



# **Texas Department of Transportation**

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

March 19, 2001

## **Registration and Title Bulletin # 029-01**

**TO:** All County Tax Assessor-Collectors

**SUBJECT:** The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and Cross Border Traffic Provisions

### **Purpose**

To provide general information and frequently asked questions about NAFTA and the provisions of cross border traffic, including the issuance of NAFTA Annual Permit license plates.

### **Details**

There are many questions regarding the pending implementation of NAFTA. In an ongoing effort to respond to these questions, we developed a packet containing information on procedures for issuing the NAFTA Annual Permits and other relevant information. Additional questions and responses will be addressed later, as needed. We will continue to revise and distribute pertinent information as USDOT provisions are finalized.

The following is a list of the major components of our implementation of NAFTA:

- Foreign truck tractor/semitrailer combinations operating according to the combination rule (truck with manufactured rated carrying capacity in excess of 1-ton used or to be used with a semitrailer greater than 6,000 pounds) are issued only one NAFTA Annual Permit plate. The plate is displayed on the front of the power unit. An annual permit windshield sticker will be issued and should be affixed to the windshield in the same manner as the regular windshield sticker. (We will send the Form VTR 135-C, the English and Spanish version concerning the appropriate placement of the windshield sticker at a later date). No permit is required on the semitrailer. The fee for the NAFTA Annual Permit plate is based on the combined gross weight of the vehicles.
- Foreign straight trucks and or trailers/semitrailers that do not meet the criteria for operation in combination as stated above require a NAFTA Annual Permit plate for each vehicle. The fee for the truck will be based on the gross weight of the truck, and the fee for the trailer will be based on the gross weight of the trailer. A NAFTA Annual Permit plate and windshield sticker will be issued for the truck; and, a NAFTA Annual Permit plate with a license plate month sticker will be issued for the trailer. The plate for the trailer should be displayed on the rear of the trailer.
- NAFTA Annual Permits will be issued for a period of one year and only provide legal motor vehicle registration for travel in Texas.
- Local fees (including county road and bridge and child safety) and the \$1.00 automation fee are not applicable.
- Diesel fees are collected accordingly.
- Proof of liability insurance must be provided at the time a NAFTA Annual Permit is issued.
- NAFTA Annual Permits may be purchased at any of the 17 Regional Offices, or at any of the counties listed on the attachment.
- Other counties interested in selling the NAFTA Annual Permits should contact your local Regional Office.
- 72/144-hour temporary permits may be issued according to existing procedures in lieu of the NAFTA Annual Permits, if the registrant prefers.

**County Action**

We are attaching a packet of information for issuing NAFTA Annual Permits, including the temporary RTS procedures and an initial list of counties that will be selling the permits. The procedures call for the counties to either fax or mail a copy of the Form VTR-29-NAFTA to our Vehicle Data Management Branch (VDM). Upon receipt of the mailed or faxed information from the county, VDM will update the NAFTA Annual Permit information in the department's automated database. The Additional Collections/Time Lag event will be used to account for the fees.

NAFTA Annual Permit plates and annual permit windshield stickers will not be tracked by the RTS inventory system. Therefore, receipt of the plates may not be acknowledged through the RTS "Inventory" event. Instead, receipt will be acknowledged by signing the license plate invoice and forwarding it to your local VTR regional office (a photocopy may be made for your records). The regional office will maintain the original invoice in a file for future inventory audit purposes.

**TxDOT Action**

At present, we are only sending NAFTA Annual Permit plates and stickers to the counties that have made the decision to issue the permits.

**Contacts**

If you have further questions, please contact your local TXDOT Vehicle Titles and Registration Division Regional Office. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Jerry L. Dike, Director  
Vehicle Titles and  
Registration Division

Enclosure

cc: Commission  
Administration  
District Engineers, Attn: PIOs & Permit Office  
International Relations Office  
Motor Carrier Division  
Public Information Office  
Travel Division

DPS, Attn: Colonel Thomas Davis &  
Major Coy Clanton

USDOT, Attn: Dave DeCarme

FHWA, Attn: Dave Martin

**PICK UP**

Date: March 21/01

Time: 1:58 PM

Name: Rafael Garcia

Name: Rafael Garcia

Re: RTB 029-01

4 BOXES LG  
1 BOX Sm

★ BOOKS - 438

Norma Nanyes  
Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT)  
VTR Operations Branch – 4000 Jackson – Bldg 1

\* Any left over books,  
return to TXDOT.

Thanks!

Quantity of originals 2 Number of sheets when completed 1

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(no) - INSERT BOOKLET W/LETTER INTO LG. ENVELOPE.

SEE SAMPLE ATTACHED