

CUSTOM VEHICLE AND STREET ROD FAQs

1. What is the statutory definition of a custom vehicle or street rod?

Texas Transportation Code, Sec. 504.501:

Custom Vehicle is defined as a vehicle that is at least 25 years old and of a model year after 1948; or manufactured to resemble a vehicle that is at least 25 years old and of a model year after 1948; and that has been altered from the manufacturer's original design or has a body constructed from materials not original to the vehicle.

Street Rod is defined as a vehicle that was manufactured before 1949; or after 1948 to resemble a vehicle manufactured before 1949; and that has been altered from the manufacturer's original design, or has a body constructed from materials not original to the vehicle.

2. Who can apply for the Custom Vehicle or Street Rod specialty license plates?

Any vehicle owner with a vehicle that meets the definition of a custom vehicle or street rod, and has been issued or is applying for a Texas title with the brand "REPLICA," or an original, true vehicle that meets the definition of a custom vehicle or street rod. A replica is an assembled vehicle representing an established make of a previous year model vehicle.

3. I assembled a replica vehicle that meets the definition of a street rod (1948 and earlier). Can I apply for a title that includes the make and model year my street rod resembles?

Yes, in fact, the title must include the year and make it represents. The title will indicate the year the vehicle was assembled and the make as ASVE (Assembled Vehicle). It will also include a "REPLICA" brand that contains the model year and make the assembled vehicle resembles. The following evidence must be presented to apply for Texas title:

- *Application for Texas Title*, Form 130-U;
- Ownership documents for each major component part (frame, motor, and body);
 - If ownership evidence for each component part is not available, a bonded title application is required.
- *ASE Safety Inspection and Application for Custom Vehicle or Street Rod License Plates*, Form VTR-852, with inspection completed and signed by an Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Certified Master Automobile Technician;
 - Must include the ASE Certified Master Automobile Technician's *ASE Certifications Status* printout showing, at minimum, the A1 through A8 certifications and all eight (8) of the required certifications as current (unexpired) at the time of the inspection.
- *Rebuilt Vehicle Statement*, Form VTR-61;
- Verification of the serial number or VIN of each major component part (frame, motor, body);
 - Acceptable verifications include a photograph, pencil tracing, or *Application for Assigned or Reassigned Number*, Form VTR-68-A.
- Certified weight certificate;
- Proof of liability insurance (if applicable);
- Three photos of the replica vehicle (front, rear, and side); and
- One photo of the motor vehicle that it resembles.

4. What is an acceptable ownership document for the major component part that contains the VIN or serial number the vehicle will be titled by (usually the body for a passenger vehicle)?

- Original or Certified Copy of Title
- Manufacturer's Certificate of Origin
- Vehicle Verification or Registration Receipt and Bill of Sale (if from a non-titled state)
- Court Order
- Tax Assessor-Collector Hearing

5. What is an acceptable ownership document for the major component parts by which the vehicle will not be titled (usually the motor and frame for a passenger vehicle)?

- Original or Certified Copy of Title
- Manufacturer's Certificate of Origin
- Vehicle Verification or Registration Receipt and Bill of Sale (if from a non-titled state)
- Court Order
- Tax Assessor-Collector Hearing
- Bill of Sale
- Invoice

6. I currently have a replica vehicle with a title that states the make is "ASVE" (Assembled Vehicle), the model year is the year it was assembled, and my vehicle meets the definition of a custom vehicle (or street rod). How can I correct my title to include the make and model year that my custom vehicle (or street rod) resembles and obtain the specialty plates?

In this situation, a corrected title must be applied for to add the "REPLICA" brand and record the year and make it resembles. However, you will be responsible for the applicable title fees (\$28/\$33). To apply for a corrected title, the following documents must be submitted:

- Original Certificate of Title or a Certified Copy of Title;
- *Application for a Texas Title*, Form 130-U;
- *ASE Safety Inspection and Application for Custom Vehicle or Street Rod License Plates*, Form VTR-852, completed and signed by an ASE Certified Master Automobile Technician;
 - Must include the ASE Certified Master Automobile Technician's *ASE Certifications Status* printout showing, at minimum, the A1 through A8 certifications and all eight (8) of the required certifications as current (unexpired) at the time of the inspection.
- Proof of liability insurance (if applicable);
- Three photos of the replica vehicle (front, rear, and side); and
- One photo of the motor vehicle that it resembles.

7. Does my custom vehicle or street rod have to be inspected?

Yes, if applying for Street Rod or Custom Vehicle specialty plates, an ASE inspection by a **Certified Master Automobile Technician** is required. In addition, an *ASE Safety Inspection and Application for Custom Vehicle or Street Rod License Plates*, Form VTR-852, must be completed and signed. However, once approved for either plate, the vehicle is exempt from the annual Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) safety inspection unless the vehicle ownership transfers.

8. Can I just go to any DPS inspection station and have this inspection done?

No, the inspection must be performed by an ASE Certified Master Automobile Technician.

9. Can I have any ASE certified technician perform the inspection?

No, the safety inspection must be performed by an ASE Certified Master Automobile Technician with valid, current (unexpired) certifications at the time of inspection. Master status is established by passing the ASE Automobile Test Series (A1 through A8).

10. My custom vehicle passed the ASE safety inspection two (2) months ago and I just sold it. Does the new owner need to get another ASE safety inspection?

Yes, any time that the title is transferred to a new owner, the buyer must get a new safety inspection

performed by an ASE Certified Master Automobile Technician in order to qualify for Custom Vehicle or Street Rod specialty plates.

11. Can I transfer my Custom Vehicle or Street Rod vehicle specialty plates?

No, Custom Vehicle or Street Rod specialty plates are non-transferable. If the vehicle is sold or traded and the buyer wants to obtain the specialty plates, they must have the vehicle inspected again and apply for the appropriate specialty plate at the county tax assessor-collector's office.

12. I purchased a vehicle that is already branded as a "REPLICA;" however, I do not want the Custom Vehicle or Street Rod specialty plates. Can I put regular passenger plates on my replica vehicle?

Yes, you may register your vehicle with regular passenger plates; however, you will not be exempt from the annual DPS safety and emissions (if applicable) inspections.

13. How do I find an ASE Certified Master Automobile Technician that will inspect my vehicle?

Many automotive service shops have ASE certified technicians on staff. It is recommended that you call the shop in order to verify that they have an ASE technician with a valid Certified Master Automobile status and that they will perform the inspection. The ASE Certified Master Automobile Technician must have current (unexpired) certifications on tests A1 through A8 at the time of inspection. To locate an ASE technician, visit www.ase.com, go to the CAR OWNERS tab, and click on "Find an ASE Blue Seal Facility Near You."

14. My vehicle has passed the ASE safety inspection. What do I need to submit in order to get a Custom Vehicle or Street Rod specialty plate?

If the vehicle meets the definition of custom vehicle or street rod and has a Texas title that is branded "REPLICA," a completed *ASE Safety Inspection and Application for Custom Vehicle or Street Rod License Plates*, Form VTR-852, must be submitted to the county tax assessor-collector's office.

If the vehicle meets the definition of custom vehicle or street rod and is newly assembled, refer to question 3 for the requirements to obtain a Texas title. If the vehicle meets the definition of custom vehicle or street rod and does not have a Texas title that is branded "REPLICA," refer to question 6 to obtain the properly branded Texas title.

15. Is there a fee for the Custom Vehicle or Street Rod specialty plate?

There is no plate fee for the specialty plate; however, registration and local county fees still apply.

16. Can I personalize my plate?

Yes, for an additional personalization fee of \$40 per year.

17. Can I submit the photos of my vehicle and the vehicle it is supposed to resemble electronically?

No, electronic submissions are not accepted.

18. Do I also need an annual safety inspection from a DPS inspection station?

No, not if you are applying for Custom Vehicle or Street Rod license plates. The vehicle is exempt from the annual DPS safety and emissions inspection for the duration that it displays the Custom Vehicle or Street Rod plates. It is recommended that a copy of the completed VTR-852 be kept in the vehicle at all times.