

Definitions

Antique Automobile or Truck. A passenger car or truck that:

- (1) is at least 25 years old, if the vehicle is a passenger car or truck;
- (2) is a collector's item;
- (3) is used exclusively for exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest and is not used for regular transportation; and
- (4) does not carry advertising.

Classic Auto. An automobile that is 25 or more years old.

Classic Truck. A truck that is 25 or more years old.

Exhibition vehicle. (A) An assembled complete passenger car, truck, or motorcycle that: (i) is a collector's item; (ii) is used exclusively for exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest; (iii) does not carry advertising; and (iv) has a frame, body, and motor that is at least 25 years old; or (B) A former military vehicle as defined in Transportation Code, § 504.502. 43 TAC § 217.21 (25).

Parade Vehicle. A motor vehicle owned and operated by a nonprofit service organization which is designed, constructed, and used primarily for parade purposes.

Special Interest Vehicle. A motor vehicle of any age that has not been changed from original manufacturer's specifications and, because of its historic interest, is being preserved by a hobbyist.

Titling & Registration

MOTOR VEHICLE TITLE MANUAL:

http://www.txdmv.gov/publications-tac/doc_download/3080-title-manual

ASSEMBLED AND REBUILT VEHICLE MANUAL:

<http://txdmv.gov/assembled-vehicle-manual>

15.06 Reconstructed or Rebuilt Vehicles

All vehicles used on the public highways are required to meet all of the state equipment laws and requirements; therefore, **reconstructed** or **rebuilt vehicles** which are using the public highways are also expected to meet all of the state equipment laws and regulations. **Reconstructed** or **rebuilt vehicles** in many instances fail to meet state requirements and, therefore, are not legal for use on the public highways.

All **reconstructed** or **rebuilt vehicles** (sand or dune buggies or **hot rods**) must comply with inspection requirements for the class of motor vehicle it is being inspected as, such as car, truck, motorcycle, or motor-driven cycle.

Be sure to check **reconstructed** or **rebuilt vehicles** for all required items of inspection with particular attention to the lighting devices. Head lamps shall be of a type acceptable by the Department. No modifications are allowed that will change the original design or performance of any lamp. Only acceptable automobile head lamps may be used on cars and trucks. Either the 7-inch head lamps or both dual head lamps (type 1 and type 2) may be used. Only acceptable motorcycle head lamps may be used on motorcycles, motor-driven cycles, and mopeds.

All lighting devices must be of an acceptable type that meet Department standards and must comply with the mounting heights as specified in the inspection requirements.

The year model of a **reconstructed vehicle** will be the same year in which it was **reconstructed** and not the year of original manufacture. Therefore, the inspection requirements would be for the model year of the vehicle (same as the year of **reconstruction**) or the year model of the engine itself, whichever is the later model.

Motor vehicles used for competitive racing, such as modified stock cars, dragsters, and **hot rods** may be inspected. When such a vehicle is presented for inspection, all rules and regulations regarding the inspection of the vehicle will apply. This applies to brake requirements, exhaust systems, as well as any other item required in these provisions.

From Texas Administrative Code:

TITLE 43. TRANSPORTATION
PART 10. TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
CHAPTER 217. VEHICLE TITLES AND REGISTRATION
SUBCHAPTER B. MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION

43 TAC § 217.28 (2016)

- § 217.28. Specialty License Plates, Symbols, Tabs, and Other Devices
 - (a) To renew vehicle registration, a vehicle owner must apply, prior to the expiration of the vehicle's registration, to the tax assessor-collector of the county in which the owner resides.
 - **(b)** The department will send a license plate renewal notice, indicating the proper registration fee and the month and year the registration expires, to each vehicle owner prior to the expiration of the vehicle's registration.
 - **(c)** The license plate renewal notice should be returned by the vehicle owner to the appropriate county tax assessor-collector or to the tax assessor-collector's deputy, either in person or by mail, unless the vehicle owner renews via the Internet. The renewal notice must be accompanied by the following documents and fees:
 - **(1)** registration renewal fees prescribed by law;
 - **(2)** any local fees or other fees prescribed by law and collected in conjunction with registration renewal; and
 - **(3)** evidence of financial responsibility required by [Transportation Code, § 502.046](#), unless otherwise exempted by law.
 - **(d)** If a renewal notice is lost, destroyed, or not received by the vehicle owner, the vehicle may be registered if the owner presents personal identification acceptable to the county tax assessor-collector. Failure to receive the notice does not relieve the owner of the responsibility to renew the vehicle's registration.
 - **(e)** Renewal of expired vehicle registrations.
 - **(1)** In accordance with [Transportation Code, § 502.407](#), a vehicle with an expired registration may not be operated on the highways of the state after the fifth working day after the date a vehicle registration expires.
 - **(2)** If the owner has been arrested or cited for operating the vehicle without valid registration then a 20 percent delinquency penalty is due when registration is renewed, the full annual fee will be collected, and the vehicle registration expiration month will remain the same.
 - **(3)** If the county tax assessor-collector or the department determines that a registrant has a valid reason for being delinquent in registration, the vehicle owner will be required to pay for twelve months' registration. Renewal will establish a new registration expiration month that will end on the last day of the eleventh month following the month of registration renewal.
 - **(4)** If the county tax assessor-collector or the department determines that a registrant does not have a valid reason for being delinquent in registration, the full annual fee will be collected and the vehicle registration expiration month will remain the same.
 - **(5)** If a vehicle is registered in accordance with [Transportation Code, §§ 502.255, 502.431, 502.435, 502.454, 504.315, 504.401, 504.405, 504.505, or 504.515](#) and if the vehicle's registration is renewed more than one month after expiration of the previous registration, the registration fee will be prorated.
 - **(6)** Evidence of a valid reason may include receipts, passport dates, and military orders. Valid reasons may include:
 - **(A)** extensive repairs on the vehicle;
 - **(B)** the person was out of the country;
 - **(C)** the vehicle is used only for seasonal use;
 - **(D)** military orders;
 - **(E)** storage of the vehicle;
 - **(F)** a medical condition such as an extended hospital stay; and

- **(G)** any other reason submitted with evidence that the county tax assessor-collector or the department determines is valid.

From Texas Transportation Code:

TRANSPORTATION CODE
TITLE 7. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
SUBTITLE A. CERTIFICATES OF TITLE AND REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES
CHAPTER 501. CERTIFICATE OF TITLE ACT
SUBCHAPTER B. CERTIFICATE OF TITLE REQUIREMENTS

Tex. Transp. Code § 501.021

§ 501.021. Certificate of Title

(a) A motor vehicle title issued by the department must include:

- (1) the legal name and address of each purchaser and seller at the first sale or a subsequent sale;
- (2) the make of the motor vehicle;
- (3) the body type of the vehicle;
- (4) the manufacturer's permanent vehicle identification number of the vehicle or the vehicle's motor number if the vehicle was manufactured before the date that stamping a permanent identification number on a motor vehicle was universally adopted;
- (5) the serial number for the vehicle;
- (6) the name and address of each lienholder and the date of each lien on the vehicle, listed in the chronological order in which the lien was recorded;
- (7) a statement indicating rights of survivorship under Section 501.031;
- (8) if the vehicle has an odometer, the odometer reading at the time of application for the title; and
- (9) any other information required by the department.

(b) A printed certificate of title must bear the following statement on its face:

(b) "UNLESS OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY LAW, IT IS A VIOLATION OF STATE LAW TO SIGN THE NAME OF ANOTHER PERSON ON A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE OR OTHERWISE GIVE FALSE INFORMATION ON A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE."

(c) A title for a motor vehicle that has been the subject of an ordered repurchase or replacement under Chapter 2301, Occupations Code, must contain on its face a notice sufficient to inform a purchaser that the motor vehicle has been the subject of an ordered repurchase or replacement.

TRANSPORTATION CODE
TITLE 7. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
SUBTITLE A. CERTIFICATES OF TITLE AND REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES
CHAPTER 504. SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES
SUBCHAPTER F. SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES FOR CERTAIN VEHICLES

Tex. Transp. Code § 504.502

§ 504.502. Certain **Exhibition Vehicles**; Offense

(a) The department shall issue specialty license plates for a passenger car, truck, motorcycle, bus, or former military vehicle that:

- (1) is at least 25 years old, if the vehicle is a passenger car, truck, motorcycle, or bus;
- (2) is a collector's item;
- (3) is used exclusively for exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest and is not used for regular transportation; and
- (4) does not carry advertising.

(b) The license plates must include the words "Antique Auto," "Antique Truck," "Antique Motorcycle," "Antique Bus," or "Military Vehicle," as appropriate.

(c) A person eligible for the license plates may instead use license plates issued by this state in the same year as the model year of the vehicle and approved by the department, provided that a passenger car must bear passenger car or truck license plates and a truck must bear passenger car or truck license plates. The department may require attachment of a registration insignia to the license plate in a manner that does not affect the display of information originally on the license plate.

(d) License plates issued or approved under this section expire on the fifth anniversary of the date of issuance or approval.

(e) The fee for issuance or approval of license plates under this section is:

- (1) \$10 for each year or portion of a year remaining in the five-year registration period if the vehicle was manufactured in 1921 or later; or
- (2) \$8 for each year or portion of a year remaining in the five-year registration period if the vehicle was manufactured before 1921.

(f) The department may exempt a former military vehicle from the requirement to display a license plate or registration insignia if the exemption is necessary to maintain the vehicle's accurate military markings. The department may approve an alternative registration insignia that is compatible with the vehicle's original markings.

(g) A person entitled to specialty license plates or to department approval under this section may register the vehicle without payment of any fees paid for or at the time of registration except the fee for the license plate.

(h) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a vehicle issued license plates under Subsection (a) shall be required to attach and display only one license plate on the rear of the vehicle.

(i) In this section, "former military vehicle" means a vehicle, including a trailer, regardless of the vehicle's size, weight, or year of manufacture, that:

- (1) was manufactured for use in any country's military forces; and
- (2) is maintained to represent its military design and markings accurately.
- (j) [Repealed by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., ch. 1296 (H.B. 2357), § 247(16), effective January 1, 2012.]

TRANSPORTATION CODE
TITLE 7. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
SUBTITLE A. CERTIFICATES OF TITLE AND REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES
CHAPTER 501. CERTIFICATE OF TITLE ACT
SUBCHAPTER E. NONREPAIRABLE AND SALVAGE MOTOR VEHICLES

Tex. Transp. Code § 501.100

§ 501.100. Application for Regular Certificate of Title for Salvage Vehicle

(a) The owner of a motor vehicle for which a nonrepairable vehicle title issued prior to September 1, 2003, or for which a salvage vehicle title or salvage record of title has been issued may apply for a title after the motor vehicle has been repaired, rebuilt, or reconstructed and, in addition to any other requirement of law, only if the application:

- (1) describes each major component part used to repair the motor vehicle;
- (2) states the name of each person from whom the parts used in assembling the vehicle were obtained; and
- (3) shows the identification number required by federal law to be affixed to or inscribed on the part.

(b) On receipt of a complete application under this section accompanied by the fee for the title, the department shall issue the applicant a title.

(c) A title issued under this section must describe or disclose the motor vehicle's former condition in a manner reasonably understandable to a potential purchaser of the motor vehicle.

(d) In addition to the fee described by Subsection (b), the applicant shall pay a \$65 rebuilder fee. The applicant shall include the fee with the statement submitted under Section 502.156 for the vehicle.

(e) On or after the 31st day after the date the department receives a rebuilder fee under Subsection (d), the department shall deposit \$50 of the fee to the credit of the state highway fund to be used only by the Department of Public Safety to enforce this chapter and \$15 to the credit of the general revenue fund.

(f) The department may not issue a regular title for a motor vehicle based on a:

- (1) nonrepairable vehicle title or comparable out-of-state ownership document;
- (2) receipt issued under Section 501.1003(b); or
- (3) certificate of authority.

TRANSPORTATION CODE
TITLE 7. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
SUBTITLE A. CERTIFICATES OF TITLE AND REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES
CHAPTER 502. REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES
SUBCHAPTER D. REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AND FEES

Tex. Transp. Code § 502.156

§ 502.156. Statement Required for **Rebuilt Vehicles**

A county assessor-collector shall require an applicant for registration of a **rebuilt vehicle** to provide a statement that the **vehicle is rebuilt** and that states the name of each person from whom the parts used in assembling the vehicle were obtained.

TRANSPORTATION CODE
TITLE 7. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
SUBTITLE A. CERTIFICATES OF TITLE AND REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES
CHAPTER 503. DEALER'S AND MANUFACTURER'S VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES
SUBCHAPTER B. GENERAL DISTINGUISHING NUMBER

Tex. Transp. Code § 503.024

§ 503.024. Exclusions for Dealer

(a) A person is not required to obtain a dealer general distinguishing number if the person:

(1) sells or offers to sell during a calendar year fewer than five vehicles of the same type that are owned and registered in that person's name; or

(2) is a federal, state, or local governmental agency.

(b) For the purposes of Section 503.021, a person is not engaging in business as a dealer by:

(1) selling or offering to sell a vehicle the person acquired for personal or business use to a person other than a retail buyer if the sale or offer is not made to avoid a requirement of this chapter;

(2) selling, in a manner provided by law for the forced sale of vehicles, a vehicle in which the person holds a security interest;

(3) acting under a court order as a receiver, trustee, administrator, executor, guardian, or other appointed person;

(4) selling a vehicle the person acquired from the vehicle's owner as a result of paying an insurance claim if the person is an insurance company;

(5) selling an **antique** passenger **car or truck** that is at least 25 years of age; or

(6) selling a **special interest vehicle** that is at least 12 years of age if the person is a collector.

(c) For the purposes of Section 503.021, a domiciliary of another state who holds a dealer license and bond, if applicable, issued by the other state is not engaging in business as a dealer by buying a vehicle from, selling a vehicle to, or exchanging a vehicle with a person who:

(1) holds a general distinguishing number issued by the department, if the transaction is not intended to avoid a requirement of this chapter; or

(2) is a domiciliary of another state who holds a dealer license and bond, if applicable, issued by the other state and the transaction is not intended to avoid a requirement of this chapter.

(d) For the purposes of Section 503.021, a licensed auctioneer is not engaging in business as a dealer by, as a bid caller, selling or offering to sell property to the highest bidder at a bona fide auction if:

(1) legal or equitable title does not pass to the auctioneer;

(2) the auction is not held to avoid a requirement of this chapter;
and

(3) for an auction of vehicles owned legally or equitably by a person who holds a general distinguishing number, the auction is conducted at the location for which the general distinguishing number was issued.

(e) In this section, "**special interest vehicle**" has the meaning assigned by Section 683.077(b).

TRANSPORTATION CODE
TITLE 7. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
SUBTITLE H. PARKING, TOWING, AND STORAGE OF VEHICLES
CHAPTER 683. ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES
SUBCHAPTER E. JUNKED VEHICLES: PUBLIC NUISANCE; ABATEMENT

Tex. Transp. Code § 683.077 (2016)

§ 683.077. Inapplicability of Subchapter

(a) Procedures adopted under Section 683.074 or 683.0765 may not apply to a vehicle or vehicle part:

(1) that is completely enclosed in a building in a lawful manner and is not visible from the street or other public or private property; or

(2) that is stored or parked in a lawful manner on private property in connection with the business of a licensed vehicle dealer or junkyard, or that is an antique or **special interest vehicle** stored by a motor vehicle collector on the collector's property, if the vehicle or part and the outdoor storage area, if any, are:

(A) maintained in an orderly manner;

(B) not a health hazard; and

(C) screened from ordinary public view by appropriate means, including a fence, rapidly growing trees, or shrubbery.

(b) In this section:

(1) "Antique vehicle" means a passenger car or truck that is at least 25 years old.

(2) "Motor vehicle collector" means a person who:

(A) owns one or more antique or **special interest vehicles**; and

(B) acquires, collects, or disposes of an antique or **special interest vehicle** or part of an antique or **special interest vehicle** for personal use to restore and preserve an antique or **special interest vehicle** for historic interest.

(3) "**Special interest vehicle**" means a motor vehicle of any age that has not been changed from original manufacturer's specifications and, because of its historic interest, is being preserved by a hobbyist.

TRANSPORTATION CODE
TITLE 7. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
SUBTITLE A. CERTIFICATES OF TITLE AND REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES
CHAPTER 504. SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES
SUBCHAPTER F. SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES FOR CERTAIN VEHICLES

Tex. Transp. Code § 504.501

§ 504.501. Classic Motor Vehicles and Travel Trailers [Effective September 1, 2011]

(a) The department shall issue specialty license plates for a motor **vehicle** that is at least 25 **years old**. The license plates must include the word "Classic" or a similar designation, as appropriate.

(b) A person eligible for the license plates may instead use license plates that were issued by this state in the same year as the model year of the vehicle and are approved by the department if the plates are approved for the vehicle before January 1, 2011. The department may require the attachment of a registration insignia to the license plate in a manner that does not affect the display of information originally on the license plate.

(c) There is no fee for issuance or approval of license plates under this section.

TRANSPORTATION CODE
TITLE 7. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
SUBTITLE A. CERTIFICATES OF TITLE AND REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES
CHAPTER 504. **SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES**
SUBCHAPTER F. **SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES** FOR CERTAIN VEHICLES

Tex. Transp. Code § 504.501

§ 504.501. **Classic** Motor **Vehicles** and Travel Trailers [Effective September 1, 2011]

(a) The department shall issue **specialty** license **plates** for a motor vehicle that is at least 25 years old. The license plates must include the word "Classic" or a similar designation, as appropriate.

(b) A person eligible for the license plates may instead use license plates that were issued by this state in the same year as the model year of the vehicle and are approved by the department if the plates are approved for the vehicle before January 1, 2011. The department may require the attachment of a registration insignia to the license plate in a manner that does not affect the display of information originally on the license plate.

(c) There is no fee for issuance or approval of license plates under this section.

TRANSPORTATION CODE
TITLE 7. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
SUBTITLE A. CERTIFICATES OF TITLE AND REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES
CHAPTER 504. **SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES**
SUBCHAPTER F. **SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES** FOR CERTAIN VEHICLES

Tex. Transp. Code § 504.502

§ 504.502. Certain Exhibition Vehicles; Offense

(a) The department shall issue specialty license plates for a passenger car, truck, motorcycle, bus, or former military vehicle that:

- (1) is at least 25 years old, if the vehicle is a passenger car, truck, motorcycle, or bus;
- (2) is a collector's item;
- (3) is used exclusively for exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest and is not used for regular transportation; and
- (4) does not carry advertising.

(b) The license plates must include the words "Antique Auto," "Antique Truck," "Antique Motorcycle," "Antique Bus," or "Military Vehicle," as appropriate.

(c) A person eligible for the license plates may instead use license plates issued by this state in the same year as the model year of the vehicle and approved by the department, provided that a passenger car must bear passenger car or truck license plates and a truck must bear passenger car or truck license plates. The department may require attachment of a registration insignia to the license plate in a manner that does not affect the display of information originally on the license plate.

(d) License plates issued or approved under this section expire on the fifth anniversary of the date of issuance or approval.

(e) The fee for issuance or approval of license plates under this section is:

- (1) \$10 for each year or portion of a year remaining in the five-year registration period if the vehicle was manufactured in 1921 or later; or
- (2) \$8 for each year or portion of a year remaining in the five-year registration period if the vehicle was manufactured before 1921.

(f) The department may exempt a former military vehicle from the requirement to display a license plate or registration insignia if the exemption is necessary to maintain the vehicle's accurate military markings. The department may approve an alternative registration insignia that is compatible with the vehicle's original markings.

(g) A person entitled to specialty license plates or to department approval under this section may register the vehicle without payment of any fees paid for or at the time of registration except the fee for the license plate.

(h) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a vehicle issued license plates under Subsection (a) shall be required to attach and display only one license plate on the rear of the vehicle.

(i) In this section, "former military vehicle" means a vehicle, including a trailer, regardless of the vehicle's size, weight, or year of manufacture, that:

- (1) was manufactured for use in any country's military forces; and
- (2) is maintained to represent its military design and markings accurately.
- (j) [Repealed by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., ch. 1296 (H.B. 2357), § 247(16), effective January 1, 2012.]

TRANSPORTATION CODE
TITLE 7. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
SUBTITLE D. MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY RESPONSIBILITY
CHAPTER 601. MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY RESPONSIBILITY ACT
SUBCHAPTER C. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY; REQUIREMENTS

Tex. Transp. Code § 601.052

§ 601.052. Exceptions to Financial Responsibility Requirement

(a) Section 601.051 does not apply to:

(1) the operation of a motor vehicle that:

(A) is a former military vehicle or is at least 25 years old;

(B) is used only for exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest and not for regular transportation; and

(C) for which the owner files with the department an affidavit, signed by the owner, stating that the vehicle is a collector's item and used only as described by Paragraph (B);

(2) the operation of a neighborhood electric vehicle or a golf cart that is operated only as authorized by Section 551.304 or 551.403; or

(3) a volunteer fire department for the operation of a motor vehicle the title of which is held in the name of a volunteer fire department.

(b) Subsection (a)(3) does not exempt from the requirement of Section 601.051 a person who is operating a vehicle described by that subsection.

(c) In this section:

(1) "Former military vehicle" has the meaning assigned by Section 504.502(i).

(2) "Volunteer fire department" means a company, department, or association that is:

(A) organized in an unincorporated area to answer fire alarms and extinguish fires or to answer fire alarms, extinguish fires, and provide emergency medical services; and

(B) composed of members who:

(i) do not receive compensation; or

(ii) receive only nominal compensation.

From Texas Tax Code:

TAX CODE
TITLE 2. STATE TAXATION
SUBTITLE E. SALES, EXCISE, AND USE TAXES
CHAPTER 152. TAXES ON SALE, RENTAL, AND USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
SUBCHAPTER B. IMPOSITION OF TAX

Tex. Tax Code § 152.023

§ 152.023. Tax on Motor Vehicle Brought Into State by New Texas Resident

(a) A use tax is imposed on a new resident of this state who brings into this state a motor vehicle:

(1) that has been registered previously in the new resident's name in any other state or foreign country; or

(2) that the person leased in another state or foreign country.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (b-1), the tax is \$ 90 for each vehicle.

(b-1) The tax on a motor vehicle eligible to be issued **exhibition vehicle** specialty license plates under Section 504.502, Transportation Code, is equal to the lesser of \$ 90 or 6.25 percent of the total consideration.

(c) The tax imposed by this section is in lieu of the tax imposed by Section 152.022.

TAX CODE
TITLE 2. STATE TAXATION
SUBTITLE E. SALES, EXCISE, AND USE TAXES
CHAPTER 152. TAXES ON SALE, RENTAL, AND USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
SUBCHAPTER B. IMPOSITION OF TAX

Tex. Tax Code § 152.023

§ 152.023. Tax on Motor Vehicle Brought Into State by New Texas Resident

(a) A use tax is imposed on a new resident of this state who brings into this state a motor vehicle:

(1) that has been registered previously in the new resident's name in any other state or foreign country; or

(2) that the person leased in another state or foreign country.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (b-1), the tax is \$ 90 for each vehicle.

(b-1) The tax on a motor vehicle eligible to be issued exhibition **vehicle specialty** license **plates** under Section 504.502, Transportation Code, is equal to the lesser of \$ 90 or 6.25 percent of the total consideration.

(c) The tax imposed by this section is in lieu of the tax imposed by Section 152.022.

TAX CODE
TITLE 2. STATE TAXATION
SUBTITLE E. SALES, EXCISE, AND USE TAXES
CHAPTER 152. TAXES ON SALE, RENTAL, AND USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
SUBCHAPTER C. COLLECTION OF TAXES

Tex. Tax Code § 152.0412

§ 152.0412. Standard Presumptive Value; Use by Tax Assessor-Collector

(a) In this section, "standard presumptive value" means the private-party transaction value of a motor vehicle, as determined by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles based on an appropriate regional guidebook of a nationally recognized motor vehicle value guide service, or based on another motor vehicle guide publication that the department determines is appropriate if a private-party transaction value for the motor vehicle is not available from a regional guidebook described by this subsection.

(b) If the amount paid for a motor vehicle subject to the tax imposed by this chapter is equal to or greater than 80 percent of the standard presumptive value of the vehicle, a county tax assessor-collector shall compute the tax on the amount paid.

(c) If the amount paid for a motor vehicle subject to the tax imposed by this chapter is less than 80 percent of the standard presumptive value of the vehicle, a county tax assessor-collector shall compute the tax on the amount that is equal to 80 percent of the standard presumptive value of the vehicle, unless the purchaser establishes the valuation of the vehicle as provided by Subsection (d).

(d) A county tax assessor-collector shall compute the tax imposed by this chapter on the valuation of a motor vehicle if the valuation is shown on:

- (1) documentation, including a receipt or invoice, provided by the seller to the purchaser of the vehicle, but only if the seller is a motor vehicle dealer operating under Subchapter B, Chapter 503, Transportation Code, or under similar regulatory requirements of another state; or
- (2) an appraisal certified by an adjuster licensed under Chapter 4101, Insurance Code, by a motor vehicle dealer operating under Subchapter B, Chapter 503, Transportation Code, or by an adjuster or motor vehicle dealer licensed or operating under similar regulatory requirements of another state.

(d-1) An appraisal described by Subsection (d)(2):

- (1) must be on a form prescribed by the comptroller for that purpose; and
- (2) must be obtained by the purchaser of the vehicle not later than the 20th working day after the date the motor vehicle is delivered to the purchaser or is brought into this state, as applicable.

(e) On request, a motor vehicle dealer operating under Subchapter B, Chapter 503, Transportation Code, or under similar regulatory requirements of another state shall provide a certified appraisal of the valuation of a motor vehicle. The comptroller by rule shall establish a fee that a dealer may charge for providing the certified appraisal. The county tax assessor-collector shall retain a copy of a certified appraisal received under this section for a period prescribed by the comptroller.

(f) The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles shall maintain information on the standard presumptive values of motor vehicles as part of the department's registration and title system. The department shall update the information at least quarterly each calendar year and publish, electronically or otherwise, the updated information.

(g) This section does not apply to a transaction described by Section 152.024 or 152.025.

(h) This section does not apply to a motor vehicle disposed of in accordance with Chapter 2303, Occupations Code, or Chapter 70, Property Code, or sold by a federal, state, or local governmental entity at public auction, including an auction authorized by Chapter 683, Transportation Code.

(i) This section does not apply to a motor vehicle that is eligible for a specialty license plate under Section 504.501, Transportation Code.

(j) The requirements of Section 501.145, Transportation Code, continue to apply to a transferee of a used motor vehicle who obtains an appraisal under Subsection (d)(2), and obtaining an appraisal does not modify those requirements.

FAQs: Specific Vehicle Types - Antique & Classic

Antiques & Classic Registered Vehicles

Vehicles registered as "**Antiques**" are *exempted* from the annual inspection. To see the restrictions on the use of antiques or to obtain more information on how to register your vehicle as an "Antique", see the TxDOT website.

Vehicles registered as "**Classic**" are required to have the annual safety inspection. These types of vehicles are inspected like any passenger vehicle. Certain items of inspection, however, may or may not be required to be inspected, depending on the age of the car. (For example, seatbelts and anchorages are only required if the vehicle was originally manufactured with them.)

From Texas Rules and Regulations Manual for Operation of Official Vehicle Inspection Stations:

04.25.00 IDENTIFICATION CERTIFICATE - VI-30

Any vehicle last registered and titled out of state is required to pass the Texas safety inspection before it may be registered and titled in Texas except as follows:

25.01 Exemptions to VI-30

1. Travel trailers having gross weights of 4,500 pounds or less are not subject to safety inspection or VIN verification.
2. Certified mopeds or other vehicles which are registered but not titled are not subject to safety inspection or VIN verification as a prerequisite to registration.
3. Off-highway motorcycles which are titled but not registered for operation on the highways are not subject to safety inspection or VIN verification.
4. Mobile homes which are being registered for the sole purpose of obtaining a certificate of title and not for operation on the highways are not subject to the safety inspection requirements. Owners of this class vehicle should contact their county tax assessor-collector's office for information.
5. Vehicles registered with **Antique, Parade**, or Disaster Relief license plates are not subject to the safety inspection requirements since these plates are restricted and cannot be used for regular transportation. However, the applicant must furnish a self-certification statement as to the correct vehicle identification number appearing on the vehicle.

Chapter 4 - Inspection Procedures

04.05.00 Inspection Items for Vehicle Classes

05.01 Inspect Every Passenger Car For: (Listed in suggested order of inspection)

* Check for evidence of Financial Responsibility

1. Horn
2. Windshield Wipers
3. Mirror
4. Steering
5. Seat Belts
6. Brakes (system) (Parking - **beginning with 1960 models**)
7. Tires
8. Wheel Assembly
9. Exhaust System
10. Exhaust Emission System (**beginning with 1968 models**)
11. Beam Indicator (**beginning with 1948 models**)
12. Tail Lamps (2); **(1) if 1959 model or earlier**
13. Stop Lamps (2); **(1) if 1959 model or earlier**
14. License Plate Lamp (1)
15. Rear Red Reflectors (2)
16. Turn Signal Lamps (**beginning with 1960 models**)
17. Head Lamps (2)
18. Motor, Serial, or Vehicle Identification Number
- 19.1988 & newer - inspect for window tinting or coating**
20. Gas caps on vehicles **2-24 model years old.**

05.02 Inspect Every Pickup, Panel, or Truck Under 80 Inches Wide For:(Listed in suggested order of inspection)

* Check for evidence of Financial Responsibility

1. Horn
2. Windshield Wipers
3. Mirror
4. Steering
5. Seat Belts
6. Brakes (system) Parking - (**beginning with 1960 models**)
7. Tires
8. Wheel Assembly
9. Safety Guards or Flaps (if four tires or more on rearmost axle)
10. Exhaust System
11. Exhaust Emission System (**beginning with 1968 models**)
12. Beam Indicator (**beginning with 1948 models**)
13. Tail Lamps (2); (**1**) if 1959 model or earlier
14. Stop Lamps (2); (**1**) if 1959 model or earlier
15. License Plate Lamp (1)
16. Rear Red Reflectors (2)
17. Turn Signal Lamps (**beginning with 1960 models**) (**measure if 1959 model or earlier**)
18. Head Lamps (2)
19. Motor, Serial, or Vehicle Identification Number
- 20.1988 & newer - inspect for window tinting or coating**
21. Gas caps on vehicles **2-24 model years old.**

Overall width is determined by measuring from the widest part on one side to the widest part on the other side of the vehicle. In some vehicles this may be the dual wheels which would be considered as part of the width. Do not include an outside mirror or mirrors in determining overall width.

05.03 Inspect Every Truck 80 Inches or More in Overall Width For:(Listed in suggested order of inspection)

Refer to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, if required.

* Check for evidence of Financial Responsibility

1. Horn
2. Windshield Wipers
3. Mirror
4. Steering
5. Seat Belts
6. Brakes system (Parking - **beginning with 1960 models**)
7. Tires
8. Wheel Assembly
9. Safety Guards or Flaps (if four tires or more on rearmost axle)
10. Exhaust System
11. Exhaust Emission System (**beginning with 1968 models**)
12. Beam Indicator (**beginning with 1948 models**)
13. Tail Lamps (2); **(1) if 1959 model or earlier**
14. Stop Lamps (2); **(1) if 1959 model or earlier**
15. License Plate Lamp (1)
16. Rear Red Reflectors (2)
17. Turn Signal Lamps
18. Clearance Lamps
19. Side Marker Lamps
20. Side Reflectors
21. Head Lamps (2)
(Refer to Reference Section as per lighting diagrams and as applicable to the particular style of truck being inspected.)
22. Motor, Serial, or Vehicle Identification Number
- 23.1988 & newer - inspect for window tinting or coating**
24. Gas caps on vehicles **2-24 model years old.**

Overall width is determined by measuring from the widest part on one side to the widest part on the other side of the vehicle. In some vehicles this may be the dual wheels which would be considered as part of the width. Do not include an outside mirror or mirrors in determining overall width.

15.01 Vehicles Exempt from Inspection

1. Equipment:

- a. Road-Building Equipment
- b. Farm Machinery
- c. * Trailers
- d. * Semitrailers
- e. * Pole Trailers
- f. * Mobile Homes
- g. Any Vehicle required to Display a Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblem

*When the actual gross weight or registered gross weight is 4,500 pounds or less.

2. A vehicle with one of the following type Texas license plates:

- a. Paper Dealer Demonstration/In-transit/Converter Tag
- b. Parade License**
- c. Former Military Vehicle License**
- d. In-Transit License
- e. Machinery License
- f. Disaster License
- g. Farm Trailer License
- h. Permit License
- i. Antique License**
- j. Charitable Organization Tag
- k. All-Terrain Vehicle Validation Sticker

3. A vehicle with one of the following Texas permits:

- a. Factory Delivery Permits
- b. Prorate Tabs
- c. One-Trip Permits
- d. Temporary 24-Hour Permits
- e. Mobile drilling and servicing equipment used in gas, oil, or crude production having a 72- or 144-Hour Permit

15.06 Reconstructed or Rebuilt Vehicles

All vehicles used on the public highways are required to meet all of the state equipment laws and requirements; therefore, **reconstructed** or **rebuilt vehicles** which are using the public highways are also expected to meet all of the state equipment laws and regulations. **Reconstructed** or **rebuilt vehicles** in many instances fail to meet state requirements and, therefore, are not legal for use on the public highways.

All **reconstructed** or **rebuilt vehicles** (sand or dune buggies or **hot rods**) must comply with inspection requirements for the class of motor vehicle it is being inspected as, such as car, truck, motorcycle, or motor-driven cycle.

Be sure to check **reconstructed** or **rebuilt vehicles** for all required items of inspection with particular attention to the lighting devices. Head lamps shall be of a type acceptable by the Department. No modifications are allowed that will change the original design or performance of any lamp. Only acceptable automobile head lamps may be used on cars and trucks. Either the 7-inch head lamps or both dual head lamps (type 1 and type 2) may be used. Only acceptable motorcycle head lamps may be used on motorcycles, motor-driven cycles, and mopeds.

All lighting devices must be of an acceptable type that meet Department standards and must comply with the mounting heights as specified in the inspection requirements.

The year model of a **reconstructed vehicle** will be the same year in which it was **reconstructed** and not the year of original manufacture. Therefore, the inspection requirements would be for the model year of the vehicle (same as the year of **reconstruction**) or the year model of the engine itself, whichever is the later model.

Motor vehicles used for competitive racing, such as modified stock cars, dragsters, and **hot rods** may be inspected. When such a vehicle is presented for inspection, all rules and regulations regarding the inspection of the vehicle will apply. This applies to brake requirements, exhaust systems, as well as any other item required in these provisions.

From Texas Transportation Code:

TRANSPORTATION CODE
TITLE 7. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
SUBTITLE C. RULES OF THE ROAD
CHAPTER 547. VEHICLE EQUIPMENT
SUBCHAPTER E. GENERAL LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS FOR VEHICLES

Tex. Transp. Code § 547.322

§ 547.322. Taillamps Required

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or vehicle that is towed at the end of a combination of vehicles shall be equipped with at least two taillamps.

(b) A passenger **car or truck** that was manufactured or **assembled** before the model year 1960 shall be equipped with at least one taillamp.

(c) Taillamps shall be mounted on the rear of the vehicle:

(1) at a height from 15 to 72 inches; and

(2) at the same level and spaced as widely apart as practicable if a vehicle is equipped with more than one lamp.

(d) A taillamp shall emit a red light plainly visible at a distance of 1,000 feet from the rear of the vehicle.

(e) If vehicles are traveling in combination, only the taillamps on the rearmost vehicle are required to emit a light for the distance specified in Subsection (d).

(f) A taillamp or a separate lamp shall be constructed and mounted to emit a white light that:

(1) illuminates the rear license plate; and

(2) makes the plate clearly legible at a distance of 50 feet from the rear.

(g) A taillamp, including a separate lamp used to illuminate a rear license plate, must emit a light when a headlamp or auxiliary driving lamp is lighted.

TRANSPORTATION CODE
TITLE 7. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
SUBTITLE C. RULES OF THE ROAD
CHAPTER 547. VEHICLE EQUIPMENT
SUBCHAPTER E. GENERAL LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS FOR VEHICLES

Tex. Transp. Code § 547.323

§ 547.323. Stoplamps Required

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer shall be equipped with at least two stoplamps.

(b) A passenger **car** manufactured or **assembled** before the model year 1960 shall be equipped with at least one stoplamp.

(c) A stoplamp shall be mounted on the rear of the vehicle.

(d) A stoplamp shall emit a red or amber light, or a color between red and amber, that is:

(1) visible in normal sunlight at a distance of at least 300 feet from the rear of the vehicle; and

(2) displayed when the vehicle service brake is applied.

(e) If vehicles are traveling in combination, only the stoplamps on the rearmost vehicle are required to emit a light for the distance specified in Subsection (d).

(f) A stoplamp may be included as a part of another rear lamp.

TRANSPORTATION CODE
TITLE 7. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
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CHAPTER 547. VEHICLE EQUIPMENT
SUBCHAPTER E. GENERAL LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS FOR VEHICLES

Tex. Transp. Code § 547.325

§ 547.325. Reflectors Required

(a) Except as provided by Subchapter F, a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer shall be equipped with at least two red reflectors on the rear of the vehicle. A red reflector may be included as a part of a taillamp.

(b) A reflector shall be:

(1) mounted at a height from 15 to 60 inches; and

(2) visible at night at all distances:

(A) from 100 to 600 feet when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlamps; or

(B) from 100 to 350 feet when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps if the **vehicle** was manufactured or **assembled** before January 1, 1972.

TRANSPORTATION CODE
TITLE 7. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
SUBTITLE C. RULES OF THE ROAD
CHAPTER 547. VEHICLE EQUIPMENT
SUBCHAPTER F. ADDITIONAL LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN LARGE VEHICLES

Tex. Transp. Code § 547.355

§ 547.355. Visibility Requirements

(a) A clearance lamp, identification lamp, or side marker lamp shall be visible and recognizable under normal atmospheric conditions at all distances from 50 to 500 feet from the vehicle on the side, front, or rear where the lamp is mounted.

(b) A reflector required by this chapter mounted on a vehicle subject to this subchapter shall be visible from the rear, if a rear reflector, or from the applicable side, if a side reflector, at nighttime at all distances from 100 to 600 feet from the vehicle when the reflector is directly in front of:

- (1) lawful lower beams of headlamps; or
- (2) lawful upper beams of headlamps on a **vehicle** manufactured or **assembled** before January 1, 1972.

TRANSPORTATION CODE
TITLE 7. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
SUBTITLE G. MOTORCYCLES AND OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES
CHAPTER 663. ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES
SUBCHAPTER C. OPERATION OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

Tex. Transp. Code § 663.033

§ 663.033. Required Equipment; Display of Lights

(a) An all-terrain vehicle that is operated on public property or a beach must be equipped with:

- (1) a brake system maintained in good operating condition;
- (2) an adequate muffler system in good working condition; and
- (3) a United States Forest Service qualified spark arrester.

(b) An all-terrain vehicle that is operated on public property or a beach must display a lighted headlight and taillight:

- (1) during the period from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise; and
- (2) at any time when visibility is reduced because of insufficient light or atmospheric conditions.

(c) A person may not operate an all-terrain vehicle on public property or a beach if:

- (1) the vehicle has an exhaust system that has been modified with a cutout, bypass, or similar device; or
- (2) the spark arrester has been removed or modified, unless the vehicle is being operated in a closed-course competition event.

(d) The coordinator may exempt all-terrain vehicles that are participating in certain competitive events from the requirements of this section.

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SUBCHAPTER E. GENERAL LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS FOR VEHICLES

Tex. Transp. Code § 547.322

§ 547.322. Taillamps Required

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or vehicle that is towed at the end of a combination of vehicles shall be equipped with at least two taillamps.

(b) A passenger car or truck that was manufactured or assembled **before the model year** 1960 shall be equipped with at least one taillamp.

(c) Taillamps shall be mounted on the rear of the vehicle:

(1) at a height from 15 to 72 inches; and

(2) at the same level and spaced as widely apart as practicable if a vehicle is equipped with more than one lamp.

(d) A taillamp shall emit a red light plainly visible at a distance of 1,000 feet from the rear of the vehicle.

(e) If vehicles are traveling in combination, only the taillamps on the rearmost vehicle are required to emit a light for the distance specified in Subsection (d).

(f) A taillamp or a separate lamp shall be constructed and mounted to emit a white light that:

(1) illuminates the rear license plate; and

(2) makes the plate clearly legible at a distance of 50 feet from the rear.

(g) A taillamp, including a separate lamp used to illuminate a rear license plate, must emit a light when a headlamp or auxiliary driving lamp is lighted.

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SUBTITLE C. RULES OF THE ROAD
CHAPTER 547. VEHICLE EQUIPMENT
SUBCHAPTER E. GENERAL LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS FOR VEHICLES

Tex. Transp. Code § 547.323

§ 547.323. Stoplamps Required

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer shall be equipped with at least two stoplamps.

(b) A passenger car manufactured or assembled **before the model year** 1960 shall be equipped with at least one stoplamp.

(c) A stoplamp shall be mounted on the rear of the vehicle.

(d) A stoplamp shall emit a red or amber light, or a color between red and amber, that is:

(1) visible in normal sunlight at a distance of at least 300 feet from the rear of the vehicle; and

(2) displayed when the vehicle service brake is applied.

(e) If vehicles are traveling in combination, only the stoplamps on the rearmost vehicle are required to emit a light for the distance specified in Subsection (d).

(f) A stoplamp may be included as a part of another rear lamp.

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Tex. Transp. Code § 547.324

§ 547.324. Turn Signal Lamps Required

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer shall be equipped with electric turn signal lamps that indicate the operator's intent to turn by displaying flashing lights to the front and rear of a vehicle or combination of vehicles and on that side of the vehicle or combination toward which the turn is to be made.

(b) Subsection (a) does not apply to a passenger car or truck less than 80 inches wide manufactured or assembled **before the model year** 1960.

(c) Turn signal lamps:

(1) shall be mounted at the same level and spaced as widely apart as practicable on the front and on the rear of the vehicle; and

(2) may be included as a part of another lamp on the vehicle.

(d) A turn signal lamp shall emit:

(1) a white or amber light, or a color between white and amber, if the lamp is mounted on the front of the vehicle; or

(2) a red or amber light, or a color between red and amber, if the lamp is mounted on the rear of the vehicle.

(e) A turn signal lamp must be visible in normal sunlight at a distance of:

(1) at least 500 feet from the front and rear of the vehicle if the vehicle is at least 80 inches wide; and

(2) at least 300 feet from the front and rear of the vehicle if the vehicle is less than 80 inches wide.

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SUBCHAPTER E. GENERAL LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS FOR VEHICLES

Tex. Transp. Code § 547.325

§ 547.325. Reflectors Required

(a) Except as provided by Subchapter F, a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer shall be equipped with at least two red reflectors on the rear of the vehicle. A red reflector may be included as a part of a taillamp.

(b) A reflector shall be:

(1) mounted at a height from 15 to 60 inches; and

(2) visible at night at all distances:

(A) from 100 to 600 feet when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlamps; or

(B) from 100 to 350 feet when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps if the **vehicle was manufactured** or assembled **before** January 1, 1972.

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Tex. Transp. Code § 547.334

§ 547.334. Single-Beam Lighting Equipment Permitted

(a) In lieu of the multiple-beam lighting equipment required by Section 547.333, a headlamp system that provides a single distribution of light and meets the requirements of Subsection (b) is permitted for:

- (1) a farm tractor; or
- (2) a motor **vehicle manufactured** and sold **before** September 4, 1948.

(b) The headlamp system specified by Subsection (a) shall:

- (1) emit a light sufficient to reveal a person or vehicle at a distance of at least 200 feet; and
- (2) be aimed so that no part of the high-intensity portion of the lamp projects a beam:
 - (A) higher than five inches below the level of the center of the lamp at a distance of 25 feet ahead; or
 - (B) higher than 42 inches above the ground at a distance of 75 feet ahead.

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Tex. Transp. Code § 547.355

§ 547.355. Visibility Requirements

(a) A clearance lamp, identification lamp, or side marker lamp shall be visible and recognizable under normal atmospheric conditions at all distances from 50 to 500 feet from the vehicle on the side, front, or rear where the lamp is mounted.

(b) A reflector required by this chapter mounted on a vehicle subject to this subchapter shall be visible from the rear, if a rear reflector, or from the applicable side, if a side reflector, at nighttime at all distances from 100 to 600 feet from the vehicle when the reflector is directly in front of:

- (1) lawful lower beams of headlamps; or
- (2) lawful upper beams of headlamps on a **vehicle manufactured** or assembled **before** January 1, 1972.

Emissions Exemptions

Annual emissions inspections must be passed prior to registration and registration renewal in the counties of Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, Travis, Williamson and El Paso.

Diesel Vehicles:

Diesel vehicles are not tested for emissions.

Exemptions:

1. New vehicles for the newest two (2) MYs
2. Vehicles registered as "antiques"
3. Vehicles 25 years old or older