

DEALER AND CONVERTER PLATES & TEMPORARY TAGS

One of the privileges of having a dealer or converter's license is the ability to use metal plates on your inventory vehicles. One of the responsibilities of a licensee is to make sure plates are accounted for at all times. Also, knowing the different rules for the different tags will make life simpler for you and your customer. Failure to abide by these rules will subject a licensee to civil penalties. This brochure outlines the main requirements for dealers and converters who use metal plates and temporary tags.

METAL DEALER PLATES

Metal dealer plates are to be placed only on those vehicles that are in a dealer's inventory. They cannot be used on any vehicle that a dealer is not licensed to sell. Converters may place metal plates on any type vehicle they are engaged in the business of assembling or modifying. The vehicle must have a current inspection. The title must be assigned or registered in the licensee's name. The plates must be displayed in the license plate holder. Signs cannot be displayed on the vehicle. Plates may not be used on a vehicle carrying a load or on service or work vehicles. Vehicles with metal plates can be used for personal business.

Most importantly, licensees are required to keep a log of all metal plates issued to them. The log must identify the metal plate number; the make of the vehicle; the vehicle

identification number; and the name of the person in control of the vehicle. Any plates not in use must be kept in a secure place.

E-TAGS

With the advent of Vision 21 (V21), dealers and converters are required by law to have Internet access at their place of business in order to issue temporary tags. Specific numbers for temporary tags are obtained from V21 and tags are issued by the licensee either by printing out images from V21 or copying the number and forms from the images on the computer screen. **All** tags will have a unique number assigned to them by the V21 database. When the licensee logs on to V21 and receives the number after filling in the vehicle and buyer information, the number will be logged or recorded on V21 in a manner that will allow a licensee to locate the tag at any given time. Licensees have the ability to void tags, reprint tags if necessary and to manage tags by running reports from V21 on their own tag activity. All dealers must use the electronic tag feature and all sales must have an e-tag produced.

All current licensed dealers and converters qualify for a user ID and password to access V21. For more detailed information about Vision 21 and E-tags see the TxDOT website at www.dmv.tx.gov.

DEALER/CONVERTER TEMPORARY TAGS

The dealer or converter temporary tag is an "in-transit" tag. It is used for demonstration drives; transporting vehicles for repair, reconditioning; transporting vehicles to or

from the auction or another dealer; or driving vehicles in parades.

The dealer and converter temporary tags may be used on vehicles that do *not* have a current inspection sticker. The title of the vehicle must be assigned or registered to the licensee. Unlike the metal plate, a vehicle displaying a dealer or converter tag may not be used for personal use, no matter how seemingly innocent. Also, like the metal plate, signs may not be displayed on a vehicle with a dealer or converter tag.

There are two types of dealer temporary tags. A tag may be assigned to an agent, such as a salesman or transport agent or to a particular vehicle. The dealer may assign an expiration date from one to sixty days on any dealer temporary tag. Any number of tags may be assigned to any agent or to any vehicle, but only one tag may be assigned to any specific vehicle at a time.

BUYER'S TEMPORARY TAG

The temporary buyer's tag is only used on vehicles that are sold to a *retail* purchaser and is good for 21 calendar days. The vehicle must have a current inspection. Unlike the metal plate and dealer temporary tags, a retail consumer can display signs and carry a load in a vehicle with a buyer's tag.

INTERNET DOWN TAGS

These are special tag numbers that dealers are allowed to print out in advance and hold for emergency situations such as the Internet going down. These tags must be kept secured

until used. They expire in 12 months if not used but can be replaced as they are used or expire.

When Internet tags are used dealers must enter the sale information into the V21 database within 24 hours in order to obtain additional Internet Down tags.

ALL TEMPORARY TAGS

Licensees have many options as to how they can issue a temporary tag with the specific number obtained from V21.

1) A licensee may manually copy the information provided by V21 to pre-printed cardboard tags with the information drawn with a permanent thick black marking pen.

(2) A licensee may print the image of the V21 tag on paper or other material. If the material is not weather-resistant then the tag must be placed in a sealable 2 mil poly bag.

ALL temporary tags are now required to be placed in the area of the rear license plate holder. Rear window placement is no longer allowed.

ALL temporary tags must be secured to the vehicle in such a manner as to prevent flapping at high speeds.

A licensee is responsible if an agent misuses any temporary tag or gives it to another individual.

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TEMPORARY TAGS & METAL DEALER PLATES



Enforcement Division
P.O. Box 2063
Austin, Texas 78768-2063
512-416-4911 or 888-368-4689