

Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

V24 - Vehicle Number Plates

Requirements for Number Plates

NT legislation requires the owner of a vehicle to comply with the following requirements.

Design, Type and Material of Number Plates

All number plates must be approved and issued by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

Number Plates not issued by the Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) are not approved and are illegal.

Affixing Number Plates

It is the responsibility of the vehicle owner to ensure that number plate/s are securely affixed to:

- both the front and rear of a registered motor vehicle, no more than 1300mm from the ground;
- to the rear only of a registered motorcycle, at least 300mm from the ground; and
- to the rear only of a registered trailer.

Number Plate Visibility

The number plate/s must be affixed so that the characters are in an upright position parallel to the vehicle's axles. The characters on the number plate must be legible and visible from a distance of 20 metres at any point within an arc of:

- 15 degrees (from the surface of the number plate) above and 45 degrees to either side of a vehicle that is less than 4.5 tonne GVM; and
- 45 degrees (from the surface of the number plate) above and to either side of a vehicle that is greater than 4.5 tonne GVM.

Defaced or Damaged Number Plates

Where any number plate becomes defaced or damaged, and the characters are not easily legible, the vehicle owner must apply to the MVR within 14 days from the date of damage, or defacement, for replacement number plates. Fees may apply.

Faded or Paint Defective Number Plates

If number plates are faded or the paint is lifting off, the vehicle owner must attend the MVR as soon as possible to obtain replacement number plates.

If the MVR considers that the problem is due to poor manufacturing, the vehicle owner may be entitled to obtain another set of new plates (a different number) free of charge.

If the vehicle owner wishes to keep the same plate number combination, a fee will apply in all cases, as the plates will have to be re-made by the supplier.

Lost, Destroyed, or Stolen Number Plates

If number plate/s have been LOST, the vehicle owner is required to apply to the MVR for replacement plates, within 14 days.

If number plate/s have been STOLEN, the vehicle owner is required to report the theft to the NT Police, and apply to the MVR within 14 days for replacement plates. The vehicle owner must provide a copy of the police report.

If number plate/s have been DESTROYED as a result of a motor vehicle accident, or for some other reason, the vehicle owner is required to apply to the MVR within 14 days to:

- obtain replacement plates; or
- advise that the vehicle has been written off or wrecked, in which case the vehicle owner will be asked to provide evidence.

Fees may apply in these cases.

Obscured Number Plates

It is an offence to obscure any part of any character/s of a number plate. Obscured number plates can result from:

- Frames placed around number plates.
- Protective covers on number plates.
- Tow bars/balls.
- Bike racks. For further information regarding bike racks, please refer to MVR Information Bulletin No. V50 (www.nt.gov.au/transport/mvr/vehiclestandards/infobulletins/ibv50.pdf).
- Bull bars.
- Loads incorrectly carried on the vehicle.
- Incorrect fitment.

A vehicle presented for inspection, which has a number plate/s obscured by any fixture, device, or load, **will not** be passed for registration. In such circumstances, it will be necessary to either remove the obstruction, or relocate the number plate. If the rear number plate is being relocated, illumination of the number plate is required.

Vehicle owners are further advised that vehicles which have been altered, so as not to comply with the above inspection requirement, may be issued with a vehicle defect notice, and may be subject to prosecution.

For further information, please contact your local Motor Vehicle Registry Office.

Contact Details	
Motor Vehicle Registry	
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