



Vehicle registration & licensing

Names printed on documents

Registered owner name(s) may be printed in a truncated format on vehicle registrations, permits and ICBC additional products forms.

What changed?

Since August 2016, long names have been truncated if they exceed the space available for printing the owners' names on the Owner's Certificate of Insurance, Vehicle Licence, Registration, Temporary Operation Permit or on a form for additional products sold by ICBC to non-fleet customers.

The truncation applies to both the names of individuals as well as to the names of companies and other legal entities if the name(s) stored in ICBC systems exceeds the space available to print on these documents.

Prior to August 2016, both abbreviations and truncation were used to fit long names onto these documents. Since then, truncation alone has applied to all non-fleet customers with long names.

After March 4, 2018, fleet customer names that exceed the space available for printing will also be truncated in the same manner as for non-fleet customers.

What has not changed?

The name of the registered owner continues to be recorded and displayed on vehicle registration and licensing systems exactly as it is recorded on the BC driver's licence (for individuals) or as it is registered through [BC Online](#) (companies and other legal entities.) For vehicles with more than two owners, the names of the first two owners are listed on the documents and "et al" is added to indicate that there are more owners.

Give me details please

Names that exceed 27 characters are presented in a shortened form. That is, they are cut off (truncated) to fit in the allotted space on the printed ICBC document.

For individuals, up to 27 characters can be presented in total for the name fields. That is 27 spaces for all of the surname, first and second names. Third and any additional names an individual may have are not printed.

For an organization, company, business, or owner(s) that use a trade name, the same 27 character printing limit applies on documents, even though systems will continue to contain the full name as it appears in the BC Corporate Registry.

For examples, refer to the next page.



Name presentation examples:

Names of individuals, corporation or other entity (as would be recorded in computer systems)	Names as displayed on documents
FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH SURNAME	SURNAME FIRST SECOND
JANE SAMANTHA LISA SAGE DOE	DOE JANE SAMANTHA
SARA JULIE DOE-SMITH	DOE-SMITH SARA JULIE
JOE WITHANEXTREMELYLENGTHYSECONDNAME JOHN SMITH	SMITH JOE WITHANEXTREMELYLE
SARA JULIE DOE-SMITH JOE JOHN SMITH JORDAN SMITH SUSAN PAIGE DOE	DOE-SMITH SARA JULIE SMITH JOE JOHN ET AL
FICTIONAL-COMPANY OR PARTNERSHIP NAME (1994) LTD.	FICTIONAL-COMPANY OR PARTNE
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 99 THISCITY NORTH	SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 99 THIS
LEASING COMPANY FICTIONAL LEGAL ENTITY NAME (1994) LTD. (LESSOR) JOE JOHN SMITH (LESSEE)	LEASING COMPANY FICTIONAL L (LESSOR) SMITH JOE JOHN (LESSEE)

Legislation and regulations

Motor Vehicle Act	Section 1	Definitions, "owner", "owner's licence"
Motor Vehicle Act	Section 3	Registration, licence and insurance
Commercial Transport Act	Section 6	Registration and licensing
Insurance (Vehicle) Act	Section 1	Definitions and application, "owner's certificate"

Contact

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Distribution list

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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)

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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