

Motor Vehicle Division Informational Memo # 20-02

Administrative Rule Updates for Blackout License Plates

DATE: March 16, 2020

FROM: Sara Siedsma, Compliance Officer, MVD

TO: All Vehicle and Motor Carrier Services staff, Iowa County Treasurers and County Treasurer's staff

SUBJECT

This informational memo explains an update to administrative rule chapter 761—401, Special Registration Plates.

SUMMARY

The update to this rule chapter aligns with a change to Iowa Code section 321.34 made during the 2019 legislative session to provide for creation of a new blackout license plate. The proposed amendments also make technical changes throughout the chapter to accommodate electronic submission of specialty license plate applications.

The administrative rule amendments are effective March 18, 2020.

LINK TO ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/aco/arc/4908C.pdf>

CURRENT

Under current law, administrative rule chapter 761—401 did not address blackout plates. However, based on the 2019 legislative changes, we have already changed our processes to create the new blackout license plate.

You may wish to review the previous informational memo (IM 19-20) we issued when the 2019 legislation became effective for more information about the background of the legislation.

For internal DOT employees, you may find IM 19-20 in the W drive at the address below:

W:\MotorVehicle\Policy & Communications\Memorandums\Memos\Policy Memos

For County Treasurers and staff, you may find IM 19-20 at the link to the county treasurer's manual below:

<https://iowadot.gov/mvd/ctmanual/memos/IM19-20.pdf>

For the technical changes, multiple specialty plates rule sections required that application be made via a form prescribed by the department. This language was not clear that electronic submission of license plate applications was also available.

NEW

As of March 18, 2020, the rules will align with Iowa Code section 321.34 and our current processes for application and issuance of a blackout license plate.

Additionally, the technical changes recognize that customers shall apply for a specialty plate “in a manner” prescribed by the department. These changes accommodate electronic submission of license plate applications, which further streamline the application process.

BUSINESS IMPACT

This directive does not impact the way that VMCS operates as we have already updated our processes to implement the new blackout license plate and already allow electronic submission of license plate applications. Rather this directive is just informing you that the administrative rules have now been updated.