Federal License Plate Program
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Who are we?

GSA’s Office of Government-wide Policy, Office of Asset and Transportation Management, Vehicle Policy Division

• Vehicle Policy’s:
  • Mission: Motor vehicle management policy seeks to improve management and enhance the performance of the motor vehicle fleets operated by federal agencies.
  • Vision:

  • Monitoring Federal Fleet Performance
    • Continuous evaluation of federal motor vehicle management programs and policies;
    • Examining new technologies and automated systems;
    • Analyzing the impact of current and proposed regulations, laws, Executive Orders, and international agreements;
    • Facilitating the Federal Fleet Policy Council (FEDFLEET); and
    • Education and training of federal fleet management professionals.
What is the Vehicle Policy Division’s Role in the Federal License Plate Program?

- Provides Federal Management Regulation (FMR) guidance to executive agencies for the identification and registration of Federal motor vehicles
  - *Motor Vehicle Identification*, FMR 102-34.85-105
  - *License Plates*, FMR 102-34.110-150
  - *Identification Exemptions*, FMR 102-34.155-195

- Establishes license plate codes (prefixes)
  - FMR Bulletin B-11, *US Government License Plate Codes*
How have Federal License Plate Changed in the Last 15 years?

- License Plates Have an Expiration Date (8 years)
- All Plates are Registered in Federal Motor Vehicle Registration System (FMVRS) & Tracked From Manufacture Until Destroyed (Barcodes)
- License Plates Must be Returned to UNICOR for Destruction
- Plates Cannot be Reassigned to Another Vehicle – Use Once and Return for Destruction
- Law Enforcement Can Check Registration and Status
- Plate design has evolved to enhance security and tracking
What is the current Federal license plate design?
What purposes are served by the design of Federal license plates?

The license plate design and the information displayed are designed to meet the following regulatory and the statutory requirements:

§102-34.90—What motor vehicle identification must we display on Government motor vehicles?

Unless exempted under 102-34.160, 102-34.175 or 102-34.180, Government motor vehicles must display the following identification:

(a) “For Official Use Only”;
(b) “U.S. Government”; and
(c) Identification that readily identifies the agency owning the vehicle.

The regulation uses the “readily identifies” but the statute uses “conspicuously identified”.

40 U.S. Code Chapter 5, Subchapter VI - MOTOR VEHICLE POOLS AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS
40 U.S. Code § 609 - Identification of vehicles
How must license plates be displayed?

- Federal sedans and trucks must display two U.S. Government license plates (front and rear) even if the State in which the vehicle is operating only requires one plate.

- U.S. Government license plates must be displayed on the Government motor vehicle to which the license plates were assigned.

- Display the U.S. Government license plates until the Government motor vehicle is removed from Government service or is transferred outside the agency, or until the plates are damaged and require replacement.
Are there exemptions from displaying US Government license plates?

- Exemption is by written certification by the head of your agency that identifying the motor vehicle would endanger the security of the vehicle occupants or otherwise compromise the agency mission.

- Vehicles used primarily for investigative, law enforcement, intelligence or security duties, have an exemption from displaying U.S. Government license plates when this would interfere with those duties.

- FMR does not cover military design vehicles; motor vehicles used for military field training, combat, or tactical purposes; and motor vehicles used principally within the confines of a regularly established military post, camp, or depot.
Why do we have “A” & “B” Plates?

- It is impossible to track the status of both license plates using one record for a two-plate pair.
- The FMVRS has been redesigned to have two records for each license plate “pair”...an “A” and a “B” plate.
- The status of each plate is tracked from the date of manufacture until returned for destruction.
- The plate number is active until BOTH plates are returned for destruction.
Why do license plates have expiration dates?

- Help identify valid plates.
- Help encourage immediate use.

If attached to the same vehicle, can expired license plates be replaced with new plates with the same tag number but new expiration dates?

Yes! UNICOR online store allows agencies to order plates with the same tag numbers but new expiration dates.

Why not use stickers to display new expiration dates?

- Security – License plates are already too easy to duplicate, misplace, or steal. Stickers would be even easier!
- Administrative nightmare
Once a vehicle has been disposed of, can the un-expired license plates be attached to another vehicle?

No. Per Federal Management Regulation 102-34.130(c):

“Display the U.S. Government license plates until the Government motor vehicle is removed from Government service or is transferred outside the agency, or until the plates are damaged and require replacement. *U.S. Government license plates shall only be used for one Government motor vehicle and shall not be reissued to another Government motor vehicle.*”

Why?

- Security
- Vehicle and tag combination stays in FMVRS forever!
What is UNICOR’s license plate role?

- GSA has established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on behalf of all Federal agencies with UNICOR to provide official U.S. Government license plates.

- UNICOR:
  - Provides an license plate ordering web page and an account for each agency purchasing plates
  - Produces and ships license plates
  - Remakes damaged plates (must return the damaged plate)
  - Transfers license plate records to FMVRS
  - Shreds returned plates and provides certificates of destruction
How do we order license plates from UNICOR?

• All License Plate Buyers are authorized to purchase by their Agency Fleet Manager.

• Once the Agency Fleet Manager contacts Federal Prison Industries (UNICOR), an account will be set up for the buyer.

• The buyer receives an email notifying them that they can now purchase license plates.
How do we ordering license plates from UNICOR?

http://www.unicor.gov/fleet/license_plates
Contact UNICOR at: 800-827-3168 or CUSGDLP@central.unicor.gov
How do we order replacements for expired tags?
How do we returning license plates for destruction / recycling?
What is the standard procedure for restrung expired, damaged, or obsolete U.S. Government license plates?


U.S. Department of Justice
UNICOR Sign Factory
Federal Prison Industries, Inc.
Federal Correctional Institution
14001 Burbridge Road, S.E.
Cumberland, MD 21502

U.S. Government license plates manufactured after September 2009 are registered in the Federal Motor Vehicle Registration System (FMVRS) and must be returned to UNICOR for destruction. You may also return license plates manufactured prior to September 2009. License Plates with 00/0000 expiration date are considered obsolete per Office of Government-wide Policy (OGP) guidance and must be returned to UNICOR for destruction. There is no charge to you for the return shipment of license plates to UNICOR.

Return license plates via UPS GROUND: see address below. Please send an email with the pick up address and weight of the shipment to unicor.tag.recycling@usdoj.gov and UPS will email you a shipping label to put on your box. Take the box to your delivery and shipment area for pickup. Return tags to:

UNICOR
14001 Burbridge Road, S.E.
Cumberland, MD 21502
Attn: Tag Recycling

All plates being returned must be changed to Pending Destruction (PD) status in FMVRS prior to sending to UNICOR. Plates will not upload into Destroyed (DS) status unless they are first in PD status.

Prior to shipment, document all license plates being returned on the Federal Motor Vehicle License Plate Return Form and place a copy of this form in an envelope and tape to the inside top of each box being returned to UNICOR.

Please keep a copy of the form for your records. You will need the form to check the status of your plates in FMVRS.

Upon arrival the plates will be inventoried, and any discrepancies will be immediately reported to the point of contact listed on the Federal Motor Vehicle License Plate Return Form. For this reason, please ensure that the point of contact information on the form is correct, complete, and legible.

UNICOR will change the destroyed plates in the FMVRS to DS (Destroyed by UNICOR) as long as the plates are in PD status when they are received.
The Federal Motor Vehicle Registration System (FMVRS)

GSA’s Office of Motor Vehicle Management developed and operates the Federal Motor Vehicle Registration System.

https://fmvrs.fas.gsa.gov/fmvrs/fmvrs/
One last thing: Law Enforcement Involvement with License Plates

**National Law Enforcement Telecommunications Service (NLETS):**
FMVRS sends a message to NLETS that is relayed to Law Enforcement Officer when querying a US Government plate

**GSA Office of the Inspector General:**
GSA OIG Office of Investigations can provide investigative assistance to Federal, State, Local or military law enforcement. Monitors on-line sales sites for Federal plates.

**Federal Protective Service:**
Monitors and scans plates near Federal buildings. Investigates stolen/missing plates. Implements Operation Reduced Risk.
Where can we go for help?

**Use of FMVRS:**
Contact the FMVRS Help Desk:
866-472-6711  gsafleet@gsa.gov

**License Plate Ordering:**
Contact UNICOR at:
800-827-3168  CUSGDLP@central.unicor.gov

**License Plate Policy:**
Contact the Office of Government-wide Policy at:  Vehicle.Policy@GSA.Gov