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MEMORANDUM

2009-27

TO: License Plate Issuing Officials

FROM: Jay Starling, Registration Manager
Motor Vehicle Division

SUBJECT: Utility Trailers

Act 2009-281 amended Section 32-8-31(11), Code of Alabama 1975, to provide that no certificate of title shall be issued for utility trailers, other than folding or collapsible camping trailers designated 1990 and subsequent year models. The change in the title law promotes the registration of utility trailers by removing any issues regarding the titling of these vehicles. This memorandum is to clarify the term "utility trailer" for registration purposes.

Section 40-12-240(26), Code of Alabama, 1975, defines a utility trailer as "a trailer **primarily designed to be drawn by a passenger car or pickup truck**, including luggage trailers, folding or collapsible camping trailers, and other small trailers of similar size and function, but shall not include boat trailers." The term "drawn by" means pulled or towed by attaching the trailer tongue to the rear bumper hitch of a passenger car or pickup truck. Section 32-8-2(14.1) defines a pickup truck as "a truck with not more than two axles and a gross weight not exceeding 12,000 pounds." **It is important to note that there are no length, weight, or axle requirements to consider when determining whether or not a trailer can be registered with a utility trailer (UT) license plate.**

If a trailer has a gooseneck or is attached to the power unit by a fifth wheel, the trailer must be registered with a trailer (TR) license plate. Trailers of this type also qualify for permanent trailer license plates; however, **permanent trailer license plates may not be issued to utility trailers.**

Please contact the Registration Section of the Motor Vehicle Division at tags@revenue.alabama.gov or (334) 242-9006 if you have any questions regarding the registration of utility trailers.