

Dear TACs and Dealers,

Please review and distribute as appropriate.

Now that Texans can transfer their license plates when they sell or trade in a vehicle, it's important that we encourage them to do so in order to keep the customer protected; stop the pile up of plates that must be discarded; and reduce the risk of stolen license plates, which recently happened at a large Metroplex dealership.

When customers transfer the license plates to another vehicle, they can be assured that license plate number stays assigned to them, and cannot be used by anyone else.

Recently, we had license plates stolen from a dealership. Even though the plates had been defaced with a permanent marker, it is unsettling to everyone that criminals might find a way to use those license plates.

The best way to avoid this is to help customers transfer the license plates. It helps law enforcement, and manufacturing fewer plates saves taxpayer money and is good for the environment.

Dealerships that purchase vehicles outright instead of taking them in trade may find themselves with quite a few plates. Our license plates are aluminum, which makes them a recyclable product. Deface the plates with a permanent marker and take them to a local recycling company.

In some counties, the TAC is allowing dealers to bring discarded license plates to the county tax office. Most recycling companies do pay for the aluminum.

Our TxDOT recycling coordinator offers these links to help you find a local scrap metal recycler: www.superpages.com, www.yellowpages.com, or www.earth911.org. There is also a recycling director maintained by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality at www.recycletexasonline.org.

Plate-to-owner protects all our customers, but it's a two-step process for safety:

1. Remove the license plates so the customer is protected from such things as parking tickets and toll violations that happen after the customer sold or traded in the vehicle.
2. Transfer the customer's license plates to a new or another vehicle the customer owns so those plates are always assigned to the customer, protecting him and her from any misuse by another person.

Thanks to all of you for your support and helping customers to transfer the plates for their protection.

TACs, please share this with your dealers. Thanks.

--Rebecca

If you have any comments or suggestions concerning this VTR communication process, please contact your local VTR Regional Office.

If you would like to see previous postings from the "VTR Electronic Archives," please visit <http://extlists.dot.state.tx.us/pipermail/vtr-tac/>.

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Posted 5/6/08