

810-5-1-.247 Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) Inspections.

(1) All vehicles being titled for the first time in Alabama and all non-titled vehicles being registered for the first time by the license plate issuing official must be physically inspected by the license plate issuing official to ensure that the VIN is properly recorded on the application for certificate of title and/or vehicle registration. The physical inspection requirements do not apply to the following:

- (a) Registration renewals;
- (b) Vehicles registered pursuant to Section 32-6-56, Code of Alabama 1975 (IRP-registered vehicles);
- (c) Vehicles registered in this state during the current year or within the previous two calendar years;
- (d) Vehicles owned by a manufacturer, dealer or wholesaler and held in inventory which are properly registered with dealer, dealer transit or manufacturer license plates.
- (e) Utility trailers as defined in Section 40-12-240, Code of Alabama 1975, and rule 810-5-1-.240.

(2) License plate issuing officials may appoint a government official located in Alabama or a law enforcement officer as a deputy for the purpose of inspecting a motor vehicle and completing Department of Revenue Form MVT 5-10, Motor Vehicle Inspection by a Government Official. The government official, or law enforcement officer, must verify the vehicle identification number (VIN), make, year, model, body type, number of cylinders, color, and odometer reading of the vehicle by signing the form.

(3) All vehicles must have a unique VIN. It is the registrant's responsibility to ensure that the VIN is permanently affixed to the vehicle. The VIN must be 17 characters for 1981 and later year model motor vehicles, in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Chapter V, Part 565. The VIN is not required to be 17 characters for trailers.

(4) Required ownership documentation for first time registrations for vehicles not required to be titled in Alabama is a bill of sale that contains the minimum requirements established in Department of Revenue Administrative Rule 810-5-1-.246. The VIN on the vehicle must be compared to the VIN appearing on the ownership documentation to ensure that the correct vehicle is being registered.

(5) Guidelines on where to locate the VIN on the vehicle:

(a) Passenger vehicles/pickup trucks – driver’s side windshield or inside driver’s door jamb.

(b) Motorcycle – on front fork.

(c) Trailer – on trailer frame or tongue.

(d) Assembled vehicles – driver’s door jamb.

(e) 1954 and prior year vehicles – inner fender well or driver’s door post. Motor number is to be used as VIN if there is not a VIN plate on the vehicle.

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