

Alabama Department of Revenue

News Release
June 29, 2006

July 1 Means Lower Registration Fees for Some Truck Owners

Montgomery—A new state law which goes into effect July 1 may mean lower motor vehicle registration fees for some pickup truck owners, according to the Alabama Department of Revenue.

Beginning July 1, pickup truck owners who use their vehicles for personal or agricultural use will register their vehicles and pay registration fees based on the actual weight of the pickup truck, excluding any carried or towed weight loads. Permanently-attached equipment and accessories such as tool boxes or winches, however, are included in determining the actual weight of the vehicle.

Prior to July 1, registration fees for pickups or trucks used for personal or agricultural use were based on the “gross weight” of the vehicle, which included the actual weight of the pickup truck, as well as the heaviest load that would be carried or towed by the truck, as well as the weight of any towed equipment or trailer.

“This change will significantly lower the registration fees for many truck owners,” explained State Revenue Commissioner Tom Surtees. “For example, before July 1, a truck with a weight of 5,000 lbs., used for personal use to tow a travel trailer weighing 12,000 lbs. required the owner to purchase an X1 license plate and pay registration fees totaling \$170 annually, based on the combined gross weight of the truck and the travel trailer. Under the new law, the owner will simply purchase a license plate based on the weight of the pickup truck only—in this example, 5,000 lbs.—resulting in a reduced registration fee of \$23.

Annual registration fees for pickup trucks range from \$23 to \$105. Alabama law defines a pickup truck as a truck with not more than two axles and a gross weight not exceeding 12,000 pounds.

Trucks weighing less than 8,000 lbs. are subject to a \$23 annual registration fee; those between 8,001 lbs. and 10,000 lbs., \$35 annually; and those between 10,001 lbs. and 12,000 lbs., \$105 annually.

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The new law does not affect how registration fees are calculated for commercial vehicles. The Alabama Department of Revenue reminds owners that the “gross weight” definition still applies to commercial vehicles, including pickup trucks used for commercial purposes.

For more information concerning Alabama motor vehicle registration fees and how fees apply, owners may contact their local county license plate issuing official or the Alabama Department of Revenue at (334) 242-9006. A copy of Act 2006-356, which provides for the change in registration fees as they relate to pickup trucks used for personal or agricultural use, can be downloaded from the department’s Web site at www.revenue.alabama.gov under the menu item entitled “What’s New.”

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