



Texas Department of Transportation

VEHICLE TITLES AND REGISTRATION DIVISION • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78779-0001 • (512) 465-7611
January 14, 2000

Registration and Title Bulletin # 5-00

TO: All County Tax Assessor-Collectors

SUBJECT: Revised Form 68-A, *Application for Assigned or Reassigned Number*

PURPOSE

To advise you of the revised Form VTR 68-A, *Application for Assigned or Reassigned Number*. A copy of the new form is attached for your reference. Also attached are revisions to the Transportation Code §501.151 in the Vehicle Title Manual.

DETAILS:

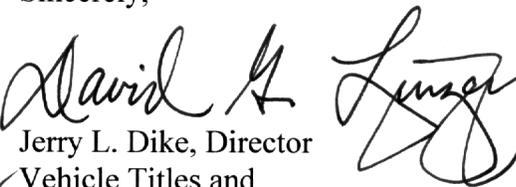
This form has been revised to ensure uniformity of the inspection process. Only trained Auto Theft Investigators of certain law enforcement agencies or the National Insurance Crime Bureau Vehicle Theft Investigators may certify the authenticity of inspected vehicles.

A supply of the new form, with a revision date of 01/00, will be shipped to VTR Regional Offices and Headquarters Offices under separate cover. Upon receipt, please destroy all prior versions and begin utilizing the new version immediately.

CONTACT(S)

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your local Vehicle Titles and Registration Division Regional Office. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,


for Jerry L. Dike, Director
Vehicle Titles and
Registration Division

Attachments

cc: Texas Association of Vehicle Theft investigators
All Law Enforcement Agencies



APPLICATION FOR ASSIGNED OR REASSIGNED NUMBER

THIS SPACE FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

Type of Number Issued

- Reassigned Manufacturer's VIN
- Assigned VIN
- Trailer
- Component Part _____
- Motor Number as VIN
- Motorcycle VIN
- Travel Trailer
- Equipment

Approved By: _____

Number Assigned: ↓

The applicant hereby applies for an assigned number to be affixed to the following motor vehicle, component part, or equipment:

- Motor _____ Year and Make of Motor
- Transmission _____ Year and Make of Transmission
- Frame _____ Year and Make of Frame
- Body _____ Year Make Body Style

If above part is installed in applicant's vehicle, the following must be completed:

Make _____ Model _____ Year _____ Body Style _____ Title/Document Number _____

Vehicle Identification Number _____

License Number _____ State of Issuance _____ Month & Year of Expiration _____

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared the owner (as evidenced by the attached document or documents) of the vehicle, part, or equipment described above, who, in accordance with the provisions of Transportation Code §501.033, is hereby applying for an assigned number to be affixed to such vehicle, part, or equipment. The undersigned further deposes and upon oath states that he is the rightful owner of the above described vehicle, part, or equipment and that the information given above by him is true and correct.

Name of Applicant Street Address City State Zip Code

SEAL

Signature of Applicant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, _____ Year

Notary Public in and for _____ County, Texas

WARNING! TRANSPORTATION CODE §501.155 PROVIDES THAT FALSIFYING INFORMATION ON ANY REQUIRED DOCUMENT IS A THIRD-DEGREE FELONY.

INSPECTION REPORT TO BE EXECUTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

- This inspection covers: (Check ALL appropriate statements) Motor Vehicle Component Part Only Motor Vehicle Motorcycle Frame
- Motorcycle Motor Travel Trailer Trailer Semitrailer Part is installed in applicant's vehicle Equipment
- Part is not installed in applicant's vehicle Manufacturer did not assign identification number to the _____ (Show part[s] as applicable)
- Vehicle assembled from parts for which no identification number was ever affixed to body, if motor vehicle, or to frame, if motorcycle, travel trailer, trailer, or semitrailer.
- Number assigned by manufacturer for identification purposes has been removed, changed, or obliterated.
- Unable to determine the true manufacturer's number. (Explain in "REMARKS" below.)

REMARKS: (Describe alterations. Additional remarks may be made on reverse side.)

I personally inspected the vehicle, part, or equipment described above and found the true and original manufacturer's identification number to be _____, or I was unable to determine the true manufacturer's identification number.

My official ID number is _____ with →

Printed Name of Officer Phone Number

Signature of Officer Date

(City/County)

- Municipal Police Auto Theft Unit
- County Sheriff's Department Auto Theft Unit
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- National Insurance Crime Bureau
- Texas Department of Public Safety - MVTs

THE FEE OF \$2.00 AND THE EVIDENCE OF OWNERSHIP MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.

← SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. →

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATIVE TO APPLYING FOR ASSIGNED AND REASSIGNED NUMBERS

This application and inspection report must be completed in full and either mailed or presented to the nearest Vehicle Titles and Registration Division Regional Office **along with the evidence of ownership and the required \$2.00 fee.** (Refer to the list of office locations below.)

A photograph must accompany this application if being submitted for an assigned or reassigned number for:

- A Homemade or Shopmade Trailer or Semitrailer,
- A Homemade or Shopmade Travel Trailer, and
- A Rebuilt or Assembled Vehicle

If the application is for a "Reassigned Manufacturer's Vehicle Identification Number," or a "Motorcycle Frame Number," the completed application and inspection report, the evidence of ownership, the \$2.00 fee, and the **vehicle** must be **taken** to the nearest Vehicle Titles and Registration Division Regional Office for the assignment and installation of the reassigned number.

IMPORTANT! If the number which was placed on any vehicle or component part thereof by the manufacturer for identification purposes has been removed, changed, or obliterated and the true identity of such vehicle or part, insofar as ownership is concerned, cannot be established, determination of ownership in the form of a court order from a court of competent jurisdiction must accompany this application before an assigned number may be issued. (Refer to Transportation Code, §501.033) **No** assigned number will be issued to any component part for which an identification number was not originally placed thereon by the manufacturer, **unless** such number constitutes the vehicle identification number of the vehicle in which it is installed.

NOTE: A copy of this form **MUST** accompany the title transaction.

The Texas Department of Transportation maintains Vehicle Titles and Registration Division Regional Offices as follows:

Abilene	(915) 734-5120	Longview	(903) 753-6279
Amarillo	(806) 358-0469	Lubbock	(806) 745-8888
Austin	(512) 465-7445	Midland/Odessa	(915) 337-4434
Beaumont	(409) 842-5875	Pharr	(956) 781-3291
Corpus Christi	(361) 882-8867	San Angelo	(915) 947-9330
Dallas/Carrollton	(972) 471-0884	San Antonio	(210) 615-1776
El Paso	(915) 591-8149	Waco	(254) 752-1152
Fort Worth/Arlington	(817) 649-5938	Wichita Falls	(940) 720-7754
Houston	(713) 681-6637		

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

Transportation Code § 501.152.

Sec. 501.152. Sale or Offer Without Title Receipt or Title.

(a) Except as provided by this section, a person commits an offense if the person:

- (1) sells, offers to sell, or offers as security for an obligation a motor vehicle registered in this state; and
- (2) does not possess the title receipt or certificate of title for the vehicle.

(b) It is not a violation of this section for the beneficial owner of a vehicle to sell or offer to sell a vehicle without having possession of the certificate of title to the vehicle if the sole reason he or she does not have possession of the certificate of title is that the title is in the possession of a lienholder who has not complied with the terms of Section 501.115(a) of this code.

Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 165, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1995. Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 296, § 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Furthermore, no person in this State may offer for sale any motor vehicle registered out-of-state without having in his or her possession a title or registration receipt if the motor vehicle is from a nontitle state. (Refer to Section 501.030.)

- I. Prior to October 1, 1939, motor vehicles were not required to be titled; but beginning with the effective date of the Certificate of Title Act, October 1, 1939, motor vehicle owners were given until January 1, 1942, to obtain title for any motor vehicle purchased subsequent to January 1, 1936. After January 1, 1942, under the provisions of this Section, a tax collector shall not register or reregister a motor vehicle until the applicant presents a Texas title in his name or verification from the department that Texas title has been issued in his name or evidence of ownership assigned to such applicant and in such event be required to then and there apply for title in his name. However, an owner who purchased a new motor vehicle prior to January 1, 1936, may register or renew such registration upon presenting to the tax collector a previous year's registration receipt showing "exempt" in the title number space.
- II. If an owner wishes to sell such an untitled motor vehicle, he shall secure title in his name and submit in support of the application for title one (1) of the following:
 - A. A Prescribed Form of Affidavit of Ownership, Form D12-261, executed by the owner as of October 1, 1939; and such owner and the first applicant shall be one and the same person. If, however, such owner as of October 1, 1939, is deceased, the executor, the administrator, or all the heirs shall execute the affidavit stating that the vehicle was owned by the deceased on October 1, 1939.
 - B. A 1939 or previous year's registration receipt in the applicant's name.
 - C. A bill of sale in the name of the applicant and dated prior to October 1, 1939.
 - D. A statement from the tax collector that a 1939 or previous year's registration receipt in the name of the applicant is on file in the tax collector's office. Such statement shall describe the motor vehicle. If such evidence as listed above is not in the applicant's name, the first application shall be executed and filed by the person whose name appears on such evidence as owner of the motor vehicle on October 1, 1939; and no further transfer may be made until Texas title shall issue.

- D. Upon approval of the Application for Assigned or Reassigned Number, Form 68-A, a Notice of Assigned Number or Installation of Reassigned Vehicle Identification Number, Form 68-N, along with a copy of the completed Form 68-A is either mailed or given in person to the applicant. The evidence that accompanied the Form 68-A is returned to the applicant at this time.
- E. The assigned number appearing on the Form 68-N is die-stamped on the vehicle as follows:
1. The number should be die-stamped on the left front doorpost of the vehicle.
 2. If the left front doorpost is inaccessible due to the construction of the vehicle, as in the case of some assembled or stripped down vehicles, the number is die-stamped on a portion of the frame forward of the passenger compartment on the driver's side of the vehicle.
 3. If the vehicle is a Volkswagen or if a Volkswagen floorpan was used in the vehicle construction, the assigned number is die-stamped on the frame tunnel in the vicinity where the manufacturer's vehicle identification number was located.
 4. If an assigned number is issued to a motorcycle, the number is die-stamped on the frame down tube near the steering head, adjacent to the assigned number decal.
- NOTE: In no instance shall an assigned number be die-stamped in the space where the original number appeared.
- F. After the assigned number has been die-stamped on the vehicle, the owner must sign the Form 68-N and contact his County Tax Assessor-Collector to file an application for title. (Refer to paragraph II, Section 501.032.) The completed Form 68-N and evidence establishing ownership to the vehicle must support the application for title.

Transportation Code § 501.151.

- D. In any instance when a vehicle does not have a valid manufacturer's vehicle identification number, the County Tax Assessor-Collector is not authorized to accept an application for title and/or registration until such time as an identifying number has been reissued or assigned by this department.
- E. Correction of title is not necessary when the original manufacturer's vehicle identification number is reissued by the department. However, if the evidence of ownership to the vehicle is assigned to the applicant, an application for title must be filed with the applicant's County Tax Assessor-Collector after the reassigned number is installed by the department.

IV. Assigned Vehicle Identification Numbers (TEX Prefix Numbers)

Texas Assigned Vehicle Identification Numbers (TEX Prefix Numbers) are issued for 1956 and later model motor vehicles and for Ford products manufactured since March 31, 1932. The numbers are affixed to vehicles on which no identification numbers are ever affixed by the manufacturers; or the original manufacturer's vehicle identification number has been removed, changed, or obliterated; or the true identification number cannot be verified.

TEX Prefix Numbers may be issued provided ownership is determined in the name of the applicant. Such numbers are also issued for all assembled vehicles that require assigned numbers and for motorcycles. Assigned vehicle identification numbers shall consist of the prefix "TEX" followed by six digits and shall be die-stamped on the vehicle in a location prescribed by the department.

- A. Applications for assigned vehicle identification numbers (TEX Prefix Numbers) must be made on an Application for Assigned or Reassigned Number, Form 68-A. The inspection report provided on this form must be completed in full by a law enforcement officer who is a member of one of the following agencies:
 - 1. Municipal Police Auto Theft Unit;
 - 2. County Sheriff's Department Auto Theft Unit;
 - 3. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI);
 - 4. Texas Department of Public Safety Motor Vehicle Theft Services; or
 - 5. National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) Vehicle Theft Investigators.

Completion of the form by a member of one of these agencies insures uniformity of the inspection process and requires that only trained Auto Theft Investigators certify the authenticity of inspected vehicles.

- B. If the manufacturer's vehicle identification number has been removed, changed, or obliterated and the true identity of the vehicle cannot be determined by the inspecting officer, a court order will be required to establish ownership.
- C. The Form 68-A, together with evidence establishing ownership, or a copy of a court order establishing ownership in the applicant's name, plus a \$2.00 fee may be either mailed or submitted in person to the nearest Vehicle Titles and Registration Division Regional Office.

NOTE: With reference to the term "rightful owner" as used in the above paragraph, the applicant shall be recognized as the rightful owner; and no further determination need be made if the identification number recorded on the evidence of ownership submitted by the applicant ties in with the true identification number affixed to the vehicle or component part for which the assigned number is applied. This determination, as a general rule, shall be arrived at by the department through a comparison of the evidence of ownership submitted by the applicant against his assigned number application and the inspection report executed by a law enforcement officer or member of the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). In the event the identification number shown on the evidence of ownership submitted cannot be tied in with the true identification number on the vehicle or component part and the true identity of such vehicle insofar as ownership is concerned, cannot, therefore, be determined, a court order from a court of competent jurisdiction determining ownership must be attached to the application before an assigned number may be issued. A Justice of the Peace can award and order ownership to a vehicle ONLY if in accordance with Chapter 47, Code of Criminal Procedures and if the vehicle is alleged to have been stolen (Refer to Section 501.135).

III. Issue of Manufacturer's Vehicle Identification Number

In the event the vehicle identification number on a Ford product manufactured since March 31, 1932, or on any other 1956 or later year model passenger car, truck, trailer, or semitrailer has been removed, changed, or obliterated, the department will reissue the original manufacturer's vehicle identification number, provided such number can be verified by a law enforcement officer (city police, sheriff's department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, or Department of Public Safety) or by a member of the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB).

- A. Application to reissue the original manufacturer's vehicle identification number shall be made on Application for Assigned or Reassigned Number, Form 68-A, which is a combined application and inspection report. The inspection report must be completed by the law enforcement officer or member of the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) who inspected the vehicle and verified the identity of such vehicle.
- B. If the manufacturer's vehicle identification number is verified, the application, evidence of ownership, and the vehicle must be taken to the nearest Vehicle Titles and Registration Division Regional Office for issuance and installation of the reassigned number. A Texas vehicle identification number decal bearing the same vehicle identification number as originally placed on the vehicle by the manufacturer will be affixed to the vehicle by a representative of the department. Such numbers will be mounted upon the left doorpost of the vehicle. After the reassigned number has been installed, the owner will be required to sign a Notice of Assigned Number or Installation of Reassigned Vehicle Identification Number, Form 68-N, acknowledging that the reassigned number was actually installed on his vehicle.
- C. For trailers, semitrailers, and house (travel) trailers on which the manufacturer's serial number has been removed, changed, or obliterated, the applicant will take the completed Application for Assigned or Reassigned Number, Form 68-A, \$2.00 fee, and the trailer, semitrailer, or house (travel) trailer to the nearest Vehicle Titles and Registration Division Regional Office. On trailers and semitrailers, the reassigned VIN decal will be affixed to the permanent part of the trailer on the lower front right side. On house (travel) trailers, the reassigned VIN decal will be affixed on the right front of the frame, on an open part and in an accessible place which extends beyond the body.