

Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

R12 – Trader’s Plates

The Registrar may grant a licence to any person bona fide engaged in the manufacturing, dealing in or repairing motor vehicles, or in such other related pursuit, approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and operates from suitable premises for that purpose.

Conditions of Use

The Holder of a Trader’s Plate Must Ensure:

- The vehicle is in the possession or custody of the trader to whom the plate has been issued or transferred or his employee for manufacturing, repair, painting, testing, demonstration, sale or exchange of the vehicle or its delivery to another trader, purchaser or owner.
- The vehicle is being used bona fide for a purpose connected with the manufacture, repair, painting, testing, demonstration, sale or exchange of the vehicle or its delivery to another trader, purchaser or owner.
- The vehicle is not being used for hire purposes whilst a trade plate is attached or, consideration of any kind.
- Any load carried in or on the vehicle is being conveyed solely for the purpose of demonstrating the mass-carrying capacity of the vehicle to a bona fide prospective purchaser.
- In the case of a towing vehicle owned by the trader, the vehicle is being used by the trader or his employee for the purpose of proceeding to and towing any disabled motor vehicle;
- The driver or person in charge of the vehicle is;
 - (a) the trader or an employee of the trader,
 - (b) A prospective purchaser of the vehicle or his employee or agent who is accompanied by the trader or an employee of the trader,
 - (c) A prospective purchaser of the vehicle or his employee or agent where the trader is licensed as a motor vehicle dealer under the Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading Act.
- A record is kept of the date, plate number, make, purpose of the trip, trip times, drivers names, addresses, licence numbers, signature of the drivers and comment in accordance with the approved form, as required by Section 43 of the Motor Vehicles Act.
- The Trader’s Plate attached to the vehicle is current.
- A Trader’s Plate is attached to the rear of the vehicle whilst in use in a public area.

Persons Who May Drive a Vehicle with Trader’s Plates

- A bona fide person who is the holder of a licence to drive a motor vehicle and is the trader to whom the plate was issued or transferred or an employee of such trader.

- A bona fide prospective purchaser of the vehicle or his employee or his employee or agent accompanied by the trader or an employee of the trader where the trader is not a Licensed Motor Vehicle Dealer.
- A bona fide prospective purchaser of the vehicle or agent where the trader to whom the plate was issued or transferred is licensed as a motor vehicle dealer under the Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading Act. (LMVD'S).
- A bona fide prospective purchaser of a motor cycle or his employee or agent may drive a motor cycle having a trader's plate attached if he produces to the trader his licence to drive a motor cycle.

Recording the Use of the Trader's Plate

Any Trader who is the holder of Trader's Plate, is required by the Registrar of Motor vehicles to record the usage of the trader's plate in the Trader's Plate Register (MVR Form R25),

The particulars are to be recorded in the Trader's Plate Register within 24 hours, after the time any vehicle to which a trader's plate is attached, leaves the dealership/workshop.

This applies to:

- (a) Licensed Motor Vehicle Dealers (LMVDs); and
- (b) Traders who are not Licensed Motor Vehicle Dealers (i.e. crash repairer).

Important Notes:

The Trader's Plate Register is to be made available on demand at any reasonable time to produce the record for the preceding 6 months for inspection by the Registrar, an inspector from the Motor Vehicle Registry, or a member of the Police Force.

LMVD's and Traders that are body corporate vehicle owners should be aware that when an infringement notice for a demerit point offence is issued against one of their vehicles, significantly higher penalties exist for failing to identify the driver.

Media Reporters

It is illegal for media reporters to test drive vehicles (with Trader's Plates attached) on behalf of a vehicle dealership for the purpose of advertising.

To provide for media reporters, 2 exemptions must be approved by a Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicles for:

- (a) the Media reporter; and
- (b) the Licensed Motor Vehicle Dealer.

These exemptions are provided for under Sections 35(4) and 37(3) of the Motor Vehicles Act, which allows the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to exempt a person from the normal requirements for the use of Trader's Plates.

Any requests of this nature are to be made to an MVR Customer Services Manager at a Motor Vehicle Registry listed on the front of this Information Bulletin.

Sale of Business and Transfer of Plates

Where a trader sells or disposes of or ceases to carry on the business must within 14 days of the sale or disposal, notify the Registrar in writing and return to the Registrar, any Trader's Plate issued.

Lost Trader Plate

Where a Trader Plate is lost, you must make application to your nearest MVR office and complete a [Form M2 – Application for Change of Details](#), to obtain a replacement Trader Plate.

Note: There is a fee for replacement Trader's Plates.

You will also be required to return the Trader's Plate Register (formerly called Log Book) that was originally issued with the lost Trader Plate. The Trader's Plate Register will be endorsed with the new Trader Plate Number and returned to you.

Contact Details	
Motor Vehicle Registry	
Telephone	1300 654 628
Facsimile	(08) 8999 3103
Email	mvr@nt.gov.au
Web	www.mvr.nt.gov.au
Postal Address	GPO Box 530 Darwin NT 0801