

Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Smart Series

eTAG Misuse

Tips for Motor Vehicle Dealers – Avoiding eTAG Violations

Overview

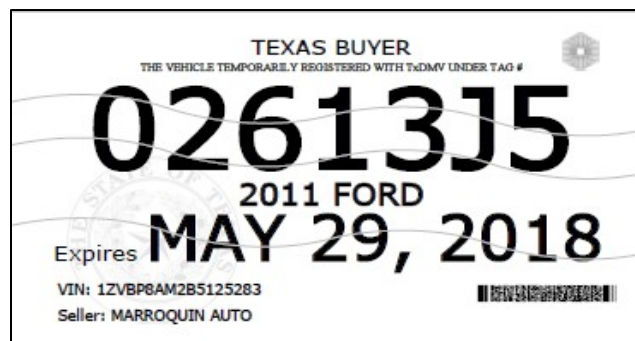
The eTAG system is designed to make processing temporary tags fast and easy for dealerships throughout the state, while making temporary tag information available in almost real-time to law enforcement. The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) is dedicated to helping dealers remain compliant with use of the eTAG system. TxDMV wants you to be a “Smart Dealer.” The purpose of this topic is to advise licensed dealers of the types of temporary tags available in the system and their permissible uses, to provide guidance on how to keep access to temporary tags and the dealer’s eTAG account secure, and to inform licensed dealers of practices that may lead to violations for misuse of temporary tags or the temporary tag database.

Types of Temporary Tags & Permissible Uses

The four types of temporary tags available in the eTAG system include buyer, dealer-vehicle specific, dealer-authorized agent and internet down temporary tags.

Buyer Tag

The buyer’s tag is issued with a retail sale of a vehicle in the dealer’s inventory. The dealer must enter the vehicle’s and the buyer’s information into the eTAG system. The system then assigns a specific tag number to the transaction, which can be printed out in the form of a temporary registration tag.



- Only **one** buyer tag may be issued for each retail sale
- Vehicle must have current inspection if titled in Texas
- MUST be displayed and secured in rear license plate holder
- MUST keep Buyer Tag Receipt in vehicle until registered

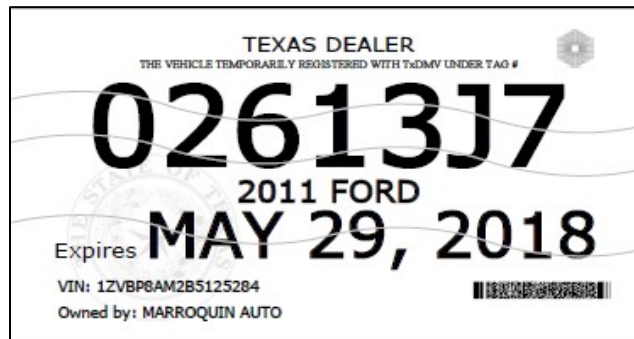
- If tag is damaged, lost or stolen, void original tag- must enter reason in remarks, then create new buyer tag with **Original Sale Date**.
- Vehicle can display signs and carry loads
- Tag is valid for 60 calendar days
- Dealer required to apply for title/registration within 20 working days from the date of sale or 45 calendar days if Seller financed. (Must hold finance license-OCCC)
- Dealer required to collect \$5 fee from each buyer issued a buyer eTAG for in-state and out-of-state sales
- Do Not issue dealer tags on a retail purchase
- Do Not offer for sale **any** temporary tags
- Do Not issue tags for vehicles not in your dealer inventory

Dealer-Vehicle Specific & Authorized Agent Tags

Dealer tags may be issued and affixed to a vehicle in the dealer's inventory used for vehicle demonstration, transit from dealer-to-dealer, travel to auction or on a loaner car assigned to a consumer whose vehicle is being repaired.

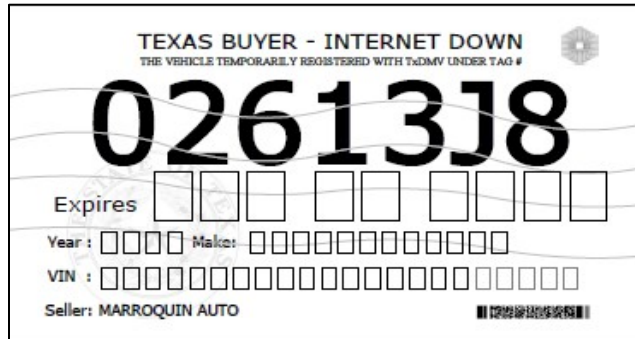
When sending a vehicle to the auction, a dealer may wish to issue a vehicle specific tag for the specific vehicle that will be driven to the auction to be sold. Additionally, vehicle specific tags contain the vehicle's VIN number and cannot be moved from vehicle to vehicle.

Conversely, upon entering into a written agreement with its agent or employee, a dealer may issue an authorized agent tag. This tag may be moved from vehicle to vehicle and does not contain a vehicle VIN number.



- MUST be displayed and secured in rear license plate holder
- Does NOT need current inspection
- CANNOT display signs on vehicle
- Valid from 1 to 60 days
- Title must be in name of or assigned to dealership
- Do Not affix to vehicle carrying a load
- Do Not use for personal business
- Do Not affix to vehicles sold in a retail sale in place of a buyer tag.

Internet Down Tags – Internet Down Tags are issued when the internet or eTAG system is down. These tags *must* be printed prior to the system being unavailable. After printing, the tags must be kept in a secure location. The tag must be manually filled out prior to affixing the tag to the purchased vehicle. The dealer is responsible for ensuring that the tag is assigned to the purchaser in the eTAG system within 24 hours of when the system becomes available in order for the proper customer information to appear in the event the customer is stopped by law enforcement. Same requirements and uses as a buyertag.



- Do Not issue additional tags on a previous retail sale
- Do Not offer for sale **any** temporary or internet down tags
- Do Not issue tags for vehicles not in your dealer inventory
- Do Not allow unrestricted personnel access to tags

Safeguarding Temporary Tags

In an attempt to prevent fraud and/or misuse of temporary tags, all eTAGS have multiple security features. However, all dealers should create security policies that ensure that vehicle specific or authorized agent tags are not placed on vehicles left in dealer lots overnight. This prevents theft of tags, counterfeiting and toll violations attributed to the dealer.

Dealers have the ability to select the duration a vehicle specific or authorized agent tag is valid; between 1 to 60 days. All tags, including internet down tags, should be locked up and secured.

eTAG Account Access

When a dealer license is approved, a user name and password is sent to the email address provided during the eLicensing application process. The dealer's primary eTAG user will have the ability to act as system administrator for the dealer. The administrator can assign separate user names and passwords for each employee allowed to utilize the eTAG system at the dealer's licensed location. It is vital that user names and passwords are not shared by dealer employees.

A licensed dealer is responsible for any eTAG violations committed by one of its users. The administrator should disable any user who is terminated or who has left the employment of the dealership.

Misuse

It is a misuse of the eTAG system to:

- Offer for sale any temporary tags
- Issue multiple buyer tags for an individual retail sale
- Issue a dealer tag for a vehicle purchased in a retail sale
- Issue temporary tags for any vehicle not in dealer's inventory
- Print/use temporary tags for personal use
- Make copies of temporary tags

Please contact us at the address listed below for any additional information or questions.

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Please see other topics in the Smart Series to help you make the best decision possible. The department is always interested in new ideas or tips that will make this tool more useful for consumers. If you have a suggestion on how to make this topic more helpful for consumers, or if you have an idea for a topic, please send your suggestion to: Enforcement@TxDMV.gov.