March 29, 2012

Registration and Title Bulletin # 004-12 Policy and Procedure

TO: All County Tax Assessor-Collectors

SUBJECT: "Custom Vehicle" and "Street Rod" Program

PURPOSE

This is to inform you about a program that is now effective to allow replica motor vehicles that meet the statutory definition of a "custom vehicle" or "street rod" to be eligible for a specialty license plate.





BACKGROUND

House Bill 890, passed by the 82nd Legislative Session in 2011, defined "custom vehicle" and "street rod" in the Texas Transportation Code, Sec. 504.501, and authorized issuance of specialty license plates for qualifying vehicles.

"Custom Vehicle" is defined as a vehicle manufactured to resemble a vehicle that is at least 25 years old and of a model year after 1948; and has been altered from the manufacturer's original design or has a body constructed from materials not original to the vehicle.

"Street Rod" is defined as a vehicle that was manufactured before 1949; or after 1948 to resemble a vehicle manufactured before 1949; and has been altered from the manufacturer's original design, or has a body constructed from materials not original to the vehicle.

DETAILS

Automotive Service Excellence Inspection and Specialty License Plate Application

Prior to accepting an application for Custom Vehicle or Street Rod specialty license plates, the following safety conditions must be met:

- Vehicle must pass an Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Safety Inspection. To locate an ASE technician, vehicle owners may visit the National Institute for ASE website at: www.ase.com (enter "shop locator" in the search field)
- ASE Technician must complete and sign the Form VTR-852, ASE Safety Inspection and Application for Custom Vehicle or Street Rod License Plates (attached)

There is no fee for the specialty license plate, but the annual registration and applicable local fees must be paid. The plate may be personalized for an additional fee of \$40 per year.

IMPORTANT: The vehicle must be branded as a replica, so the customer may need to apply for a corrected Texas title in order to obtain the REPLICA brand.

Corrected Texas Title

If the customer currently has a title that indicates "ASVE" (Assembled) as the vehicle Make, the following documents must be submitted to obtain a title branded "REPLICA":

- Completed Form 130-U, Application for Texas Certificate of Title
- Certificate of Title
- Three photos of the replica (front, rear, one side) and one photo of the motor vehicle that it resembles
- Form VTR-852, ASE Safety Inspection and Application for Custom Vehicle or Street Rod License Plates
- Proof of liability insurance

Note: Additional supporting documents may be required if previously titled out of state, or imported from a foreign country.

Initial Application for Texas Title

If the customer is making *initial* application for title, the following must be submitted to title the replica vehicle:

- Ownership documents for each major component part (frame, motor and body)
- Form VTR-61, Rebuilt Vehicle Statement
- Verification of the serial number or VIN of each major component part (frame, motor and body). Acceptable verifications include pencil tracing or Form VTR-68-A.
- Certified weight certificate
- Completed Form 130-U, Application for Texas Certificate of Title
- Three photos of the replica (front, rear, one side) and one photo of the motor vehicle that it resembles
- Proof of liability insurance

Note: Additional supporting documents may be required if previously titled out of state, or imported from a foreign country.

If the customer is applying for a new or corrected title, applicable title fees must be paid.

COUNTY ACTION

The **title application** for the new or corrected title to obtain the REPLICA brand should be forwarded to the <u>Vehicle Titles and Registration Division (VTR)-TCS</u> in the title package report in a separate envelope for processing, with any other required documentation and Form VTR-852.

If Texas title is already branded REPLICA, process plate order in RTS and forward the Form VTR-852 to <u>VTR-SPB</u>. As with any specialty license plate, inform the customer to allow two to three weeks for the plates to be manufactured and shipped.

CONTACT

If you have questions, please contact your TxDMV Regional Service Center.

Sincerely,

Randy Ediston, Director

Vehicle Titles and Registration Division

Attachments