

MOTOR VEHICLE NEWSLETTER

September 2023

Iowa DOT Central Programs Bureau

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

Recently, there has been an influx of customers calling and emailing directly to DOT teams like the County Liaisons and the ACE team. In most instances, we find that the customer was referred to the DOT by the counties. Those teams are resources designed specifically for county treasurer personnel assistance. Many times, the DOT will still want to understand the problem with your input from the county treasurers, which creates inefficiencies and can bog down response times by these teams for your assistance. This can also negatively impact the customer experience. Please contact your DOT resources for assistance, so that you can better serve your customers.

Procedure

Canadian Vehicle History Report

In the August 2023 monthly motor vehicle newsletter, we provided information and links where dealers and customers could obtain official vehicle registration history reports from the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec. We have just recently found a link for dealers and customers to obtain the same report from the province of Manitoba (added below). Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba are geographically the most likely outlets for Canadian vehicles coming into Iowa.

Here are the links for the provincial reports that may be used as proof of prior registration:

- Manitoba https://residents.gov.mb.ca/forms.html?d=details&pub_id=5946.
- Ontario <https://www.ontario.ca/page/uncertified-vehicle-record> -
- Quebec <https://saaq.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/documents/publications/dont-fall-stories.pdf>
<https://saaq.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/documents/formulaires/vehicle-record-request.pdf>

ERT Commit Error

It's been discovered that when commit errors happen on ERT deals that the documents don't save to ARTS or ERMS like they're supposed to. Therefore, we're asking that counties print off their ERT documents from ARTS when commit errors happen and to save the documents in their record system.

From Prorate Registration to County/Regular Registration

Owners who register trucks have the option to title and register them as a prorated registration or county plate and registration. A prorated registration (also known as an apportioned registration) is a commercial vehicle registration that has been issued by Iowa DOT in accordance with the International Registration Plan (IRP). "Apportioned" means the registration fees are divided up among the states through which the vehicle operates. A commercial vehicle over 26,000 pounds that regularly crosses state lines typically gets a prorated

registration. If a vehicle switches from operating across state lines to only operating in Iowa they may switch to a county registration.

We have recently seen some discretionary edits (DE) on this topic, where counties are adjusting the fees out manually which caused ARTS to fire a DE for state approval.

The correct way for the county to be processing this transaction is to request the Proof of Prorate from MCS. When processing a title and registrations transaction and you have received the documentation, go under the Registration Detail tab and check the Was Prorate box at the bottom left (see pic below). The date the vehicle became Subject to Registration will have to be entered here as well. By selecting this box, the system will adjust the fees off appropriately and it will not fire a DE for adjusting fees.

Start / End	Usage	Tonnage	Plate Type	Veh Type	Fee Description	Annual Fee	Fee Amount
5/1/2020 / 8/31/2022	Regular	0	County Std	Automobile	Gross Owner Reg Fee, 28 Mon	\$429.00	\$0.00
9/1/2022 / 8/31/2023	Regular	0	County Std	Automobile	Owner Reg Fee, 12 Mon	\$429.00	\$429.00
6/1/2020 / 8/31/2023	Regular	0	County Std	Automobile	Gross Penalty, Owner Reg F...	\$429.00	\$644.00

Subject To Reg: 8/15/2023 Was Prorate

Total Registration Fees: \$215.00

PRINTERS, INVENTORY & IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES (IPI)

Titles with Bill of Sale Information

All orders being placed for title stock will receive the new title stock.

2025 Registration Decals

The decals for the 2025 registration cycle are green. These will become effective for renewals starting 12/1/2023. A benchmark release will be delivered to counties prior to that date. Additional information regarding the transition will be sent in the November newsletter.

New Plate Design for Buena Vista University (BVU)

Buena Vista University (BVU) has completed a plate refresh. All plates produced starting September 25, 2023, will have the new plate image. Any plates that are in their replacement cycle will have the new image. If a customer currently has a set of BVU plates and chooses to change to the new plate design, they will have to pay the appropriate new plate fee. If you have any questions on fees or processing of these plates, please contact dot.plates@iowadot.us

Special Registration Plates

All collegiate, personalized, and eligibility plates are void if not assigned to a vehicle within 90 days from the date that the county receives them into inventory. (Iowa Administrative Code 761.401.2). There is a pending IT request to have the automatically generated customer letter include this information (the letter is hard-coded in ARTS). Until this update takes place, please feel free to include this on your own form or make a notation on the customer letter prior to mailing. DOT will be assisting counties with clearing plates in their inventory older than 90 days with a target completion date of December 15, 2023. Many counties already have updated inventory. Any county which has questions or would like assistance can contact Rhonda.Fowler@iowadot.us.

Reminder

When sending plates out in the mail, please make sure to put the county's address label over the return address on the envelopes that get mailed out. We've seen several motorcycle plates come back to our office recently because the DOT return address is not covered up.

