

MOTOR VEHICLE NEWSLETTER

December 2023

Iowa DOT Central Programs Bureau

Monthly updates on vehicle program, policy, and process issues.

Topics From Other Jurisdictions

Minnesota to now offer all-black plates

County treasurers in Iowa – especially in the northern tier of the state – should be aware that the state of Minnesota is issuing an optional all-black plate starting January 1, 2024. Minnesota now joins Colorado in offering the all-black plate designs that are very similar to Iowa’s original Blackout plate that was first issued in 2019. The Minnesota version includes the text “Minnesota” on the top and “10,000 Lakes” on the bottom. Since many license plate frames can block that text it is important to note that random-number versions of the plate also include an outline of Minnesota in the middle. While neither this new plate nor the Colorado plate directly impact Iowa, county treasurers may want to be aware of their existence especially if you assist local law enforcement with identifying plate numbers. You can find data on Iowa Blackout plate issuance at <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/factsandstats>; an update through December 31, 2023 should be added in late January.

Kentucky title/vehicle registration temporary shutdown.

Please be aware that Kentucky has notified us that their vehicle title/registration system is on a temporary shutdown from December 27, 2023 through January 8, 2024. Kentucky is updating its vehicle registration system. This could impact customers who will not be able to obtain any vehicle products from Kentucky during this time, including titles, registration certificates and IFTA / IRP transactions. In addition, our MVD team (including the investigators) may not be able to research Kentucky vehicle history. We also assume there may not be NMVTIS updates from Kentucky during this time. If you have a customer or transaction involving a vehicle coming from Kentucky, please be aware of this issue. If you can complete the transaction, please do so, but if there is a problem or a NMVTIS or JSI hit, you may need to let the customer know that it might not be able to be completed until after January 8, 2024 when Kentucky’s systems come back on line.

ERT Process

When adding or verifying a vehicle in ARTS

When processing an ERT deal and the below table pops up the county needs to verify they’re selecting the correct vehicle based off the information provided on the MCO. It’s important that the county selects the correct vehicle information.

Vehicle Data Conflict

This vehicle is used in a pending ERT deal. Choose the data to use:

Color 1	Existing DOT data	Data from pending ERT deal
Color 1	White	1
Color 2		
Color 3		
Fuel Type	Gasoline	Gasoline
GVWR	1	1
List Price	47200	37300
Make	Toyota	Toyota
Model	Tacoma TRD Pro	Tacoma SR5
Year	2023	2023
# of Cylinders	6	6
Style	PK	PK
VIN	3TMCZ5AN6PM647519	3TMCZ5AN6PM647519
VIN Origin	Manufacturer Assigned	1
Credential Date	12/1/2023 12:00:00 AM	12/1/2023 12:00:00 AM
Credential #		
Credential Owner Name	BEST RIDE AUTO SALES	BEST RIDE AUTO SALES
Credential State		
Credential Type	A. MCO	5
Vehicle Type	Truck	Truck
Weight	4400	4400
Tonnage		
Usage		

Select existing DOT data Select data from pending ERT deal

Next, the below box will pop up and the county needs to choose “Select data from pending ERT deal” for the vehicle to save into ARTS correctly.

Vehicle Data Conflict

This vehicle is used in a pending ERT deal. Choose the data to use:

Color 1	Existing DOT data	Data from pending ERT deal
Color 1	White	1
Color 2		
Color 3		
Fuel Type	Gasoline	Gasoline
GVWR	1	1
List Price	47200	37300
Make	Toyota	Toyota
Model	Tacoma TRD Pro	Tacoma SR5
Year	2023	2023
# of Cylinders	6	6
Style	PK	PK
VIN	3TMCZ5AN6PM647519	3TMCZ5AN6PM647519
VIN Origin	Manufacturer Assigned	1
Credential Date	12/1/2023 12:00:00 AM	12/1/2023 12:00:00 AM
Credential #		
Credential Owner Name	BEST RIDE AUTO SALES	BEST RIDE AUTO SALES
Credential State		
Credential Type	A. MCO	5
Vehicle Type	Truck	Truck
Weight	4400	4400
Tonnage		
Usage		

Select existing DOT data Select data from pending ERT deal

If the vehicle information is incorrect OR the vehicle information in ARTS doesn't match what's on the MCO the county must deny the ERT deal. The county will need to add comments advising the dealer to resubmit the ERT deal with the correct vehicle information in order to process.