

810-5-8-.06 Mandatory Liability Insurance Registration Suspension, Reinstatement, and Revocation Procedures

(1) The department shall suspend a vehicle registration in accordance with §32-7A-12, Code of Ala. 1975, and electronically provide a current list of suspended registrations to local licensing officials authorized to collect Mandatory Liability Insurance (MLI) reinstatement fees. Local licensing officials may not register, renew, or transfer a registration appearing on the list of suspended registrations until the registration is reinstated in accordance with §32-7A-12 and §32-7A-17, Code of Ala. 1975.

(2) Reinstatement of Suspended Registrations.

(a) If the vehicle was not insured on the insurance verification date, as described in §32-7A-7, Code of Ala. 1975, the registrant must apply to their local licensing official to reinstate the registration upon payment of the reinstatement fee required under §32-7A-12, Code of Ala. 1975, and provide evidence of current insurance coverage in accordance with §32-7A-17, Code of Ala. 1975.

(b) If the vehicle was insured on the insurance verification date, the registrant must apply to their local licensing official to reinstate the registration without payment of a reinstatement fee by providing evidence of insurance coverage on the insurance verification date in accordance with §32-7A-12, Code of Ala. 1975.

(c) Evidence of insurance is acceptable in a name other than the registered owner name(s) if the vehicle identification number (VIN) on the motor vehicle and on the evidence of insurance match.

(d) Upon reinstatement, the local licensing official shall, upon request by the registrant, provide the registrant with a Notice of Registration Reinstatement Receipt. The Notice of Registration Reinstatement Receipt is valid thirty (30) calendar days from the date of issuance and provides the registrant or driver of the vehicle with proof of registration reinstatement and compliance with the MLI law for the vehicle. The Registration Reinstatement Receipt is not acceptable as a substitute for an Alabama Motor Vehicle Registration Tag and Tax Receipt. Any erasures or other alterations of the information on the receipt will render it void.

(e) Local licensing officials shall deny registration for a vehicle when the registrant attempts to avoid the registration suspension and payment of reinstatement fees through transfer of vehicle ownership to a spouse or dependent, or to another entity for which the registrant has an ownership interest.

(f) Reinstatement fees collected by local licensing officials less the amount to be retained by the local licensing official as provided by §32-7A-12, Code of Ala. 1975, must be remitted to the State Comptroller on or before the twentieth (20th) day of the month following the month that the reinstatement fees were collected.

(3) Exemption from the Reinstatement Fee.

A registrant may claim the stored, inoperable, or otherwise unused exemption from the reinstatement fee, as provided under §§32-7A-5 and 32-7A-11, Code of Ala. 1975, once during a registration period by applying to the local licensing official to revoke the vehicle's registration for the remainder of the registration period and be exempted from the registration reinstatement fee. Failure to comply with all requirements of this paragraph, unless an extension is granted under paragraph (4), will result in suspension of the registration and require payment of the reinstatement fee.

(a) To claim the exemption prior to a lapse in coverage as provided in §32-7A-5, Code of Ala. 1975, the registrant must surrender the registration and associated license plate to the licensing official along with a completed Request for Registration Revocation Form (MV 32-7A-5).

(b) To claim the exemption from the reinstatement fee due to a lapse in coverage, the registrant must surrender the license plate, along with the registration receipt and Mandatory Liability Insurance Affidavit, within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the Mandatory Liability Insurance Verification Notice unless the registrant qualifies for an extension of this time frame as provided in paragraph (4).

(c) Upon meeting the requirements of paragraph (3), the local licensing official will revoke the registration for the remainder of the registration period and exempt the registrant from the registration reinstatement fee, provided the owner complies with the requirements under §32-7A-11, Code of Ala. 1975. The licensing official must include the revocation record in the data uploaded to the state registration database.

(d) Registration fees may not be credited or refunded for a license plate surrendered pursuant to §§32-7A-5 and 32-7A-11, Code of Ala. 1975. The local licensing official shall maintain all documentation submitted to substantiate the exemption from the reinstatement fee. The surrendered license plate shall be disposed of in a manner as prescribed by the department.

(e) In the event the vehicle is no longer stored or inoperable, a new registration and license plate must be obtained prior to operating the vehicle. Registration fees will be due; however, no reinstatement fee will be required.

(4) Extension to Claim Exemption from the Reinstatement Fee.

(a) A registrant may be granted an extension by the licensing official of the initial thirty (30) day in which to claim the stored, inoperable, or otherwise unused exemption if the registrant was unable to respond due to "good cause" as a result of one of the following circumstances being in effect at the time the initial thirty (30) day period expired:

1. Registrant, by evidence of military orders, was stationed or deployed outside Alabama.

2. Registrant was incarcerated.

3. Registrant was hospitalized or otherwise medically incapacitated.

4. The vehicle was impounded by law enforcement.

5. If the licensing office in the county where the vehicle was registered was closed at any time during otherwise normal operating hours within the time period that the registrant was authorized to surrender the license plate, the time period as otherwise provided for in this rule for surrendering the license plate shall extended through the last business day of the subsequent month.

(b) To qualify for an extension of time under this paragraph, within thirty (30) calendar days from the date the claimed good cause event ceases the registrant must:

1. Apply for the stored, inoperable, or otherwise unused exemption with the local licensing official in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (3)(b) by completing the Mandatory Liability Insurance Affidavit (Form MV 32-7A-11).

2. Provide sufficient evidence of the claimed good cause event and event end date to the local licensing official.

The required documentation to claim the extension must be loaded as evidence to the department's MLI system.

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Authority: §§ 40-2A-7(a)(5), 32-7A-1, 32-7A-3(b), 32-7A-5, 32-7A-7, 32-7A-11, 32-7A-12, and 32-7A-17, Code of Ala. 1975.

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