

**The ABC's of  
Oklahoma's Motor Vehicle Dealer License Plates  
and Temporary License Plates  
By ADR Staff**

Dealers are urged to become familiar with dealer and temporary license plate requirements because misuse could result in a fine or loss of the dealer license. If you have any questions, contact the OIADA at 405-232-2947.

### **License Plates Generally**

- The license plate shall be firmly affixed to the rear of the vehicle. (This includes the dealer temporary license plate, but does not pertain to truck-tractor plates.)
- **The license plate, decal and all letters and numbers shall be clearly visible at all times.** (Be careful of your choice of license plate frames because many of them cover a part of the information on the metal plate, which could result in you or your customer being cited for improper license plate display!)
- The license plate may not be covered, overlaid or otherwise screened with any material, whether such material be clear, translucent, tinted or opaque. (Such materials prevent the tag contents from being clearly visible to law enforcement and others needing to read the contents.)
- If a dealer obtains a vehicle with an out-of-state tag, it should be removed. If the vehicle has an Oklahoma tag, it shall remain on the vehicle.

### **Metal Dealer License Plates**

- Metal dealer plates may be used for demonstrating, transporting or any other normal business of a dealer. Normal business includes use of the dealer plate on a vehicle regularly driven by the dealer or the dealer's spouse or any licensed salesperson, provided the title to the vehicle is in the name of the dealership. **(Temporary tags are not to be used for these purposes.)**
- Metal dealer license plates are obtained from the Oklahoma Tax Commission at a cost of \$16.00 each. A dealer may purchase as many tags as legitimately required to conduct business.
- A dealer is accountable for the disposition of each metal plate.
- Metal dealer plates expire December 31 of each year. **Current dealer license must be in effect before these plates will be re-issued.**
- If a metal dealer plate is lost or stolen, a lost or stolen report should be filed with the local law enforcement authorities and proof of such report should be kept by the dealer.
- Vehicles that are parked on a dealer's lot are not required to display a tag.
- A dealer who operates a licensed wrecker or towing service is not authorized to use a dealer tag on those wrecker vehicles – they must be registered as wrecker vehicles and display a wrecker license plate. However, if the wrecker vehicle or car hauler is used only to tow or haul the dealer's own vehicles, then the use of a dealer plate is appropriate.
- A new or used motor vehicle dealer shall use a dealer license plate in lieu of an in-transit license plate for transporting a new or used motor vehicle. **An exception to this requirement is found in 47 O.S. 1137.1 D. for vehicles purchased by dealers at auctions. Those vehicles may be moved from the auction to the purchaser's point of destination within 48 hours using an auction gate pass or other temporary documentation of the transaction approved by the Tax Commission.**

### 30 Day Temporary License Plates

- The 30 day temporary license plates are designed for and required to be placed in the location of the permanent license plate on the rear of **each vehicle that is sold** by a licensed Oklahoma dealer.
- Even though the vehicle may have a current Oklahoma metal plate, the law requires that a temporary plate be placed on the rear of the vehicle. The Tax Commission asks that dealers not remove the metal plate because of a shortage of those plates. For that reason, the temporary license plate may be placed over the top of the metal plate.
- **It is not now nor has it ever been legal to use a temporary license plate for anything other than placing on a vehicle that has been sold to a consumer.**
- In addition, a dealer is required to advise the consumer that he/she has 30 days in which to register the vehicle in the purchaser's name.
- The license plates must contain the name of the dealership and should be developed in a manner that will permit law enforcement personnel to readily identify **the dealer license number and the date of the vehicle purchase.**
- Each license plate has a unique sequential number that must be recorded by the dealer on the front of the Bill of Sale provided to the consumer.
- The dealer is accountable for the disposition of each temporary license plate.

*NOTE: OIADA Staff are not attorneys. This article is provided for informational purpose only. It is not legal advice. For its application to you and your situation, consult an attorney.*