

## MASSACHUSETTS

### **Definitions**

**Antique Motor Car.** Any motor vehicle over twenty-five years old which is maintained solely for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades and other functions of public interest and which is not used primarily for the transportation of passengers or goods over any way, provided that the application for registration thereof is accompanied by an affidavit upon a form provided by the registrar which shall include a statement of the age and intended use of such motor vehicle.

**Assembled Vehicle.**

**Custom Vehicle.** A motor vehicle for which the year of manufacture is after 1948, for which the model year is at least 25 years old and that has been altered from the manufacturer's original design or has a body constructed, in whole or in part, from non-original materials.

**Glider Kit.** A vehicle body, including cab, which is placed upon the chassis with its original drive train, of a vehicle with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of more than 10,000 pounds that changes the function or capacity of the original chassis, and which creates a need for a change to the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) because the cab has been replaced. Modifications to the original chassis may be necessary to allow installation of the glider kit.

**Model Year.** The vehicle manufacturer's annual production period for each engine family which includes January 1st of a calendar year or, if the manufacturer has no annual production period for the engine family, the year in which the vehicle was manufactured. If a motor vehicle is manufactured in two or more states, the model-year shall be determined by the date on which the chassis is completed.

**Replica Vehicle.** A motor vehicle constructed or assembled by a non-manufacturer from new or used parts that, when assembled, replicates an earlier year, make and model vehicle.

**Specially-Constructed Vehicle.** A motor vehicle reconstructed or assembled by a non-manufacturer from new or used parts, the exterior of which does not replicate or resemble any other manufactured vehicle.

**Street Rod.** A motor vehicle for which the year of manufacture is prior to 1949, and which has been altered from the manufacturer's original design or has a body constructed from non-original materials.

## **Massachusetts Laws**

**From General Laws of Massachusetts:**

**M.G.L.A. 90**

### **§ 2H Certificates of registration and number plates for street rods, replica and other custom vehicles; determination of title year and make, model and model year**

(a) For purposes of this section, section 2I and section 33, the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:--

“Custom vehicle”, a motor vehicle for which the year of manufacture is after 1948, for which the model year is at least 25 years old and that has been altered from the manufacturer's original design or has a body constructed, in whole or in part, from non-original materials.

“Model year”, the model year indicated on a motor vehicle's certificate of origin or, if there is no such certificate, the model year the body of such vehicle most closely resembles.

“Replica vehicle”, a motor vehicle constructed or assembled by a non-manufacturer from new or used parts that, when assembled, replicates an earlier year, make and model vehicle.

“Specially-constructed vehicle”, a motor vehicle reconstructed or assembled by a non-manufacturer from new or used parts, the exterior of which does not replicate or resemble any other manufactured vehicle.

“Street rod”, a motor vehicle for which the year of manufacture is prior to 1949, and which has been altered from the manufacturer's original design or has a body constructed from non-original materials.

(b) The registrar shall issue certificates of registration and number plates for street rods, replica vehicles, specially-constructed vehicles and custom vehicles in accordance with this section. The registrar may assign an appropriate registration plate to a custom vehicle, replica vehicle, specially-constructed vehicle or street rod based upon the vehicle's intended use and the registration requirements under 540 CMR 2.05.

(c) Street rods, replica vehicles, specially-constructed vehicles and custom vehicles shall not be considered antique motor cars and shall not be eligible for registration pursuant to section 6A.

(d) Replica vehicles shall be titled as the year in which the vehicle was built and the make, model and year of the vehicle that is intended to be replicated. A label of “Replica” shall be applied to the title and registration card. Custom vehicles and street rods shall be titled as the year in which the vehicle was built and an appropriate description of the vehicle including make, model and model year; provided, however, that the manufacturer's name shall continue to be used as the make with a label of “street rod” or “custom vehicle” applied to the title and

registration card. Specially-constructed vehicles shall be titled and registered showing the make as “specially constructed” and the year the vehicle was built shall be the vehicle model year.

**§ 21. Registration prerequisites for certain custom vehicles; salvage inspection; state-assigned VIN; safety belts; air bags**

(a) The registrar, prior to the initial registration of a custom vehicle, replica vehicle, specially-constructed vehicle or street rod, may require such vehicle to undergo a salvage-type inspection at a facility to be determined by the registrar to ensure that stolen parts have not been included in the vehicle.

(b) The registrar, prior to the initial registration of a custom vehicle, replica vehicle, specially-constructed vehicle or street rod, may require such vehicle to obtain a state-assigned vehicle identification number, unless the registrar is satisfied that there is a clearly visible state-assigned vehicle identification number that was previously assigned by the commonwealth or another state.

(c) The registrar may refuse to register or may revoke the registration of a custom vehicle, replica vehicle, specially constructed vehicle or street rod, originally built by its manufacturer as a model year 1966 or later vehicle, unless such vehicle is equipped with operable safety belts for all passenger positions.

(d) The registrar may refuse to register or may revoke the registration of a custom vehicle, replica vehicle, specially constructed vehicle or street rod if the registrar determines that the original manufacturer had installed an air bag or air bags in the vehicle and the current version of the vehicle does not contain such air bag or air bags.

**§ 20B. Exceptions to salvage title requirement**

No salvage title need be obtained for: (1) a vehicle owned by the United States unless it is registered in accordance with the provisions of chapter ninety; (2) a vehicle moved solely by animal power; (3) an implement of husbandry; (4) special mobile equipment; (5) trailers; (6) passenger vehicles ten or more years old; or (7) manufactured homes as defined in section thirty-two Q of chapter one hundred and forty.

**§ 20D. Reconstruction or restoration of total loss salvage motor vehicle**

(a) Any owner who reconstructs or restores a total loss salvage motor vehicle to its operating condition which existed prior to the event which caused a salvage title to issue under this chapter or the laws of another state, or who recovers a total loss salvage motor vehicle if stolen, shall make application to the registrar for a certificate of title and an inspection of the vehicle prior to registration or sale of said vehicle. Each application for title and inspection shall be accompanied by the following:

(1) the outstanding salvage title previously issued for the salvage vehicle;

(2) bills of sale evidencing acquisition of all major component parts used to restore the vehicle, listing the manufacturer's vehicle identification number of the vehicle from which the parts were removed, if such part contained or should contain the manufacturer's vehicle identification number;

(3) the owner shall also provide a sworn affidavit in the form prescribed by the registrar which states that: (i) the identification numbers of the restored vehicle and its parts have not been removed, destroyed, falsified, altered or defaced; (ii) the salvage title document attached to the application has not been forged, falsified, altered or counterfeited; (iii) all information contained on the application and its attachments is true and correct to the knowledge of the owner; and

(4) the required inspection fee.

The vehicle identification number of every vehicle for which an application is submitted shall be inspected by an inspector at a location designated by the registrar. In addition, of the vehicles presented for such inspection, a certain number may be selected for inspection of the vehicle's major component parts which have been repaired or replaced as part of the rebuilding process to determine that the vehicle's parts have not been removed, falsified, altered, defaced, destroyed, or tampered with, and that the vehicle information contained in the application and supporting documents is true and correct. The selection of vehicles to undergo said major component part inspection shall be on a random basis, in accordance with criteria and procedures established by the registrar by regulation, which may be changed from time to time as the registrar deems necessary. The inspector may examine the identification number of each part that has been repaired or replaced as a part of the rebuilding process, in addition to the vehicle identification number, and may compare said numbers to the vehicle identification numbers and identification numbers of parts entered into any state, regional, or national computer network that records the vehicle identification numbers of stolen motor vehicles and the identification numbers of stolen parts. Nothing in this section shall establish a presumption, that a part has been removed, falsified, altered, defaced, destroyed, or tampered with by a person submitting a vehicle for inspection, if such part fails to contain a required identification label. The major component inspection shall not be for the purpose of checking road worthiness or the safety condition of the vehicle. No liability shall be imposed on the registrar or the commonwealth or its agents or employees with respect to any act or omission related to said inspection. A person aggrieved by an adverse report issued under this section by a vehicle inspector, may file a written request for reconsideration of the inspector's report with the registrar, within thirty days of receiving a written copy of said report. The registrar shall assign the request for review to a hearing officer, who shall schedule a hearing to be held within thirty days of the date of the request, at a place of the registrar's choosing. The hearing officer may continue the hearing and may remove said hearing to a more appropriate place if necessary. The hearing officer may affirm or overrule the decision of the inspector. A final decision by the hearing officer shall be rendered within fifteen days of the closing of the final date of hearing.

(b) Upon satisfactory inspection results, and receipt of all required documents and fees, the registrar shall issue a new certificate of title in the name of the owner which shall contain the notation "reconstructed", or if the vehicle was a stolen vehicle which was subsequently recovered in an undamaged condition, said certificate shall contain the notation "recovered theft vehicle".

**§ 6A. Number plates for antique motor cars**

Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, number or registration plates of such size and design as may be determined in the discretion of the registrar of motor vehicles shall be issued for antique motor cars.

**§ 33. Fees**

The registrar or his authorized agents shall collect the fees established herein or if not so established herein, promulgated annually by the commissioner of administration under the provision of section 3B of chapter 7, for the following:--

...

(13) For the registration of every antique motor car.

...

(37) For the registration of every street rod, replica vehicle, specially constructed vehicle or custom vehicle, as defined in section 2H consistent with the vehicle's intended use and the requirements of 540 CMR 2.05.

**M.G.L.A. 175 § 113U. Antique motor car policies**

Insurance companies undertaking to issue motor vehicle liability policies or motor vehicle liability bonds, as defined in section 34A of chapter 90, may issue and deliver policies insuring antique motor cars, as defined in section 1 of said chapter 90. Said antique motor car insurance policies shall be exempt from the provisions of sections 113B and 113H.

**M.G.L.A. 90D § 4. Registration under chapter 90; application for certificate of title required**

(a) Except for vehicles referred to in section two, whoever acquires a motor vehicle or trailer after the effective date of this chapter, shall be required to make application for a certificate of title. Such application shall be made within ten days from the acquisition of ownership of said vehicle or trailer.

(b) Except for vehicles referred to in section two, no new application for registration pertaining to a motor vehicle or trailer shall be accepted under the provisions of chapter ninety until the owner thereof makes application to the registrar for a certificate of title of the vehicle.

**§ 20F. Reassembly of motor vehicles from other motor vehicles; application for title and inspection**

(a) Any person, including a person licensed under section fifty-nine of chapter one hundred and forty, who reassembles a motor vehicle by means of welding together or connecting the frames or unit bodies of two or more motor vehicles, which are not total loss salvage vehicles, shall make application to the registrar for a certificate of title and an inspection of the motor vehicle prior to registration or sale of said vehicle. Each application for title and inspection shall be accompanied by the following:

(1) the outstanding certificate of title;

(2) an affidavit signed by the owner in the form prescribed by the registrar which includes the following information: (i) the identification numbers of each motor vehicle used to reassemble or connect the motor vehicle; (ii) bills of sale evidencing acquisition of all major component parts used to rebuild the vehicle with the corresponding identification numbers of the vehicles from which parts were removed if such a part contains or should contain the manufacturer's vehicle identification number; (iii) a description of the location of the point of connection or weld joint of the two or more vehicle frames; and

(3) the required inspection fee.

The inspection shall include an examination of the vehicle and its major component parts to determine that the vehicle information contained in the application and supporting documents is true and correct, and that there is no indication that the vehicle or any of its parts are stolen. Said inspection shall be conducted by a person appointed under the provisions of section twenty-nine of chapter ninety. Such inspection shall not be for the purpose of checking road worthiness or the safety condition of the vehicle. No liability shall be imposed upon the registrar of motor vehicles or upon the commonwealth or its agents or employees which may result from, or be connected with, any act or omission relative to said inspection.

(b) Upon satisfactory inspection results and receipt of all required documents and fees, the registrar shall issue a new certificate of title which shall contain the notation "reconstructed".

## Massachusetts Equipment Exemptions

From Code of Massachusetts Regulations:

### 540 CMR 4.04

#### 4.04: Procedures for Inspection of Non-commercial Motor Vehicles

...

##### (10) Lighting Devices.

(a) Tail Lights. Every motor vehicle, except a two-wheeled motorcycle, an antique motor car, and a farm tractor, shall be equipped with two red lights (tail lamps) mounted one at each side of the rear of the vehicle so as to show two red lights from behind and equipped with two stop lights (stop lamps) mounted and displayed in a like manner. A single lamp may combine both of the above functions. Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a white light so arranged as to illuminate the rear number plate so that it is plainly visible at 60 feet.

(b) Directional. Front and rear directional signals will be operable on every vehicle originally equipped with such signals. Every motor vehicle registered in the Commonwealth, which was **manufactured for the model year 1967 and for subsequent model years**, shall be equipped with a device to permit the front and rear directional signals to flash simultaneously.

(c) Headlamps. Headlamp aim shall be checked in accordance with the specifications as most recently provided by the Registrar.

(d) Lighting Devices and Reflectors. All lighting devices and reflectors originally equipped on the vehicle at the time of manufacture shall be operable and operate as they were originally designed. Lenses must be intact, clean, unobstructed, and free from cracks. The use of adhesive tape to repair lenses is prohibited.

(e) Aftermarket Lighting. Any aftermarket lighting inconsistent with FMVSS 108 or M.G.L. c. 90 shall be removed or the vehicle shall be rejected. All approved aftermarket lighting shall be operable and capable of performing their design function or must be removed from the vehicle.

...

(12) Bumpers, Fenders. External Sheet Metal and Fuel Tank. A Certificate of Rejection shall be issued if any of the following conditions are evident:

(a) Bumpers. Broken or bent bumpers, fenders, exterior sheet metal or moldings, having sharp edges or abnormal protrusions extending beyond normal vehicle extremities so as to constitute a danger to pedestrians and other motor vehicle traffic. If bumper face plates are removed, bumper brackets must also be removed. On vehicles equipped with air bags, the front bumpers may not be removed. The vehicle hood, door(s), luggage compartment lid, and battery or engine compartment doors or lids, if so equipped, must operate as originally designed.

(b) Latches and Lids. The vehicle hood, door(s), luggage compartment lid, and battery or engine compartment doors or lids, if so equipped, must operate as originally designed.

(c) Fenders. Front and rear fenders must be in place on all vehicles **manufactured after model year 1949 if such vehicles were designed and manufactured to be operated with front and rear fenders**. Every motor vehicle under 10,000 lbs. (GVWR), which is equipped with tires which extend beyond the fenders or body of such vehicle shall be equipped with flaps or suitable guards to reduce such spray or splash to the rear and side.

(d) Floor Pans. Holes or cracks, due to rust or otherwise, in the floor pans or other body panels which would permit the passage of exhaust gases into the passenger or trunk compartments.

(e) Fuel Tanks. Fuel tanks and all fuel system components, including fuel caps, which are not securely attached to the vehicles body or chassis, or that are leaking.

(f) Frame or Unibody. Broken, cracked, modified or rusted structural parts of the undercarriage or unibody so as to cause a hazard or structural weakness.

...

(14) Safety Belts, Lap Belts and Shoulder Restraints. Safety belts, lap belts and shoulder restraints originally installed in motor **vehicles manufactured after July 1, 1966** shall be inspected to assure that all are maintained in good order. It shall be the responsibility of the motorist that the safety belts are readily accessible for inspection.

#### **From General Laws of Massachusetts:**

**M.G.L.A. 90 § 7. Brakes, braking systems, mufflers, horns, lights, audible warning systems, and other equipment; compliance with safety standards; stickers and emblems**

...

Every motor vehicle and trailer so operated shall be equipped with two rear lights mounted one at each side of the rear of the vehicle so as to show two red lights from behind and a white light so arranged as to illuminate and not obscure the rear number plate and shall be equipped with two stop lights mounted and displayed in a like manner of a type complying with minimum standards for construction and performance as the registrar may prescribe; provided, however, that a two-wheeled motorcycle, an **antique motor car** and a farm tractor **need be equipped with only one such rear red light and one suitable stop light in addition to the number plate illuminator**; and provided, further, that a trailer having a gross weight of three thousand pounds or less which does not obscure the required lights of the towing vehicle need be equipped with only one such rear red light and one white light so arranged as to illuminate and not obscure the rear number plate.

...



**§ 9A. Safety glass; windshields, windows**

No person shall operate any motor vehicle, and the owner or custodian of a motor vehicle shall not permit the same to be operated with partitions, doors, windows or windshields of glass unless such glass is of a type known as safety glass. The term "safety glass", as used herein, shall include any glass designed to minimize the likelihood of personal injury from its breaking or scattering when broken. This section **shall not apply to motor vehicles manufactured prior to January first, nineteen hundred and thirty-six.**

**§ 13A. Persons in Motor Vehicles Required to Wear Safety Belts; Exceptions; Penalties for Violations; Contesting Citations.**

No person shall operate a private passenger motor vehicle or ride in a private passenger motor vehicle, a vanpool vehicle or truck under eighteen thousand pounds on any way unless such person is wearing a safety belt which is properly adjusted and fastened; provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to:

...

(b) any person riding in a motor **vehicle manufactured before July first, nineteen hundred and sixty six;**

...

**§ 19D. Permit stickers; issuance; application; certificate of gross vehicle weight rating; violations; penalties**

Except for special permits for the carrying of so-called irreducible loads, for which permit stickers shall not be required, the registrar shall issue to the owner or lessee of a motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer or semi-trailer unit or tandem unit for which a permit, other than a special permit for the carrying of so-called irreducible loads, has been issued under the provisions of sections thirty and thirty A of chapter eighty-five, a permit sticker to be affixed to the upper center portion of the windshield, or in case of a trailer or a semi-trailer to the lower right front, upon the payment by such owner or lessee of the fee provided in section thirty-three of chapter ninety; provided that such owner or lessee shall have filed with the registrar the written approval of the commissioner of highways of his application for such permit, together with a certificate of the gross vehicle weight rating of such motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer or semi-trailer unit or tandem unit. If standards promulgated by the United States Department of Transportation, or such agency as may succeed to its powers and responsibilities, are applicable to such vehicle, its gross vehicle weight rating shall be reported to the registrar in accordance with such standards. Such certificates shall be in such form as the registrar shall prescribe, but it shall be divided in two sections, one to be executed by the owner or lessee, and the other to be executed by a manufacturer of the vehicle or the authorized representative of such manufacturer. The owner or lessee's section shall include, but not be limited to: (a) the make, model and year of the motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer or semi-trailer unit or tandem unit; (b)

the vehicle identification number; (c) the name and address of the owner or lessee; (d) the gross weight for which such vehicle is registered; (e) the maximum weight authorized by the commissioner of highways for such vehicle; (f) a statement by the owner or lessee that to its knowledge, no alterations have been made to the motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer or semi-trailer unit or tandem unit which would tend to reduce the said gross vehicle weight rating, and that the chassis, axles, tires, rims, brakes, steering components and suspension system are maintained in good order; (g) the date of permit approval by the commissioner of highways, and any number assigned thereto by him; and (h) the expiration date of such permit, which shall also be the expiration date of said permit sticker. The said manufacturer's section shall include, but not be limited to: (a) the manufacturer's name and address and its representative's name and address, if any, providing the gross vehicle weight rating, and (b) the said gross vehicle weight rating in pounds.

If an owner or lessee shall be unable to obtain a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating for any such **vehicle manufactured before January first, nineteen hundred and seventy-two** and shall submit to the registrar a statement in writing from such manufacturer giving the reasons why it cannot provide such a rating, the registrar may nevertheless issue such a permit sticker limited to such weight, not exceeding registered weight, as the registrar shall prescribe.

## Application for an *Antique* Motor Vehicle Plate or Year of Manufacture Registration Plate

### Customer Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Check One:

Antique Normal

Antique Vanity

Year of Manufacture

#### Definitions:

Only **motor vehicles** meeting the definition of an “Antique motor car” may display an **Antique** registration plate. At the discretion of the Registrar, a **Year of Manufacture** registration plate may be issued for display on an “antique motor car” in place of an **Antique** registration plate.

An “antique motor car” is **any motor vehicle over twenty-five years old** maintained solely for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest. This includes test drives to prepare for such functions and transportation to and from repair facilities, and not used primarily for the transportation of passengers or goods over any way. A **motorcycle** is eligible for an **Antique** registration plate.

A “**Year of Manufacture Plate**” is a registration plate (in the possession of the Applicant) originally issued by the Commonwealth in the exact year of manufacture of the antique motor car to which it is proposed to be attached. If no registration plate(s) was issued in a particular year, a registration plate originally issued in a prior year may be approved by the Registrar for use as a Year of Manufacturer Plate on the “antique motor car” to which it is proposed to be attached. Year of Manufacture Vanity Plates or Year of Manufacture Antique Plates are not available. A **motorcycle** may display a Year of Manufacture plate if approved by the Registrar.

#### *RMV Policies for Use of Year of Manufacture Plates:*

1. The vehicle owner must complete this *Application* and sign in the presence of a Notary.
2. The plate must be physically presented to the Registrar for inspection and approval.
  - (i) The plate can contain no more than six (6) characters.
  - (ii) The plate must be in good repair **and in original condition**. Its letters, numbers and markings must be clearly legible. Any indication that the plate has been repainted or otherwise altered will cause the Registrar to reject use of the plate.
  - (iii) The plate must be sufficiently distinctive in appearance so as not to be confused with currently issued plates. If the Registrar has already approved the use of a plate as a *Year of Manufacture* plate, which contains a specific combination of letters and numbers (or letters or numbers alone), that same combination on a different *Year of Manufacture* plate is not sufficiently distinctive and will not be approved as another *Year of Manufacture* plate.
  - (iv) A **Year of Manufacture** plate may be approved by the Registrar for use on an antique motor car of a different type than that for which the registration plate was originally issued. For example, a truck plate may be approved for use on an antique automobile and an automobile plate may be approved for use on an antique truck. (A motorcycle plate can only be used on a motorcycle, however.)
  - (v) The Registrar may approve of the display of only one (1) *Year of Manufacture* plate (if that is all that is available) even though the RMV issued two (2) plates per vehicle in the year the plate was originally issued.
  - (vi) A **Year of Manufacture** plate must be displayed pursuant to Chapter 90, Section 6 of the General Laws but the registration decal for the current registration period need not be attached to the plate. If it is not attached to the plate it must be carried in the antique vehicle at all times and presented at the request of a Police Officer.
  - (vii) A plate displaying the word “Antique” CANNOT be used as a “Year of Manufacture Plate.”
3. A **Year of Manufacture** plate cannot be used for a vehicle with a model year of 1979 or later, since the RMV began issuing plates with green alphanumeric on a white background in 1979 and many of these plates are still active.

**Note: If your Year of Manufacture plate is ever suspended or revoked, the Registrar may require the plate be turned in to the Registry of Motor Vehicles.**

## Certification and Affidavit of Vehicle Owner

I hereby certify that the \_\_\_\_\_ (antique vehicle) owned  
Year Make & Model  
by me and described in the accompanying RMV registration application is over 25 years old and will be maintained and operated solely for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades and other functions of public interest (including test drives to prepare for such functions and transportation to and from repair facilities) and will not be used primarily for the transportation of passengers or goods over any way. I also certify that if I am registering the vehicle with a **Year of Manufacture** plate, that I came into possession of the plate in a lawful manner.

***This document must be signed in the presence of a Notary Public of the Commonwealth.***

***I swear that I am the owner of the vehicle described in the accompanying application form and that the above Certification and Affidavit is true and correct. I understand that I am signing this document under the penalties of perjury and may be punished for false swearing.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Vehicle Owner                      Printed Name of Vehicle Owner                      \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Date

***Notarization:*** On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_ (name of document signer), proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, which were \_\_\_\_\_, to be the person whose name is signed above, and who swore or affirmed to me that the contents of the document are truthful and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Notary Public                      Printed Name of Notary Public                      \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
My Commission Expires

*Place notary seal above*

### Registry Use Only:

Batch No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Antique Plate No. Issued: \_\_\_\_\_  
Antique Vanity Plate No. Issued: \_\_\_\_\_  
Year of Manufacture Plate No. Issued: \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attention Branches: Submit Completed Forms to Special Plates Section.**

## RMV Policies for Use of Year of Manufacture Plates

1. The vehicle owner must complete an "Application for an Antique Motor Vehicle Plate or Year of Manufacture Registration Plate" form and sign it in the presence of a Notary.
2. The plate must be physically presented to the Registrar or designee for inspection and approval.
  - (i) The plate can contain no more than six (6) characters.
  - (ii) The plate must be in good repair and in **original condition**. Its letters, numbers and markings must be clearly legible. Any indication that the plate has been repainted or otherwise altered will cause the Registrar to reject use of the plate.
  - (iii) The plate must be sufficiently distinctive in appearance so as not to be confused with currently issued plates. If the Registrar has already approved the use of a plate as a *Year of Manufacture* plate, which contains a specific combination of letters and numbers (or letters or numbers alone), that same combination on a different *Year of Manufacture* plate is not sufficiently distinctive and will not be approved as another *Year of Manufacture* plate.
  - (iv) A **Year of Manufacture** plate may be approved by the Registrar for use on an antique motor car of a different type than that for which the registration plate was originally issued. For example, a truck plate may be approved for use on an antique automobile and an automobile plate may be approved for use on an antique truck. (A motorcycle plate can only be used on a motorcycle, however.)
  - (v) The Registrar may approve of the display of only one (1) *Year of Manufacture* plate (if that is all that is available) even though the RMV issued two (2) plates per vehicle in the year the plate was originally issued.
  - (vi) A **Year of Manufacture** plate must be displayed pursuant to Chapter 90, Section 6 of the General Laws but the registration decal for the current registration period need not be attached to the plate. If it is not attached to the plate it must be carried in the antique vehicle at all times and presented at the request of a Police Officer.
  - (vii) A plate displaying the word "Antique" CANNOT be used as a "Year of Manufacture Plate."

**Note: If a Year of Manufacture plate is ever suspended or revoked, the Registrar may require the plate be turned in to the Registry of Motor Vehicles.**

# Year of Manufacture Reference List



## Definitions

Only **motor vehicles** meeting the definition of an "Antique motor car" may display an **Antique** registration plate. At the discretion of the Registrar, a **Year of Manufacture** registration plate may be issued for display on an "antique motor car" in place of an **Antique** registration plate.

An "antique motor car" is **any motor vehicle over twenty-five years old** which is maintained solely for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest. This includes test drives to prepare for such functions and transportation to and from repair facilities, and not used primarily for the transportation of passengers or goods over any way. A **motorcycle** is eligible for an **Antique** registration plate.

A "**Year of Manufacture Plate**" is a registration plate (in the possession of the Applicant) originally issued by the Commonwealth in the exact year of manufacture of the antique motor car to which it is proposed to be attached. If no registration plate(s) was issued in a particular year, a registration plate originally issued in a prior year may be approved by the Registrar for use as a Year of Manufacturer Plate on the "antique motor car" to which it is proposed to be attached. Year of Manufacture Vanity Plates or Year of Manufacture Antique Plates are not available.

- ◆ Alphanumerics were not used on passenger plates until 1949
- ◆ Only one plate is needed (if that is all that is available)
- ◆ Truck plates had a "B" prefix from 1911
- ◆ Plates issued in 1903 - 1915 were *porcelain enamel over* steel
- ◆ Plates issued in 1903 - 1907, were the same and UNDATED; only lettering was inscribed at the top "Mass Automobile Register"
- ◆ Plates issued in 1916 - 1919, were FLAT steel, had no embossed numbers, and no raised border
- ◆ If no plate was issued in a particular year, a plate from the **previous** year can be used, but **not** a plate from a following year
- ◆ Some plates issued in 1942 have WHITE alphanumerics on a GREEN background
- ◆ 1966 was the last year that Massachusetts dated license plates
- ◆ Undated plates (1967 and up) do not need a registration sticker indicating the Year of Manufacture of the vehicle or the year of original issuance of the plate
- ◆ When a Year of Manufacture registration is voluntarily cancelled, the plate(s) do not have to be surrendered to the RMV

## Facts

Year of Manufacture Reference List

Year	Plate Issued	Background	Alphanumerics
1903	Y	Navy Blue	White Numbers
1904	Y	Navy Blue	White Numbers
1905	Y	Navy Blue	White Numbers
1906	Y	Navy Blue	White Numbers
1907	Y	Navy Blue	White Numbers
1908	Y	White	Dark Blue Numbers
1909	Y	Navy Blue	White Numbers
1910	Y	White	Dark Blue Numbers
1911	Y	Navy Blue	White Numbers
1912	Y	White	Dark Blue Numbers
1913	Y	Navy Blue	White Numbers
1914	Y	White	Dark Blue Numbers
1915	Y	Navy Blue	White Numbers
1916	Y	White	Dark Blue Numbers
1917	Y	Navy Blue	White Numbers
1918	Y	White	Dark Blue Numbers
1919	Y	Navy Blue	White Numbers
1920	Y	White	Dark Blue Numbers
1921	Y	Navy Blue	White Numbers
1922	Y	White	Dark Blue Numbers
1923	Y	Navy Blue	White Numbers
1924	Y	Cranberry	White Alphanumerics
1925	Y	Black	White Alphanumerics
1926	Y	Blue	White Alphanumerics
1927	Y	Cranberry	White Alphanumerics
1928	Y	Green	White Alphanumerics
1929	Y	Blue	White Alphanumerics
1930	Y	Cranberry	White Alphanumerics
1931	Y	Green	White Alphanumerics
1932	Y	Cranberry	White Alphanumerics
1933	Y	Green	White Alphanumerics
1934	Y	Cranberry	White Alphanumerics
1935	Y	Green	White Alphanumerics
1936	Y	Cranberry	White Alphanumerics
1937	Y	Green	White Alphanumerics
1938	Y	Cranberry	White Alphanumerics
1939	Y	Green	White Alphanumerics
1940	Y	Cranberry	White Alphanumerics
1941	Y	Green	White Alphanumerics

Year of Manufacture Reference List

Year	Plate Issued	Background	Alphanumerics
1942	Y	Cranberry	White Alphanumerics
1943	N		
1944	N		
1945	Y	Blue	White Alphanumerics
1946	Y	Black	White Alphanumerics
1947	Y	Green	White Alphanumerics
1948	Y	Cranberry	White Alphanumerics
1949	Y	Black	White Alphanumerics
1950	N		
1951	Y	Cranberry	White Alphanumerics
1952	N		
1953	Y	Black	White Alphanumerics
1954	N		
1955	Y	Cranberry	White Alphanumerics
1956	N		
1957	Y	Black	White Alphanumerics
1958	N		
1959	Y	Cranberry	White Alphanumerics
1960	N		
1961	Y	Green	White Alphanumerics
1962	N		
1963	Y	Black	White Alphanumerics
1964	Y	Cranberry	White Alphanumerics
1965	N		
1966	Y	Green	White Alphanumerics
1967	Y	White	Blue Alphanumerics
1968	N		
1969	N		
1970	Y	White	Blue Alphanumerics
1971	Y	White	Blue Alphanumerics
1972	Y	White	Blue or Red Alphanumerics
1973	Y	White	Blue or Red Alphanumerics
1974	Y	White	Red Alphanumerics
1975	Y	White	Red Alphanumerics
1976	Y	White	Red Alphanumerics
1977	Y	White	Red Alphanumerics
1978	Y	White	Red Alphanumerics

**Vehicles from 1979 or later are not currently eligible for Year of Manufacture Plates.**