



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

▪ MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION ▪

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David M. Curry, Revenue Commissioner ▪ Georgia Steele, Director

NOTICE TO MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS “Test Drive” Tags and Other Improper Tag Uses

What is the purpose of this notice?

The Department of Revenue (Department) is reissuing this bulletin to remind Georgia motor vehicle dealers of the proper uses of motor vehicle tags, also known as license plates, as well as the proper issuance of Temporary Operating Permits (TOPs). This notice is also being forwarded to local, state and regional law enforcement entities.

What do we need to do?

- Georgia motor vehicle dealers need to familiarize themselves with all the relevant statutes and regulations governing their industry, including the use of dealer’s plates, temporary operating permits (TOPs), and Motor Vehicle Division-issued license plates.
- Motor vehicle dealers should also educate consumers on the proper use of license plates and TOPs.

Use of Dealer Plates:

- Every licensed Georgia motor vehicle dealer is issued a master dealer plate and two additional plates for a total of three initial plates. Dealers may obtain additional dealer plates from the Motor Vehicle Division based on the dealer’s prior year’s sales volume. The Georgia Code provides that a dealer’s plate “is for the purpose of demonstrating or transporting dealer’s vehicles or trailers for sale or lease.” O.C.G.A. § 40-2-38.
- A dealer’s plate should be placed on any vehicle in the dealer’s inventory that is being driven on public highways or streets for a test drive or for transportation by the dealer. ONLY a dealer’s full-time employees and corporate officers may also drive dealer-owned vehicles using a dealer’s plate.
- Signs or plates created by dealers or consumers do not comply with these legal requirements. For example, a sign stating “Test Drive” does not qualify as a valid plate under any circumstances.

Use of Temporary Operating Permits (TOPs):

- TOPs may not be used for test drives. Dealers may only issue a TOP to a consumer that purchased the vehicle from that dealer. TOPs must not be sold or issued outside of a retail sale.
- When a vehicle owner requests the cancellation of a TOP or the TOP must be canceled, Form MV-300 should be used and submitted to the County Tag Office. Please ensure cancellation to avoid misuse.
- It is a violation of Revenue Regulation 560-10-32-.08 to use a TOP for demonstration (test drives), employee use, or transporting vehicles from one location to another. The Department can impose fines and other penalties on dealers that abuse TOPs or allow the abuse of TOPs.

Note: Georgia law requires that each vehicle driven on the public highways and streets must be registered and bear a license plate. See O.C.G.A. § 40-2-29. A driver driving with an unauthorized license plate or temporary license plate is punishable for a misdemeanor. O.C.G.A. § 40-2-29(d). The dealer’s plate provides the only protection from this requirement for vehicles being test driven on public highways and streets.

For More Information

For more information, visit the Motor Vehicle Division website at dor.georgia.gov/motor-vehicles or contact the Motor Vehicle Division at 1-855-406-5221 from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm EST, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.



For more information, please visit the Motor Vehicle Division website at dor.georgia.gov/motor-vehicles or scan the QR code.