

SECTION 6

DEALER LICENSE PLATES AND LICENSE PLATE INFORMATION

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There are a number of different vehicle/boat licenses that relate to a dealership.

Temporary thirty-day license permit: In the case of a vehicle/boat that is sold by a licensed dealer, the dealer may provide a temporary thirty-day license permit. The permit authorizes the operation of the vehicle/boat upon the highways/waters of this state for a period of thirty days after the date of sale or until the time the purchaser receives regular license plates from the county treasurer, whichever happens first.

The temporary thirty-day license permit for a vehicle is affixed to the inside windows, to the front at the lower right-hand corner of the windshield, and to the lower left-hand corner of the rear window or to the lower rear portion of the rear window. In the case of motorcycles or trailers, the permit shall be affixed in the manner provided for metal number plates. In the case of a boat, the license must be displayed on or carried in the boat.

The dealer shall write in the expiration date at the time of sale with a black indelible ink felt-tip marker with numbers one inch in height, the rest of the permit may be filled out with a ball point pen.

No dealer may use the temporary thirty-day license permits upon any vehicle/boat owned by the dealer for any purpose other than for vehicles/boats sold by the dealer. No person may renew the temporary thirty-day license permit, nor change or alter the date or other information thereon.

Dealers shall obtain their supply of temporary thirty-day license permits from their own source, but the permit shall conform to the requirements of the department.

If a dealership sells a vehicle and the purchaser uses the vehicle in a commercial venture, a commercial permit will need to be acquired by the purchaser until such time the permanent commercial license is obtained.

Dealer Demonstration/In-transit Permit:

Any vehicle owned by a licensed dealer bearing dealers' demonstration or in-transit permits may be driven upon the streets and highways of this state for demonstration or in-transit purposes.

Demonstration is defined as: the noncommercial use of a dealer owned vehicle by an employee of the dealership for any purpose in the ordinary course of business relating to the sale of the vehicle within the trade or market area of the dealership or demonstration by any prospective buyer for a period of three days. The term includes vehicles donated by a dealership to a community or organization and used for a one-day parade or event.

In-transit is defined as: the noncommercial use of a dealer owned vehicle by any employee of the dealership for travel to and from any service facility, detail shop, repair shop, gas station, car wash, dealer auction, another lot owned by the dealer, a supplemental lot, temporary special event lot, temporary supplemental lot, or any other location to facilitate a dealer trade.

A dealer or their representative may not issue dealers demonstration/in-transit permits to any vehicle for any other purpose than those mentioned above.

The demonstration/in-transit permit shall not be used on service vehicles, loaners, or in place of regular license plates.

Dealers shall obtain their supply of (blue) demonstration/in-transit permits from their own source, but the permit shall conform to the requirements of the department.

Motorcycle, trailer, and mobile home/manufactured home dealer plates: The department shall issue to every motorcycle dealer, trailer dealer and mobile home/manufactured home dealer, upon application and payment of a fee of \$10 for each plate, dealer's metal number plates.

One license plate shall be displayed on the rear of any motorcycle or trailer, semitrailer, travel trailer, or mobile home/manufactured home owned by the dealer.

A prospective buyer may operate any vehicle owned by the licensed dealer and bearing the dealers' metal plate on the streets and highways of this state for any purpose, including demonstration.

Snowmobile dealer plates: The department shall issue license plates of a durable material to license dealers upon application and payment of ten dollars for each set desired.

Any new snowmobile or used snowmobile owned by a licensed dealer, bearing dealer's license plates may operate in this state. One plate shall be displayed on each side of the snowmobile. The license plate is transferable by the dealer

from one snowmobile owned by the dealer to another snowmobile owned by the dealer.

Boat dealer plates: The department shall issue to a boat dealer, upon application and payment of a fee of \$20 per set, boat dealer license plates.

The boat dealer plates must be displayed on or carried in the boat. Any boat owned by the licensed boat dealer and bearing the dealers' plates may be operated on the waters of this state for any purpose, except on boats that are leased or rented. The plates are transferable by the dealer from one boat owned by the dealer to another boat owned by the dealer.

Snowmobile, boat, trailer, motorcycle demonstration permits: Any snowmobile, boat, trailer or motorcycle owned by a licensed dealer bearing a demonstration permit may operate in this state for demonstration purposes only. Any prospective buyer may operate a snowmobile, trailer, or motorcycle for a period not to exceed three days; a boat may be operated by any prospective buyer for a period not to exceed 7 days.

Dealers shall obtain their supply of (blue) demonstration permits from their own source, but the permit shall conform to the requirements of the department.

“77” Dealer license plates: Any new vehicle or used vehicle owned by a licensed dealer bearing a dealer’s “77” plate may be driven on the streets and highways of this state for any purpose.

The dealer “77” plate is transferable by the dealer from one vehicle owned by the dealer to another vehicle owned by the dealer.

The dealer “77” plate may not be used on vehicles for lease or hire or on wreckers or service vehicles.

Licensed dealers shall make applications and payment of \$42 for each set of license plates desired at the county treasurer's office.

"88" Dealer Commercial license plates: Effective July 1, 2004, a dealer may purchase "88" commercial plates that can be used to transport any inventory replacement vehicle.

The dealer "88" plate is transferable by the dealer from one vehicle owned by the dealer to another vehicle owned by the dealer.

The maximum licensed gross weight of the combination may not exceed 26,000 pounds.

The dealer is exempt from paying 3% motor vehicle excise tax.

The fee for the plates is based on the commercial declared gross weight fee schedule.

The gross weight tonnage fee must be paid and the tonnage sticker affixed to the "88" plate prior to operation.

The vehicle must comply with all provisions pertaining to overweight operation.

Dealer "99" Auction Agency Plates: These plates can be used on any vehicle being transported to or from the auction agency's place of business for the purpose of transporting a vehicle that will be sold or has been sold by the auction agency.

The plates are transferable by the auction agency from one vehicle to another vehicle for transporting purposes.

The annual fee for a set of auction plates is \$42.

The plates are consecutively numbered and bear as a prefix the number "99."

All dealer plates and temporary permits shall be displayed on the front and back of the vehicle. Trailers and motorcycles are required to have only one permit displayed on the back of the vehicle. Boat licenses are to be carried on or in the boat.

On an out-of-state licensed vehicle that is being placed on a dealer's lot, the dealer must remove the out-of-state license plates before displaying the vehicle.

If a South Dakota licensed vehicle is placed on the dealer's lot, the license plates should remain on the vehicle or in the event the dealer chooses to remove the plates while the vehicle is on the dealer lot, the plates must be reinstated on the vehicle upon its sale.

Dealer plates/permits cannot be used on consigned vehicles.

A vehicle used by a dealer to transport inventory replacement vehicles to the dealer's principal place of business must display commercial license plates, unless dealer "88" commercial plates are used. The only exception is if the vehicle used to transport the inventory is a tow dolly.

Effective July 1, 2008, our current licensing system changed from plate with vehicle to plate with owner. On a consigned vehicle, the plates remain on the vehicle until the vehicle is sold at which time the seller retains the plates and provides the purchaser with a seller's permit.