

Motor Vehicle Division Informational Memo # 20-30
GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION EXTENDS TEMPORARY REGISTRATION TO NINETY DAYS FOR CERTAIN VEHICLES WITH DEALER-ISSUED TEMPORARY CARDS

DATE: May 3, 2021
FROM: Daniel Yeh, Manager, Vehicle Central Programs
TO: Iowa County Treasurers
Iowa DOT Motor Vehicle Division Staff
Iowa Dealer Associations
Iowa Department of Public Safety

SUBJECT

This informational memo explains the Governor's proclamation that extended the 45-day deadline to operate a vehicle upon the highways of this state without a registration plate. The Governor's October 16, 2020 Proclamation of Disaster Emergency extended the 45-day deadline to a 90-day deadline for certain customers. This extension only applied if those customers display a dealer-issued temporary card. The Governor's April 2 proclamation included the phrase "Iowans should not expect that this suspension will be extended beyond May 2, 2021." This relief expired on May 2, 2021.

EXPLANATION

On October 16, 2020, Governor Reynolds issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency that extended regulatory relief across the State. A link to the proclamation can be found here: <https://governor.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Public%20Health%20Proclamation%20-%202020.10.16.pdf>.

Section 116 of the Governor's Proclamation included the following provision:

*For the duration of this Proclamation and any subsequent extension of this suspension, a vehicle may be operated upon the highways of this state without registration plates for a period of 90 days after the date of delivery of the vehicle to the purchaser from a dealer if the vehicle has temporary cards displayed otherwise consistent with the requirements of section 321.25. **Iowans should not expect that this suspension will be extended beyond May 2, 2021.***

We received questions about this provision, so we are issued this informational memo to explain how this section affected a customer's deadline to acquire registration plates. Certain customers received additional time during which a dealer-issued temporary card is valid.

This Proclamation provision affects two groups of customers:

- Customers with a date of vehicle delivery between September 1 and October 15, 2020.
- Customers with a date of delivery between October 16, 2020 and May 2, 2021.

If a customer's date of delivery from a dealer was between September 1 and October 15, 2020, the customer had at least one day and up to 45 days remaining at the time the Proclamation was issued, so the Proclamation applies. The deadline extends an additional 45 days. These customers have between

46 days and 90 days left to operate their vehicles with the temporary cards. The amount of time left will depend on the date of delivery of the vehicle.

If a customer's date of delivery from a dealer was between October 16, 2020 and May 2, 2021, the customer has 90 days from date of delivery to operate. The dealer-issued temporary card is valid for the 90 days.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

HOW DID THE GOVERNOR'S OCTOBER 16 PROCLAMATION AFFECT THE 45-DAY DEADLINE TO ACQUIRE REGISTRATION PLATES AFTER THE DATE OF DELIVERY OF THE VEHICLE TO THE PURCHASER FROM A DEALER?

The Governor's October 16 Proclamation suspended part of Iowa Code § 321.25. This section states "A vehicle may be operated upon the highways of this state without registration plates for a period of forty-five days after the date of delivery of the vehicle to the purchaser from a dealer if a card bearing the words 'registration applied for' is attached on the rear of the vehicle."

The Proclamation extended the time period from 45 days to 90 days for certain customers. This means that certain customers will have an extended period of time before Iowa Code § 321.25 can be enforced against them.

WHICH CUSTOMERS ARE AFFECTED BY THE EXTENSION TO 90 DAYS AND HOW ARE THEY AFFECTED?

A customer who purchased a vehicle from a dealer and had the vehicle delivered between September 1, 2020 and May 2, 2021 will have an extended period of time to acquire registration plates. The expiration date will vary depending on the delivery date of the vehicle.

The following is an example using Appendix A for a customer who had a vehicle purchased from a dealer and a delivery date of October 17, 2020.

- Column 1 shows the date of delivery. This customer's October 17 delivery date falls between October 16 and November 15.
- Column 2 shows how many days the customer has to operate with the dealer-issued temporary cards.
- Column 3 shows the process for the customer to benefit under the Governor's Proclamation. For this customer, the dealer will issue a 90-day temporary card. The date issued for the temporary card is the date of delivery of the vehicle from the dealer to the purchaser.

HOW WILL THIS EXTENSION IMPACT VEHICLE DEALERS?

Vehicle dealers may interact with two groups of customers impacted by this extension:

- Customers with a date of vehicle delivery between September 1 and October 15, 2020.
- Customers with a date of delivery between October 16, 2020 and May 2, 2021.

1. Customers with a date of delivery between September 1 and October 15, 2020.

These customers had at least one day and up to 45 days remaining at the time the Proclamation was issued. The Proclamation extended the deadline an additional 45 days. These customers have between 46 days and 90 days left to operate their vehicles with the temporary cards. The amount of time left will depend on the date of delivery.

An example from Appendix A for a customer with a delivery date of September 3, 2020.

- Column 1 shows the date of delivery. This customer's September 3 delivery date falls between September 1 and October 15, 2020.
- Column 2 shows the amount of time the customer can operate without registration plates. This customer will have a total of 90 days.
- Column 3 shows the process for dealers to follow for these customers. Upon request, the dealer should collect the initial 45-day dealer-issued temporary card. The dealer should issue a new 90-day temporary card. The new temporary card will have the same date of issuance as the original date of delivery of the vehicle from the dealer to the purchaser. For this customer, the date of issuance is September 3.
- The customer should only have one temporary card. The dealer should issue the new card, and collect the prior 45-day temporary card.
- The dealer may dispose of the 45-day temporary card.

2. Customers with a date of delivery between October 16, 2020 and May 2, 2021.

The dealer may issue a 90-day temporary card to the purchaser. The date of issuance is the date of delivery of the vehicle from the dealer to purchaser. The dealer should only issue one temporary card to the purchaser.

The extension does not apply prior to September 1, 2020 or on or after May 3, 2021. For customers with a delivery date on or before August 31, 2020, the temporary card has expired. The vehicle requires permanent plate. For customers with a delivery date of May 3, 2021 or after, the proclamation has expired. The temporary cards will be 45 days.

DOES THIS EXTENSION APPLY TO A CUSTOMER WHO RECENTLY PURCHASED A VEHICLE WITHOUT A DEALER-ISSUED TEMPORARY CARD, MOVED TO IOWA OR OBTAINED A VEHICLE IN ANY OTHER WAY, SUCH AS INHERITANCE?

No. This extension only applies to customers who purchased a vehicle from a dealer, had a delivery date between September 1, 2020 and May 2, 2021 and who has dealer-issued temporary cards.

IF A CUSTOMER HAS A 45-DAY DEALER-ISSUED CARD AND QUALIFIES FOR THIS EXTENSION, MAY THE CUSTOMER ADJUST THE EXPIRATION DATE?

No. If a customer has a 45-day temporary card and qualifies for the extension, the customer should return to the dealer and receive a new dealer-issued temporary card. A customer may not alter the existing temporary card.

WHAT SHOULD A CUSTOMER DO WITH THE ORIGINAL 45-DAY TEMPORARY CARD ONCE THE CUSTOMER RECEIVES THE 90-DAY TEMPORARY CARD?

The customer should provide the 45-day temporary card to the dealer upon receiving the 90-day temporary card. The dealer may dispose of the original 45-day temporary registration card.

WILL THIS WAIVER BE EXTENDED PAST MAY 2, 2021?

The Governor’s April 2 proclamation stated that “Iowans should not expect that this suspension will be extended beyond May 2, 2021.” The Governor’s April 30 proclamation did not include this suspension. This provision expired on May 2, 2021 at 11:59 pm.

DOES THIS PROCLAMATION SECTION CHANGE ANY OTHER PART OF 321.25?

No. A person operating a vehicle with a temporary registration card shall still provide ownership evidence to any peace officer, upon request. This ownership evidence consists of the certificate of title or registration receipt, or a photocopy thereof, properly assigned to the person who has acquired the vehicle, or a bill of sale conveying ownership of the vehicle to the person who has acquired the vehicle (761 IAC 400.19). Only cards furnished by the department shall be used and only one card shall be issued for each vehicle purchased per Iowa Code section 321.25(2), unless the dealer is issuing a second card for extension, as noted in the explanation above.

WHO IS THE CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

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APPENDIX A

Date of Delivery	Amount of time customer can operate without registration plates if the vehicle has a dealer-issued temporary card	How will this work?
August 31, 2020 and earlier	45 days	The Proclamation does not apply. These customers have expired temporary cards under Iowa law.
September 1 through October 15, 2020	90 days	<p>The Proclamation applies. These customers did not have temporary cards expire as of October 16. These customers benefit from the 90 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon request, the dealer needs to collect the customer’s 45-day temporary registration card. • The dealer shall issue a new 90-day temporary registration card. The date issued is the original date of delivery of the vehicle from the dealer to the purchaser. • The customer should only have one temporary registration card. • The dealer may destroy the original 45-day temporary registration card.
October 16 through May 2, 2021	90 days	<p>The Proclamation applies. These customers receive 90 days from the date of delivery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dealer may issue a 90-day temporary registration card. • The dealer only issues one card to the purchaser.
May 3, 2021 or after	45 days	<p>The Proclamation does not apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dealer shall issue 45-day temporary registration cards.