is not renewed if the plate owner pays the annual retention fee.
- There is no fee to retain a regular livery plate.

## 21.260 California Memorial License Plates (CVC §5066)

- California Memorial license plates are available in a sequential series or personalized with
  - two to six characters for automobiles, commercial vehicles, and trailers,
  - and*
  - two to five characters for motorcycles.
- A qualified existing ELP may be converted to a Memorial plate.
- Memorial license plates belong to the owner and may be transferred to another vehicle.

**21.260 California Memorial License Plates (CVC §5066), *continued*****Original Personalized Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- Original Memorial Personalized Plate fee
- If the REG 17 is submitted in conjunction with a registration application, the following are required:
  - The usual registration and/or transfer documents and fees.
  - The REG 17 and Memorial personalized plate fee.
  - The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle must be surrendered.

**Original Sequential Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- The registration card in the applicant's name **or** the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Original Memorial Sequential Plate fee in addition to any other fees due.

**Renewal and Reassignment**

Memorial license plates require an additional fee for renewal or for plate reassignment to another vehicle.

**Retention**

Memorial license plates, both ELP and sequential, may be retained when the registration is not renewed **if** the plate owner pays the annual retention fee.

**21.270 Motorized Bicycle (Moped) Identification Plates (CVC §§406 and 5030-5039)**

Motorized bicycles (mopeds) as defined in CVC §406 must be licensed before being operated or moved upon a highway.

- A moped license plate and identification card (ID) are issued which are **not** subject to annual registration.
  - A title is **not** issued.
- A moped capable of attaining speeds in excess of 30 m.p.h. is subject to registration as a motor-driven cycle (motorcycle).
- A registration application **and** the required fees must be submitted if a moped operator is cited for speeds in excess of 30 m.p.h.

**21.270 Motorized Bicycle (Moped) Identification Plates (CVC §§406 and 5030-5039),  
*continued***

- Fees become due upon first operation after modification of the moped to increase its speed to more than 30 m.p.h.

**Original Moped ID**

The requirements are:

- *A Motorized Bicycle Instructions/Application* (REG 230).
- The moped ID fee.
  - A late penalty **is not** assessed and use tax **is not** collected.
  - Exempt agencies are exempt from fees other than for duplicates.
- The REG 230 and fee **must** be mailed to the department at the address on the form.

**Moped Transfers**

- Sections C and D of the REG 230 must be properly completed and mailed with the ID Card and the moped transfer fee to the department at the address on the form.
- A late transfer penalty **is not** assessed and use tax **is not** collected.
- The Moped plate remains on the moped.

**21.280 Olympic Training Center License Plates (CVC §5023)**

- Olympic Training Center license plates are available in a sequential series with either a “stacked” CA or US, or personalized.
  - Plain personalized plates may have two to six characters.
  - A stacked personalized plate may have CA or US in the first position with two to five characters.
- Personalized motorcycle plates are plain with two to five characters.
- A qualified existing ELP may be converted to an Olympic Training Center plate.
- Olympic Training Center license plates belong to the owner and may be transferred to another vehicle.

**Original Personalized Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- Original Olympic Training Center Personalized Plate fee

**21.280 Olympic Training Center License Plates (CVC §5023), *continued*****Original *Personalized* Plate Application, *continued***

- If the REG 17 is submitted in conjunction with a registration application, the following is required:
  - The usual registration and/or transfer documents and fees.
  - The REG 17 and Olympic Training Center personalized plate fee.
  - The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle must be surrendered.

**Original *Sequential* Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- The registration card in the applicant's name **or** the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Original Olympic Training Center Sequential Plate fee in addition to any other fees due.

**Renewal and Reassignment**

Olympic Training Center license plates require an additional fee for renewal or for plate reassignment to another vehicle.

**Retention**

Olympic Training Center license plates, both ELP and sequential, may be retained when the registration is not renewed **if** the plate owner pays the annual retention fee.

**21.290 Pearl Harbor Survivor License Plates (CVC §5101.3)**

Pearl Harbor Survivor (PHS) license plates may be issued for vehicles owned by a qualified Pearl Harbor survivor.

- PHS plates **are not**:
  - issued to motorcycles or commercial vehicles operated for hire, **and**
  - available in a personalized configuration.
- No additional fee is collected for issuance of PHS plates.
- PHS license plates belong to the owner and may be transferred to another vehicle.

**21.290 Pearl Harbor Survivor License Plates (CVC §5101.3), *continued*****Applicant Qualifications**

The applicant must have:

- been a member of the Armed Forces stationed at Pearl Harbor, Island of Oahu, or offshore within a distance of three miles, on December 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55 am to 9:45 am, Hawaii time, *and*
- received an honorable discharge from the military service.

**Surrender of Plates required**

- Upon the death of the PHS plate owner, the surviving spouse may retain the plates.
- The plates **must be** surrendered to the department:
  - within 60 days following the death of the surviving spouse, *or*
  - upon the vehicle registration expiration date, whichever occurs first.

**Original Plate Application**

In addition to the usual registration and/or transfer requirements, the application must include:

- A *Special License Plate Application* (REG 17A) completed and signed by the applicant **and** an officer of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.
- The current registration card in the applicant's name **or** the documents to register the vehicle in the applicant's name.
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Any fees due.

**Renewal and Reassignment**

Pearl Harbor Survivor license plates **do not** require an additional fee for renewal or for plate reassignment to another vehicle.

**21.300 Press Photographer License Plates (CVC §5008)**

Persons regularly employed or engaged as newspaper, newsreel, or television photographers or camera operators may be issued special Press Photographer license plates.

- Press Photographer plates:
  - **cannot** be issued to a trailer, *and*
  - are not available in a personalized configuration.
- Press Photographer license plates belong to the owner and may be transferred to another vehicle.

### 21.300 Press Photographer License Plates (CVC §5008), *continued*

#### Original Plate Application

In addition to the usual registration and/or transfer requirements, the application must include:

- A *Special License Plate Application* (REG 17A) completed by the applicant and **signed by his/her employer**.
- The current registration card in the applicant's name **or** the documents to register the vehicle in the applicant's name.
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Original Press Photographer license plate fee in addition to any other fees due.

#### Renewal and Reassignment

Press Photographer license plates **do not** require an additional fee for renewal but **do** require an additional fee for plate reassignment to another vehicle.

### 21.310 Privately Owned School Bus (CVC §9102.5)

A privately-owned school bus (PSB) is a school bus:

- operated under contract or owned and operated by a private, non-profit educational organization in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Department of Education and the California Highway Patrol (CHP),
- that is used exclusively to transport school pupils at or below 12th grade level, or school pupils and employees, to and from a public or private school, or to and from public or private school activities.

PSB registration expires 12 months from the application date and must be renewed annually.

**NOTE:** A school bus that transports developmentally disabled persons (as defined by the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, Div. 4.5 [starting with Section 4.500] of the *Welfare and Institutions Code*) to or from vocational, pre-vocational, or work training centers sponsored by the State Department of Developmental Services **is not** eligible for PSB registration.

#### Original Plate Application

In addition to the usual registration and/or transfer requirements, the application must include:

- A *School Bus Registration or Permit Application* (REG 123) **signed by:**
  - an authorized agent of the school, *or*
  - vehicle owner or operator, *and*
  - CHP officer who inspected and approved the vehicle for operation as a PSB.

**21.310 Privately Owned School Bus (CVC §9102.5), *continued*****Original Plate Application, *continued***

- The California Certificate of Title or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle. A special series auto plate will be issued.
- PSB fee.

**Renewal**

PSB registration requires:

- the PSB renewal fee.
- a new *School Bus Registration or Permit Application* (REG 123) **signed by:**
  - an authorized agent of the school, *or*
  - the vehicle owner or operator, *and*
  - CHP officer who inspected and approved the vehicle for PSB operation.

**21.315 Temporary Registration for Exempt School Bus (CVC §§5010 and 9266)**

When a motor vehicle leased to a school district for use as a school bus (as defined in CVC §545) temporarily reverts to the possession and control of the lessor and subsequently becomes subject to registration may secure a temporary permit to operate the vehicle for one or more calendar months as an alternative to regular registration.

- The exempt plates will continue to be displayed on the vehicle.
- The fees are based on either the Vehicle License Fee (VLF) classification shown on:
  - the exempt registration card, *or*
  - the vehicle's original cost, *or*
  - its current cost/value, whichever is available.

**Application Requirements:**

- An *Application for Temporary Permit—Privately Owned School Bus* (REG 123) with all information needed to properly identify the exempt vehicle (use the information on the current Registration Card).
  - Enter the Exempt plate number and expiration date at the top of the application.
- A *Statement for Securing Commercial Registration* (REG 590)
- A weight certificate. Not required if the weight is shown on the registration card.
- Fees computed at the rate of 10% of the annual fee for each calendar month or fraction of a month. The fees **are not** prorated for any fraction of a calendar month.

**21.320 Temporary Registration for Privately-Owned School Bus (CVC §9102.5)**

- A Privately-Owned School Bus (PSB) may be issued temporary registration (in addition to PSB registration) for operation of that which would otherwise cause regular registration fees to be due
- The temporary registration must be obtained prior to any commercial operation or the bus becomes subject to regular commercial registration for a 12-month period.

**Application Requirements:**

- An *Application for Temporary Permit—Privately Owned School Bus* (REG 123). Obtain the necessary information from the current Registration Card.
- Weight fees are due if the vehicle will be used to transport persons or property for compensation or profit. A weight certificate is required if the weight is **not shown** on the Registration Card.
- Fees computed at the rate of 10% of the annual fee for each calendar month or fraction of a month. The fees **are not** prorated for any fraction of a calendar month.

**NOTE:** The PSB registration remains valid until the end of the registration year.

**21.325 Purple Heart License Plates (CVC §5101.8)**

Recipients of the Purple Heart may be issued special Purple Heart license plates for any automobile, commercial vehicle, trailer, or motorcycle owned by the recipient.

- Purple Heart plates **cannot** be issued to vehicles operated for hire.
- There is no fee for the issuance of the license plates; however, assignment of this plate on a vehicle does not exempt the vehicle from fees.
  - A Purple Heart recipient, who is also a qualified disabled veteran (DV), may request the DV fee exemption **and** issuance of Purple Heart license plates in lieu of Disabled Veteran (DV) license plates.
  - The DV fee exemption may be used for **one** vehicle only. An applicant who chooses this option **cannot** have DV plates assigned to another vehicle.
- In addition to the requirements for issuance of the Purple Heart plates, the applicant **must** provide the proof of eligibility documentation required for a disabled veteran as shown in section 21.140.
- A Disabled Person Parking Placard **must** be displayed in the vehicle to receive the disabled person parking privileges.



**21.325 Purple Heart License Plates (CVC §5101.8), *continued*****Original Plate Application**

The application must include:

- *A Special License Plate Application* (REG 17A).
- The current registration card in the applicant's name **or** the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- One of the following as proof of the applicant's eligibility:
  - Orders awarding the Purple Heart to the applicant.
  - A copy of the applicant's service record **or** discharge papers showing the Purple Heart award.
  - Certification from a Purple Heart organization.
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Any fees due.

**Retention of Plates by Surviving Spouse**

- Upon the death of the Purple Heart plate owner, the surviving spouse may retain the plates until the death of that spouse.
- If there is no surviving spouse, the plates must be returned to the department as indicated below.

**Surrender of Plates Required**

The license plates must be surrendered to the department:

- within 60 days following the death of the Purple Heart plate owner, or surviving spouse, **or**
- upon the vehicle expiration date, whichever occurs first.

**Renewal and Reassignment**

Purple Heart license plates **do not** require an additional fee for renewal or for reassignment of the plates to another vehicle.

**21.330 Veterans Organization License Plates (CVC §5068)**

- Veterans Organization license plates are available to display veteran status, or support of veterans, in a sequential series or personalized with:
  - two to six characters for automobiles, commercial vehicles, and trailers,  
*and*
  - two to five characters for motorcycles.

**21.330 Veterans Organization License Plates (CVC §5068), *continued***

- An additional space is provided on the plate for a decal of the applicant's choice.
  - No documentation is required.
- A listing of the veteran organization decals is available:
  - on the DMV website, at **www.dmv.ca.gov**, *or*
  - at the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers, Inc. website at **www.cacvso.org**.
- A qualified existing ELP may be converted to a Veterans Organization license plate.
- Veterans Organization plates belong to the owner and may be transferred to another vehicle.

**Original *Personalized* Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- Original Veterans Organization Personalized Plate fee
- If the REG 17 is submitted in conjunction with a registration application, the following is required:
  - The usual registration and/or transfer documents and fees.
  - The REG 17 and Veterans Organization personalized plate fee.
  - The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle must be surrendered.

**Original *Sequential* Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- The registration card in the applicant's name **or** the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Original Veterans Organization Sequential Plate fee in addition to any other fees due.

**Renewal and Reassignment**

Veterans Organization license plates require an additional fee for renewal and for reassignment of the plates to another vehicle.

**21.330 Veterans Organization License Plates (CVC §5068), *continued*****Retention**

Veterans Organization license plates, both ELP and sequential, may be retained when the registration is not renewed if the plate owner pays the annual retention fee.

**Replacement Decal**

A replacement decal may be obtained by submitting a *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17) and a replacement decal fee.

**21.340 Year of Manufacture (YOM) License Plates (CVC §5004.1)**

- Year of Manufacture (YOM) license plates are any officially manufactured California license plates issued in:
  - **1969 or prior**, for autos, trailers, and motorcycles, *and*
  - **1972 or prior**, for commercial vehicles.
- In lieu of the license plates otherwise required for the vehicle, YOM plates may be assigned to any currently registered:
  - **1969 or older** year model auto, motorcycle, or trailer of a **corresponding model year**, *or*
  - **1972 or older** commercial vehicle of a **corresponding model year**.
- The department must determine that the YOM plates are legible and serviceable prior to assignment to a vehicle.
- Vehicles with YOM plates:
  - have full operating privileges, *and*
  - **are not** restricted to participation in historical vehicle activities.
- Kit cars (SPCNS) of vintage automobiles (for example, a replica of a 1928 vehicle) **do not** qualify for YOM plates.
- YOM plates **must be** supplied by the vehicle owner **and** authenticated by DMV personnel.
  - Base year license plates **must have** the appropriate year validation sticker attached to the plate to be authenticated as other than the base year.

**Examples:**

- A 1956 license plate with a 1958 sticker equals a 1958 plate *and* must be placed on a 1958 year model vehicle.
- A 1963 license plate with a 1968 sticker equals a 1968 plate *and* must be placed on a 1968 year model vehicle).

### 21.340 Year of Manufacture (YOM) License Plates (CVC §5004.1), *continued*

- Blue and yellow plates:
  - do not have a specific year model designation, but were not introduced until 1970, *and*
  - therefore are only valid for 1970-1972 year model commercial vehicles.
- Unique plate series, such as exempts, dealers, etc., will be authorized for currently qualified applicants only.

**Example:**

California dealer #103 (if currently licensed) would be allowed to use an authenticated 1956 dealer plate #103 on a 1956 vehicle registered to the dealership. The plates **must** be:

- original (legible and unaltered characters), *and*
- a configuration authorized for the year of the vehicle entered on the application.

- Legitimate YOM plate configurations may be determined by verifying the plate(s) against the plate information contained in *Appendix 1E*.
- The YOM plates must be acceptable by the department and may be rejected by the department if the configuration carries any connotations offensive to good taste or have been restricted or removed from regular series license plates.
  - Two license plates are required for every qualifying vehicle, except trailers or motorcycles require a single plate, **and**
  - The vehicle and the license plate **must be** compatible (for example; a motorcycle plate to a motorcycle).
  - Weight fees **must be** collected on all commercial vehicles.
- Because the department does not have year model information for all historical vehicles, the YOM applicant may have to prove that the year model of the vehicle described in the application is correct.

#### Original Plate Application

In addition to the usual registration and/or transfer requirements, the application must include:

- A *Year of Manufacture (YOM) License Plate Application* (REG 352).
- Authentication of the plates by DMV which requires taking the plates to a DMV field office.
  - The department will also verify that the configuration is not duplicated and already in use on another vehicle.
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Original YOM license plate fee.

**21.340 Year of Manufacture (YOM) License Plates (CVC §5004.1), *continued*****Displaying YOM sticker**

The applicant will be issued a PYR (partial year) sticker showing the month and year of expiration, along with a metal permanent sticker well for displaying the PYR sticker.

- The well must be placed behind the license plate, extending above the upper right hand corner, or, if not possible, placed on the right side of the plate.
- The *original* sticker(s) on the license plate **must not be removed** from the plate, or the validation will be void.

**Transfer of Vehicle Displaying YOM Plates**

- YOM license plates can remain on the vehicle when ownership is transferred if the seller releases interest in the plates to the new buyer on a *Statement of Facts* (REG 256).
- The buyer completes a new *Application for Year of Manufacture Plates* (REG 352).

**Renewal and Reassignment**

YOM license plates require an additional fee for renewal and for reassignment of the plates to another vehicle.

The vehicle must be of the same year model as the vehicle from which the plates are being removed.

**Retention**

YOM license plates may be retained when the registration is not renewed **if** the plate owner pays the annual retention fee.

**Retention of old license plates (not YOM plates) on collector vehicles**

Under specific circumstances, the department may allow a car collector to retain the old plates that were originally assigned to the vehicle.

- The original or photocopy of the California title or registration showing the plate number **originally assigned** to that vehicle **must** be submitted with the application.
- The plate configuration:
  - **must** be available, *and*
  - **not** in a series reserved for issuance as a special interest or other plate series.
- Check with your local DMV office.

**4.350 Yosemite License Plates (CVC §5064)**

- Yosemite license plates are available in a sequential series or personalized with:
  - two to seven characters for automobiles, commercial vehicles, and trailers,  
*and*
  - two to five characters for motorcycles.
- A qualified existing ELP may be converted to a Yosemite plate.
- Yosemite license plates belong to the owner and may be transferred to another vehicle.

**Original Personalized Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- Original Yosemite Personalized Plate fee.
- If the REG 17 is submitted in conjunction with a registration application, the following is required:
  - The usual registration and/or transfer documents and fees.
  - The REG 17 and Yosemite personalized plate fee.
  - The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle must be surrendered.

**Original Sequential Plate Application**

The application must include:

- A completed *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- The registration card in the applicant's name **or** the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Original Yosemite Sequential Plate fee in addition to any other fees due.

**Renewal and Reassignment**

Yosemite license plates require an additional fee for renewal and for reassignment of the plates to another vehicle.

**Retention**

Yosemite license plates, both ELP and sequential, may be retained when the registration is not renewed **if** the plate owner pays the annual retention fee.

**21.360 Reassignment of Special License Plates (CVC §§5108, 5109)**

- A plate owner may reassign his/her special license plates to any vehicle owned and registered to the plate owner.
- Special plates **cannot** be reassigned to another person except as shown in section 21.370.
- The following lists license plates issued to the plate owner:

**Special License Plate List**

Amateur Radio	Lake Tahoe Conservancy	Commemorative Collegiate (UCLA)	Firefighters	Press Photographer
American Ex-Prisoner of War	Legislative	Congressional Medal of Honor	Honorary Consul	Purple Heart
Arts Council	Legion of Valor	Disabled Person	Kids	Veterans Organizations
Bicentennial Bill of Rights	Livery	Disabled Veteran	Olympic Training Center	Year of Manufacture
Coastal Commission (Whale Tail)	Memorial	Environmental	Pearl Harbor Survivor	Yosemite

**Plate Reassignments**

Special plates may be transferred to another new or used vehicle by the owner. The vehicle must be currently registered or renewal fees must be paid.

In addition to the usual registration and/or transfer requirements and fees for the transaction, the application **must** include:

- A *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17) **or** a *Special License Plate Application* (REG 17A) completed by the plate owner showing reassignment of the plates.
- Special plate transfer/reassignment fee, if due.
- Prorated special plate renewal fee, if due.
  - Many special plates have an annual plate renewal fee added to the regular registration fees. When the plates are reassigned and a different registration expiration date is established, additional prorated special plate renewal fees, **or** a prorated credit of the renewal fee, may be required.
  - To determine if an additional renewal fee or a credit of the renewal fee is required, calculate the difference in the number of months between the prior expiration date and the new expiration date.
  - Use the “Monthly Prorated Vehicle License Fees” side of the *Vehicle License Fee Rate Table* (REG 360 or REG 365) to determine the prorated amount due/credit.
  - Locate the annual special plate renewal amount in the “12 Mo” column and then use that row to identify the exact fee amount based on the number of month’s difference in the expiration dates.

21.360 Reassignment of Special License Plates (CVC §§5108, 5109), *continued*Plate Reassignments, *continued*

## EXAMPLES:

**(#1) Prorated Fees Due:**

Plate owner transfers special plates from a vehicle with a 12/16/2009 expiration date to a new vehicle which will be assigned a 10/18/2010 expiration date. If the special plate renewal fee is \$30:

- Determine the difference between the two expiration dates is 10 months and the annual ELP renewal fee is \$30.
- Locate \$30 in the “12 Mo” column on the right side of the REG 360 or REG 365 and collect the amount shown in the “10 Mo” column (\$25)
  - This fee is required in addition to the plate reassignment fee and any other fees due.

**(#2) Prorated Credit Due:**

Plate owner transfer special plates from a vehicle with a 11/30/2010 expiration date to a used vehicle which has an 08/16/2010 expiration date. If the special plate renewal fee is \$40:

- Determine the difference between the two expiration dates.
- Locate \$40 in the “12 Mo” column of the REG 360 or REG 365 and **deduct** the amount shown in the “3 Mo” column (\$10) *from the plate reassignment fee due* and collect the difference (in addition to any other fees due).

## Special Plate Reassignment for Different Type Vehicle

When a special license plate is being reassigned to a different type vehicle, such as auto to a trailer, the following procedures apply in addition to other requirements:

## Special Plate Reassignment

<i>If a special plate is reassigned...</i>	<i>then...</i>
<b>from</b> an auto or commercial motor vehicle <b>to</b> a trailer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one plate must be surrendered with the <i>Special Interest License Plate Application</i> (REG 17), or <i>Special License Plate Application</i> (REG 17A).</li> <li>• a PTI sticker will be issued for the remaining plate.</li> </ul>
<b>from</b> a trailer <b>to</b> an auto or commercial motor vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the <i>Special Interest License Plate Application</i> (REG 17) or <i>Special License Plate Application</i> (REG 17A) must show reassignment <b>and</b> replacement of one plate.</li> <li>• a new replacement plate and a month and year sticker will be issued by the department.</li> </ul>



## Special Plate Reassignment (continued)

<i>If a special plate is reassigned...</i>	<i>then...</i>
<b>to or from</b> a motorcycle	a duplicate plate(s) must be ordered because of the change in the plate size. The additional requirements for the vehicle assigned the special plate are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <i>Special Interest License Plate Application</i> (REG 17) or <i>Special License Plate Application</i> (REG 17A) must be completed for the plate reassignment <b>and</b> the replacement plate(s).</li> <li>• The current plates must be surrendered.</li> </ul>

**Special Plates Removed from a Vehicle:**

When special plates have been removed from a vehicle, and no other special plates are being assigned or reassigned to the vehicle, no fee replacement plates may be obtained by submitting a completed *Application for Replacement Plates, Stickers, Documents* (REG 156) to the department.

**21.370 Transfer of Vehicle with Special License Plates**

Special license plates may remain on a vehicle being transferred if the plate owner of record releases his/her priority. In addition to the usual transfer requirements, the following are required:

- A *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17) or *Special License Plate Application* (REG 17A) completed by the **plate owner of record** showing surrender of the plates **and** release of priority.
- A *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17) or *Special License Plate Application* (REG 17A) completed by the **new owner** for the special license plate.
- Original Special Plate fee, if applicable.

21.370 Transfer of Vehicle with Special License Plates, *continued*

**Special Circumstances**—Use the following guidelines in situations involving special license plates:

<i>For...</i>	<i>then...</i>
transfers between husband and wife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the plates assigned to the vehicle may remain.</li> <li>the relationship <b>must be</b> established on a <i>Statement of Facts</i> (REG 256) that is included in the application.</li> </ul>
repossessed vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the plates <b>must be</b> surrendered to the department.</li> <li>an <i>Application for Replacement Plates, Stickers, Documents</i> (REG 156) completed by the reposessor, dealer, or new buyer.</li> </ul>
divorces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the plates assigned to the vehicle may remain with the vehicle, unless other information or a protest is received.</li> <li>if the person having ownership of the vehicle <b>does not</b> want to retain the plates, a <i>Statement of Facts</i> (REG 256) or <i>Special Interest License Plate Application</i> (REG 17) showing release of interest must be submitted.</li> </ul>
deaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the plates <b>may be</b> inherited with the vehicle. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The relationship <b>is not</b> limited to husband and wife.</li> </ul> </li> <li>the plates <b>must be</b> surrendered, if the applicant is other than an heir. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The heir is the person named on the <i>Certificate of Transfer Without Probate</i> (REG 5) or in the court documents.</li> </ul> </li> <li>the relationship of the transferee must be determined if vehicle ownership is released by an administrator or executor of the estate.</li> </ul>
other family situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the plates may remain on a vehicle transferred between parents, children, and/or grandparents.</li> <li>a <i>Statement of Facts</i> (REG 256) <b>is not</b> required if the transferee has the same surname and the same address.</li> <li>a <i>Statement of Facts</i> (REG 256) <b>is required</b> when the related transferee has a different surname or different address.</li> </ul>

**21.380 Special License Plate Interchange**

An applicant issued two owner-issued special plates may interchange (or exchange) the plates between vehicles owned by that applicant.

- **Both** vehicles **must be** currently registered or have renewal fees paid.
- **Both** plates **must be** owner-issued plates that are permitted to be reassigned from one vehicle to another.

**Plate Interchange Requirements**

For each vehicle:

- A *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17) or *Special License Plate Application* (REG 17A) indicating the plate reassignment information.
- Reassignment fee(s) based on the type of plates.
- Prorated special plate renewal fee(s), if applicable.

**21.390 Conversion of ELP to Special Interest License Plate**

A personalized license plate configuration may be converted to another special license plate, if the configuration is within the number of characters allowed for the series requested.

**Conversion Application**

The requirements are:

- A *Special Interest License Plate Application* (REG 17).
- The registration card in the applicant's name **or** the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- Surrender of the ELP license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Conversion fee, in addition to any other fees due.

**21.400 Duplicate/Substitute Special License Plates (CVC §§4457, 4458)**

Duplicate plates are normally issued for *personalized* special interest license plates. Substitute plates are normally issued for *sequential* special interest license plates.

**Exception:** A duplicate plate **will not** be issued when the application is for one duplicate license plate assigned to a motorcycle or trailer, or for two duplicate plates assigned to an auto or commercial vehicle, unless the vehicle is registered to an exempt agency.

Duplicate plates are always issued to exempt vehicles.

When a duplicate cannot be issued, the owner may select a new configuration for the duplicate fee, or may request regular license plates for no fee.

**21.400 Duplicate/Substitute Special License Plates (CVC §§4457, 4458), *continued***

Follow the chart below to determine the form to used for substitute/duplicate special plates:

**Form Used for Substitute/Duplicate Special Plates**

<i>Form #</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Special License Plate</i>
REG 156	<i>Application for Replacement Plates, Stickers, Documents</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disabled Person</li> <li>• Disabled Veteran</li> <li>• Exempt</li> <li>• Foreign Organization</li> </ul>
REG 17	<i>Special Interest License Plate Application</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arts</li> <li>• Coastal Commission (Whale Tail)</li> <li>• Collegiate</li> <li>• Firefighter</li> <li>• Environmental</li> <li>• Ex-Prisoner of War</li> <li>• Kids</li> <li>• Lake Tahoe Conservancy</li> <li>• Livery</li> <li>• Memorial</li> <li>• Olympic Training Center</li> <li>• Veterans Organization</li> <li>• Yosemite</li> </ul>
REG 17A	<i>Special License Plate Application</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amateur Radio</li> <li>• Antique Motorcycle</li> <li>• Congressional Medal of Honor</li> <li>• Historical Vehicle</li> <li>• Honorary Consul</li> <li>• Horseless Carriage</li> <li>• Legion of Valor</li> <li>• Pearl Harbor Survivor</li> <li>• Press Photographer</li> <li>• Purple Heart Recipient</li> </ul>
REG 88	<i>Application for Special Equipment Identification Plate</i>	Special Equipment Identification
REG 230	<i>Motorized Bicycle Instructions/Application</i>	Motorized Bicycle (Moped)

**21.410 Window Decals for Vehicles with Wheelchair Lifts or Carriers (CVC §5201)**

Window decals (white background with black numbers and/or letters) displaying the license plate number assigned to the vehicle are available for “no fee” to qualified customers who have a wheelchair lift or carrier on their vehicle which obstructs the view of the rear license plate.

To qualify for a decal, the customer **must**:

- Be a Disabled Person (DP) placard holder *or* transport person(s) with a DP placard, **OR**
- Own a vehicle assigned Disabled Person (DP) *or* Disabled Veteran (DV) license plates.

**To apply for a window decal**

- The applicant must complete **Section D** of the *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) stating:
  - the eligible DP placard or DP/DV plate number.
  - the make, identification number, year model, and license number of the vehicle to which the decal will be affixed.
  - the applicant’s name, mailing address, and signature.
- The REG 256 must be mailed to:
  - Department of Motor Vehicles
  - Special Processing Unit MS D238
  - PO Box 932345
  - Sacramento, CA 94232-3450
- Once the decal is manufactured, it will be mailed directly to the requester. The requester must allow six to eight weeks for receipt of the decal.