

FACT SHEET

Historic Military Vehicle Registration Plates

PURPOSE

This fact sheet outlines the procedures for issuance of Historic Military Vehicle registration plates.

DEFINITIONS

Historic Military Vehicle - An antique or classic vehicle, including a trailer, that was manufactured for use in any country's military forces and is maintained to represent the vehicle's military design and markings accurately.

Antique Motor Vehicle - A motor vehicle, but not a reproduction thereof, manufactured more than 25 years prior to the current year which has been **maintained in or restored to** a condition which is substantially in conformance with manufacturer specifications.

Classic Motor Vehicle - A motor vehicle, but not a reproduction thereof, manufactured at least 15 years prior to the current year which has been **maintained in or restored to** a condition which is substantially in conformity with manufacturer specifications and appearance.

USE OF HISTORIC MILITARY VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATES

The use of Historic Military Vehicle registration plates is governed by Section 1340 of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, which states: "It is unlawful for any person to operate a motorcycle or vehicle with antique, classic, vintage, collectible or historic military vehicle registration plates for general daily transportation. Permitted use shall be limited to participation in club activities, exhibits, tours, parades, occasional transportation and similar uses." **Occasional transportation is defined as no more than one day a week.**

A Historic Military Vehicle Registration plate may not be displayed on a vehicle used to transport people or property.

EXPIRATION OF HISTORIC MILITARY VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATES

Historic Military Vehicle registration plates (when displayed on a Historic Military Vehicle) are permanent and are issued for the life of the vehicle while it is owned by the present owner. If the present owner sells the vehicle, the registration plate remains with the seller/owner and may be used on another qualified vehicle, provided the proper registration and title fees are paid. However, if ownership is transferred between spouses, or between parent and child, the original registration plate may be transferred with a title fee and a transfer fee.

In the event that the new owner wishes to use the same registration plate configuration as the seller and the previous owner no longer wishes to retain the registration plate configuration, the seller must write a letter of release indicating they are relinquishing the registration plate to PennDOT. The new owner may request to use the previous registration plate configuration by forwarding a copy of the letter to PennDOT, along with all appropriate documents and fees when applying for title and registration of the vehicle. PennDOT is able to reissue the previous registration plate to the new owner; however, the new owner must pay the full registration fees in order to have the registration plate reissued to them. The transfer fee is not required in this case.

APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC MILITARY VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATES

To display a Historic Military Vehicle registration plate, the vehicle must already be branded as an antique or classic vehicle. If the vehicle is not branded as an antique or classic vehicle, you must also complete and submit Form [MV-11, "Application for Permanent Antique, Classic or Collectible Registration Plates,"](#) and pay all applicable fees. Please see the [Antique, Classic Vehicles and Vintage Registration Plates Fact Sheet.](#)



Historic Military Vehicle registration plates may be personalized for an additional fee. To check personalized registration plate availability, visit PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services website, www.pa.gov/dmv, select Vehicle Services, then Registration Plates and select [Personalized Registration Plates](#).

Make check or money order payable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and mail all forms and fees to PennDOT at the address on the form. PennDOT forms are available at most motor vehicle dealerships, messenger services and authorized agent offices. [Forms MV-11M](#) and [MV-426B](#) are also available on our website at www.pa.gov/dmv.

NOTE: For a current listing of motor vehicle fees, refer to [Form MV-70S, "Bureau of Motor Vehicles Schedule of Fees."](#)

INSPECTION

Classic vehicles are subject to an annual vehicle safety inspection. Antique vehicles operated exclusively between sunrise and sunset are exempt from the normal lighting requirements of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code but must have their original lighting equipment. Antique vehicles are not subject to the annual vehicle safety inspection. Antique and classic vehicles are not subject to emissions inspection.