

# == Alabama Department of Revenue ==

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## Alabama Certificate of Title Has New Look, More Security

*Montgomery, Aug. 8, 2000*—The Alabama motor vehicle certificate of title has a new look, but even more importantly, the new look contains features which make it an even more secure document, according to State Revenue Commissioner Michael Patterson.

“Alabama’s newly-revised title has paper and print security features that are second to none and have certainly put Alabama on the national forefront in motor vehicle title security,” said Patterson.

Although confident security measures found in the previous certificate of title provided effective deterrents to would-be title counterfeiters, Patterson acknowledged how sophisticated photocopying and scanner capabilities now offer the unscrupulous a variety of means to reproduce authentic-looking titles. “The age of color printers and color scanners provides counterfeiters with effective tools to try their hands at reproducing a variety of security documents, including traveler’s checks, birth certificates, passports, etc. The security measures incorporated into Alabama’s title will not only provide our state’s title with the highest level of protection, but also will deter attempts at counterfeiting,” said Patterson. “All titles issued by the Alabama Department of Revenue on and after July 28, 2000, will contain the new security features, regarded by national standards as being some of the most modern, sophisticated paper and print security features that are available,” added Patterson.

The new title contains a new level of security in both its paper and its print, several of which are readily apparent. The Alabama Coat of Arms is visible when the title is held up to light—much like a watermark, but the image is actually accomplished through a process known as a cylinder mold. The new title also features an interwoven thermochromatic (heat-color sensitive) thread, running down the right-hand side of the title and providing an immediate test

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of the title's authenticity. Simply by rubbing, the purple-colored thread will change color, and then become transparent, displaying the words "certificate of title" printed in a continuous pattern. As the thread returns to its normal temperature, it will change back to its original color and conceal the wording.

In May 2000, the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), a national organization aimed at improving the administration of motor vehicle and law enforcement agencies nationwide, announced recommended security standards for motor vehicle certificates of title. Alabama's newly-revised title exceeded AAMVA's recommended standards.

"A certificate of title is to a vehicle what a birth certificate is to an individual," explained Patterson. "As the state agency responsible for its issuance, the department must do everything it can to protect a title's validity and secure its authenticity. When individuals or businesses receive a certificate of title through a vehicle sales transaction or through some other business transaction, they deserve the peace of mind in knowing that the certificate of title is a valid and authentic title. Although Alabama's previous title provided a competent level of security and will remain a valid, legal document, the new title provides even more peace of mind. The new title certainly provides a stronger deterrent to would-be counterfeiters," said Patterson.

"Our goal is to provide the strongest deterrent possible, so that the obstacles counterfeiters face in trying to reproduce a fraudulent title would not be worth the effort to victimize our citizens," explained Patterson.

For more information concerning the Alabama certificate of title, contact the Motor Vehicle Division at (334) 242-9000 or log on to the department's Web site at [www.ador.state.al.us](http://www.ador.state.al.us).