

MOTOR VEHICLE NEWSLETTER

October 2023

Iowa DOT Central Programs Bureau

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

Procedure

Update to Prior Canadian Registration

We have received many inquiries on the Canadian vehicles that are coming in, mainly via a dealer in another U.S. state. In situations where an Iowa used dealer acquires these vehicles, the dealer must provide evidence of prior registration or will have to title and register the vehicle before putting it into dealer inventory. Recently, we provided information to dealers and counties about a process where the dealer can go to the Canadian province to run a registration report straight from the jurisdiction's website. In situations where proof of prior registration is required, please follow these guidelines:

1. When vehicle comes directly to dealer from Canada, the dealer needs to provide evidence of Canadian registration. Remember that most Canadian provinces do not issue a title to a vehicle, so the registration certificate may already be used as an ownership transfer document. If the vehicle was not transferred with this registration document (likely meaning there is only a bill of sale), the dealer will need to reach back to the Canadian dealer or individual seller for proof of Canadian "registration", i.e. taxes. This should not be difficult for the Iowa dealer to acquire, since it is a point A to point B sale.
2. When the vehicle is identified to have originated from Canada, but has subsequently been issued title-only in one or more other U.S. states by dealers (meaning no registration paid in U.S.), you should accept a prior registration report from the Canadian jurisdiction. The report alone will be accepted as proof of prior registration and may be used as a future reference for supporting documentation of that vehicle transfer into Iowa.

Salvage or Junk Brands and Designations

When receiving a discretionary edit (DE) for "salvage" (DE 130), review the titling documents submitted for designations, or brands, that are specific to other states. There are some designations in other states that have the same definition, or characteristics, as the "junk" designation in Iowa. ARTS may not recognize these designations from other jurisdictions as junk and flags them as possible salvage. For example, a salvage edit might fire for a vehicle coming in from Michigan, but there is a "total loss" designation, which would require a junk certificate to be issued in Iowa.

When you find these other designations, send the salvage edit to the OVS General queue for MVD review, just as you would a JSI edit.

Some other examples of designations you would send to the queue are:

- Unrepairable
- Non Operable
- Disabled
- Dismantled
- Total Loss
- Destroyed

When NMVTIS is Down

Counties are able to approve the “NMVTIS cannot authenticate title” discretionary edit (DE), shown below. This DE is set to county level to help the flow of processing these DE’s when NMVTIS goes down. However, when NMVTIS is working, the DOT requests that the counties still send these DE’s in for approval because:

- If we see a more than normal amount being submitted to our OVS Que, this helps notify the DOT that NMVTIS may be down or possibly having technical issues. If we receive this information from the counties, it means we can report it to NMVTIS (to hopefully cut down on the outage) and allows us to notify other counties
- Helps us (DOT & counties) to prevent title fraud
- Lets us know if another jurisdiction needs to update their record and/or add a title in NMVTIS

The DOT will send notice out to counties when NMVTIS is down which means counties can start approving through these DE’s within their office.

btn...	ID	Edits and Exceptions	btn Process Edit	Status	Re
	DE 136	Vehicle weight and list price is not current. An additio...	Acknowledge	Approved	
	DE 187	NMVTIS cannot authenticate title	Process Edit	Request Issued	

1 discretionary edits need processing. No exceptions need action taken.

Process Selected Auto Approve Refresh Tags Close

Tips, Tricks & Reminders

Possible Annual Registration Fee Discrepancy in ERT

The ERT programming was recently changed to allow a dealer better ability to exactly match the year-make-model of the vehicle being purchased, notably when a single VIN prefix might have yielded multiple eligible vehicles. However, we have found a problem that will need to be corrected with future programming.

Here is the sequence of the error

- Dealer enters a VIN which can return multiple models for the dealers to select from
- Dealer selects the correct model with the matching list price and weight to be processed
- The error is that ERT keeps the registration fee from the first model option instead of adjusting to the model or option the dealer selected therefore ERT isn't recalculating to the correct amount
- If the list price and weight are lower than the correct model selected, the dealer will have the correct authorized amount, which is higher than what the web service tells the dealer to submit, and the deal can be processed
- If the list price and weight are higher than the correct model selected, the workaround is for the dealer to "authorize more" than what they collected, and the county will have to make sure to adjust the list price and weight so that the money matches the amount the dealer will comment or match the fee estimator

Dealers are aware of the issue because the correct rate is provided in Fee Estimator. Dealers are trying to include the correct amount – whether higher or lower – in the authorized amount and are adding a comment to indicate whether the ERT-calculated amount is too high or too low. **Please review the comments submitted with all ERT deals to check for this or other anomalies.** Remember, ERT deal comments are just like yellow post-it notes sent with paper deals that often contain vital information.

Reminder

Personalized plate orders are done online only via our website

<https://iowadot.gov/mvd/vehicleregistration/vehicleregistration/plates/plates>. Counties should not be accepting payment for personalized plate orders. Instead, please direct the customer to our website. If there are any questions about this process please contact the Vehicle Services Team at 515-237-3110 or email them at VSCUSTO@iowadot.us.

Printers, Plates, Inventory & Iowa Prison Industries (IPI)

Scrap Plate Pick-up

IPI has asked us to clarify how they will pick up plates that are returned to counties.

IPI sends plates UPS if the order is 6 or fewer boxes therefore if counties need to request a plate pick-up, IPI is requesting that counties submit their request for plate pick-up through their portal and not their email address.

This is the link for IPI's portal: <https://www.iaprisonind.com/request-for-scrap-license-plate-pickup.aspx>

Using the portal will create a ticket that is shared with route drivers, allows IPI to track requests, and is communicated to a broader group than just the warehouse.

Driver routes can be affected by a variety of factors but if you have not had your plates picked up and it has been more than 3 weeks, please send Jacob Bonert with IPI, an email with the approximate date of your request and he will be able to assist you. Jacob's email is Jacob.Bonert2@iowa.gov

Should you have any concerns or problems about plate pick-ups or the quality of the service you receive, please email Rhonda.Fowler@iowadot.us.

2025 Green Vehicle Registration Decals:

- Decals will be shipped to counties in November. Counties do not need to place an order in ARTS. An email will be sent prior to shipping with more information.
- Inventory assigned to the paper trays for the vehicle registration printers does not change until COB November 30, 2023. An email will be sent closer to this date with more information.