



12th April, 2011

Changes to vehicle licensing regulations announced by the Minister of Transport, Hon Steven Joyce on April 5th 2011.

Retaining Silver on Black Number Plates

For members looking to put a vehicle back on the road with a “dead” registration and old silver on black plates, life has just got easier.

New regulations which came into force on 1 May 2011 will allow vehicles to be reregistered using the old silver on black plates that were originally on the vehicle.

There are a few conditions –

1. The number on the plates must be still available (sometimes people use a number from a silver on black plate and put it on a personalised plate – in such cases the old plates cannot be re-used as the number has been “taken”)
2. The plates must be in good condition (this is a general rule applying to all plates)
3. You must be able to convince the Registrar of Motor Vehicles (currently the NZ Transport Agency) that the plates originally belonged to that vehicle. The best evidence is the certificate of registration or other paperwork (insurance policy, repair receipts showing the registration number, etc). As an alternative, a photograph of the vehicle when it was previously on the road showing its number plates would be helpful. Another additional option is to provide evidence that the plates have been attached to the vehicle for a long time – a close up photo of rusty bolts holding on the plate might help. So if you were about to take the plates off to clean them and replace the bolts – STOP and take a photo first.

If the plates are badly damaged and cannot be repaired but you can satisfy the other two conditions you still might be able to keep the number. The old number would have to go on the post 1987 series plates (black on white) as the old silver on black plates can no longer be made. Some members might not see this as ideal but an old number such as “BX4846” still looks better on an old car than a very recent one that you might see on the latest Hyundai.

Pre 1964 black on yellow numerical plates and previous series cannot be re-used as those plates are no longer legal.

Any member wanting to have their black and silver plates reinstated should contact the Transport Registry Centre Private Bag 11777, Palmerston North 4442. Attention: Team Leader Business Administration.

Once approval is granted in writing a unique serial number will be allocated to allow the use of the original Silver on Black plates. These plates will be officially assigned to your motor vehicle at a vehicle compliance centre.



P.O. Box 2546, Christchurch. Telephone: (03) 366-4461, Fax: (03) 366-0273 E-mail admin@vcc.org.nz

Or

P.O. Box 114, Katikati, Bay of Plenty. Telephone: (07) 549-4250, Fax: (07) 549-4252 E-mail registrar@vcc.org.nz



Other changes

There is no change to the Exemption from licensing system where members can place a motor vehicle licence on hold when it is not being used on the road.

Changes to vehicle licensing regulations have been made to penalties for those caught by the Police while driving unlicensed vehicles by reducing fines and introducing demerit points.

If a person is caught driving an unlicensed Motor vehicle or Motor Cycle and they do not pay the current Licensing fees after receiving a police ticket, they may be required to surrender their licence plates when putting their vehicles licensing on hold in the future, or they may have their application to put licensing on hold declined. This only applies when a person has abused this right in the past.

The new penalties apply only to those tickets served personally by a Police officer. Police will continue to give a person ticketed for the first time with an unlicensed vehicle a two week grace period to license their vehicle before any penalties apply.

Adhesive labels

A number plate to be fixed to the front of a motor vehicle may be in the form of an adhesive label.

The adhesive label must be an official item supplied only by an appointed manufacturer.

These adhesive labels may not be available to purchase until later this year when manufacturing processes are finalised and equipment become available.

Notification will be made to members when an official date is provided by the Transport Registry Centre.

Only after this future date can members apply for front adhesive labels.

National Registrar

Rod Brayshaw.

