



Vehicle registration & licensing

Licence plate disposal

There is a new location to send licence plates (number plates) that are no longer being displayed on a motor vehicle after being seized by law enforcement, lost/stolen and recovered, or surrendered.

Changes

With the pending closure of ICBC's Burnaby warehouse there is now a new location to send all surrendered, seized and out-of-use number plates. The change has no impact on ICBC customers.

New location to send old number plates

Effective March 20, 2017, please send surrendered, seized and other out-of-use number plates to Hemlock Harling Distribution Inc. for processing and recycling:

Hemlock Harling Distribution Inc.
110 - 11388 No. 5 Road
Richmond BC V7A 4E7

As before, individual number plates or number plate sets that are no longer required also can be dropped off with any Autoplan broker.

Why return number plates?

Besides proper recycling, returning number plates to an Autoplan broker or to Hemlock will avoid their potential fraudulent use on another vehicle by an uninsured driver.

Lost or stolen plates that are found and returned to an Autoplan broker or Hemlock are recorded as being recovered. This ensures that the motorist who was originally issued the number plates will not be charged a fee for failing to turn in the plates, or made to get a police case number in support of declaring their plates as lost or stolen.

Reasons that a pair of number plates may no longer be needed

Number plates will no longer be required by a motorist when they sell or otherwise dispose of their vehicle without getting a replacement vehicle of the same class; or when their vehicle licence has expired and they do not intend to renew the licence (for example, if the owner has scrapped the vehicle, will be using the vehicle exclusively off-highway or is shipping the vehicle out of the province.)

Number plates may also become obsolete if they are replaced, e.g. due to being damaged or becoming timeworn and illegible. They may also cease to be needed for other reasons, such as after being seized by law enforcement, becoming lost/stolen and then found, being removed from an abandoned vehicle, being left behind after a vehicle transfer by operation of law (e.g. a transfer under the *Repairers Lien Act*.)

Number plates that are replaced with a personalized number plate or with a new number plate option, such as a BC Parks plate, are normally returned to their broker when the new plates are issued.



Faded or damaged number plates

Motorists with number plates that are timeworn and so faded, gravel chipped or similarly damaged may take both of their plates to an Autoplan broker to have them replaced for a fee of \$18.

Altering, obliterating or repainting a number plate is an offence under *Motor Vehicle Act*, s. 74(1).

Surrender, theft, transfers and police reports

When a person cancels their licence and insurance or replaces number plates with another set, they may give their previous number plates to an ICBC Autoplan broker for remission of fees for the unexpired licence term. If the term has expired, the plates should still be returned to ICBC for recycling.

If a number plate with validation decal has been lost or stolen and is not recovered, ICBC requires a police report case number prior to issuing replacement plates. Even when replacement plates are not needed, ICBC requires people to report such theft or losses to law enforcement. This is for number plate inventory security and for our customer's own protection — the missing plates could be used later to be displayed on an unlicensed or uninsured vehicle or used during the commission of a crime.

When a vehicle is sold or otherwise transferred to another person, the number plates need to be removed and retained by the seller (exception: an antique/vintage number plate remains with the vehicle). If the seller has acquired another vehicle of the same class (commercial, passenger, motorcycle, trailer), then the seller may display the number plates on that substitute vehicle for up to 10 days from when they sold their vehicle. To continue operating the substitute vehicle beyond those 10 days, the vehicle/insurance transfer transaction must be completed at an Autoplan broker.

The 10-day period only applies if the substitute vehicle is already registered in B.C. or the substitute vehicle was purchased from a dealer, and if the motorist carries:

- the purchaser's copies of the duly completed *Transfer/Tax Form (APV9T)*
- the purchaser's *Owner's Certificate of Insurance and Vehicle Licence* valid for the transferred original vehicle
- the previous owner's *Certificate of Registration for the substitute vehicle* or bill of sale if the vehicle was purchased from a dealer.

Sometimes a vehicle seller will forget to remove their number plates from a vehicle they've sold and the purchaser continues using the vehicle without going to an Autoplan broker to transfer the vehicle into their name. In these situations, even when the seller cancels their licence and insurance linked with those number plates, any parking tickets, violations tickets or other sanctions will continue to accrue to the seller as the vehicle's last registered owner on record.

In such cases, the onus is on the seller to show the sale date to prove their responsibility for the vehicle ended. That is why a police report citing when the seller lost possession of the number plates is helpful.

Seizure

Number plates may have been seized by law enforcement officers or commercial vehicle inspectors where the number plates were:

- detached from a motor vehicle or trailer
- displayed on a motor vehicle or trailer other than the one for which it was issued, or
- required to be surrendered by the MVA, the MVAR or a direction of ICBC.



Legislation and regulations

Commercial Transport Act [Sections 4 & 5](#) – *Motor Vehicle Act* provisions & Motor vehicle regulations
Motor Vehicle Act [Section 12](#) – Number plates
Motor Vehicle Act [Section 74\(1\)](#) – Alteration and use of fictitious number plates or documents
Motor Vehicle Act Regulations [Division 3](#) – Display and Use of Number Plates

Contact

For more information, contact Rob Miller, Policy Advisor
 Vehicle Registration Programs
 250-414-7907 *or* email rob.miller@icbc.com

**Manager, Provincial Vehicle Registration & Licensing
ICBC**



Distribution list

B.C. Ministry of Environment

Conservation Officer Service (Chief C.O.)

B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Compliance and Enforcement Branch
(Director)

Land Tenures Branch (Manager responsible
for ORVs)

B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

CPPO (Directors of Policy & Legislation and
Corporate Initiatives)

Police Services Division, Road Safety Unit
(Director)

RoadSafetyBC, Policy Unit (Director)

B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

CVSE (Director)

CVSE (Deputy Director)

Provincial Permit Centre (Manager)

Transportation Policy & Programs Dept.
(Exec. Director)

Transportation Policy Branch (Manager)

Canadian Border Services Agency

Law Enforcement

BC Association of Chiefs of Police

Municipal Police forces

PRIME-BC

RCMP "E" Division, Traffic Services (Officer
in Charge)

RCMP, Lower Mainland District Traffic
Services (Officer in Charge)

Other Jurisdictions

Canadian Council of Motor Transport
Authorities (CCMTA)

American Association of Motor Transport
Authorities (AAMVA)

Registrar of Imported Vehicles

RIV Policy, Standards & Enforcement
(Compliance Manager)

Toll operators

Transport Canada

Motor Vehicle Regulation Enforcement
(Director)

Road Safety and Motor Vehicle Regulation
(Director General)

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

ICBC

Business Education - Insurance

Claims Services (Personal & Commercial)

Commercial Insurance / CUS & GU

Communications, SE & Road Safety

Driver Licensing Policy & Standards

Insurance & DL Contact Centre / BEU / Ins.

Op Support / Ins. Procedures & Bus. Change

Insurance Product Services

Insurance Sales & Distribution

Insurance Strategy & Pricing

Insurance Underwriting

Procurement Operations

Vehicle Registration Programs / Specialty

Vehicle Registration Services