

Florida

Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Division of Motorist Services

PROCEDURE RS-46	SUBJECT: MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FOR WRECKERS
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DESCRIPTION AND USE:
 THIS PROCEDURE PROVIDES INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS TO ASSIST TAX COLLECTOR EMPLOYEES, LICENSE PLATE AGENCY EMPLOYEES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES WITH ISSUING REGISTRATIONS TO WRECKERS.

I. PROVISIONS OF LAW:

Section 320.01 (38)-(41), Florida Statutes, provides the definitions associated with the registration of wreckers.

Sections 320.06 and 320.0821, Florida Statutes, provide the requirements for the design of the wrecker license plates.

Sections 320.08 (5)(d) and (e), Florida Statutes, provide the registration taxing structure for the two types of wrecker license plates.

II. DEFINITIONS:

The following terms and definitions apply to the issuance and use of wrecker license plates:

- A. “Wrecker” means any motor vehicle that is used to tow, carry, or otherwise transport motor vehicles and is equipped for that purpose with a boom, winch, car carrier, or other similar equipment.
- B. “Tow” means to pull or draw any motor vehicle with a power unit by means of a direct attachment, drawbar, or other connection or to carry a motor vehicle on a power unit designed to transport such vehicle from one location to another.
- C. “Disabled motor vehicle” means any motor vehicle which is not operable under its own motive power, excluding a non-disabled trailer or semitrailer, or any motor vehicle that is unsafe for operation upon the highways of this state.
- D. “Replacement motor vehicle” means any motor vehicle, which is towed by a wrecker to the location of a disabled motor vehicle to replace the disabled motor vehicle and enable the transfer of its operator, passengers, and load.

Revision(s) to this procedure: Added information to the NOTE on page 2 clarifying HVUT requirements for GVW wreckers.

DIVISION DIRECTOR	EFFECTIVE DATE Immediately	REVISION DATE 06/27/11	PAGE # RS-46-01
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III. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

There are two types of registration classifications for wreckers. Although an affidavit is not required, owners must declare how they plan to use their wrecker(s) (tow truck).

The appropriate license plate will be issued based on the eligibility criteria provided below:

- A. A Regular Wrecker is a wrecker or tow truck, which is used to tow any of the following: a vessel, a disabled vehicle, an abandoned vehicle, a stolen and recovered vehicle, an impounded vehicle or a replacement motor vehicle. Refer to the definitions in this procedure under II, C and D.

NOTE: When applying for a Regular Wrecker license plate, the net weight and GVW are required to be entered in FRVIS. **If the GVW is 55,000 pounds or more, the wrecker is subject to payment of or exemption from the federal Heavy Vehicle Use Tax (HVUT). You must always submit IRS Schedule 1, form 2290 even if the wrecker is exempt from payment of HVUT. See RS-34 for additional information.**

- B. A GVW Wrecker is a wrecker or tow truck, which shall be used and registered according to what it is towing or hauling.

1. If a GVW Wrecker is used to tow a nondisabled motor vehicle, a vessel, or any other cargo, the owner must declare the GVW of such wrecker to include the net weight of the motor vehicle and the maximum weight of the load it carries.
2. If a GVW Wrecker is used to tow a disabled, abandoned, stolen-recovered, impounded motor vehicle, or replacement vehicle, it may do so without having the weight restrictions imposed. Weight restrictions do apply, however, if the GVW Wrecker is hauling cargo.

NOTE: When applying for a GVW Wrecker license plate, the net weight and GVW are required to be entered in FRVIS.

IV. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

A. DECLARATION

The applicant must declare how its wrecker or tow truck will be used when requesting a regular wrecker or GVW wrecker license plate from any local county license plate agency.

B. PROOF OF INSURANCE:

The applicant must submit proof of commercial motor vehicle insurance. Refer to DMS Procedure RS-33 for additional information.

C. HEAVY VEHICLE USE TAX:

When the combined GVW of the wrecker and any towed vehicle or vehicles is 55,000 pounds or more, the applicant must provide proof of filing for or payment of Federal Heavy Vehicle Use Tax.

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D. FEES AND CLASS CODES:

The fees required are based on the declared use of the wrecker as follows:

1. **REGULAR WRECKER:** Original license plate fee, Decal on Demand fee, Service fee (add Branch fee, if applying through a county branch agency), registration tax from the Tax Due and Credit Manual for class code 92, and trust fund fees from the Class Code/Fee Chart. Refer to the Registration Fees and Flat Taxes Distribution Chart for applicable fees.
2. **GVW WRECKER:** Original license plate fee, Decal on Demand fee, Service fee, (add Branch fee, if applying through a county branch agency), registration tax from the Tax Due and Credit Manual for class code 41 using the owners declared gross vehicle weight, and trust fund fees from the Class Code/Fee Chart. Refer to the Registration Fees and Flat Taxes Distribution Chart for applicable fees.

V. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE PLATES:

The Regular Wrecker or GVW Wrecker license plate(s) may be issued at any county license plate agency.

A single Regular Wrecker license plate is to be displayed on the back of the vehicle.

A single GVW Wrecker license plate for wreckers having a GVW of 26,000 pounds and under and must be displayed on the rear of the vehicle with the validation decal.

Dual GVW Wrecker license plates are issued for wreckers having a GVW of 26,001 pounds or more and must be displayed on the front and rear of the vehicle. The validation decal must be affixed to the front license plate.

Because the number of GVW wrecker license plates we issue is relatively low, we do not and will not have an inventory code to distinguish between a GVW wrecker 26,001 pounds or more and a GVW wrecker 26,000 pounds and under. You will continue to use the existing inventory code regardless of the GVW weight.

If you previously issued dual license plates to a wrecker with a GVW of 26,000 pounds and under, one plate with the validation decal must be displayed on the rear of the vehicle. The second plate may be displayed on the front of the vehicle, although it is not required.

The department will not recall any dual GVW license plates that were issued to wreckers with a GVW of 26,000 pounds and under. Instead, these license plates can be renewed each year until it is time for them to be replaced.

PRIDE will continue to issue dual plates regardless of the GVW; however, you will issue single or duplicate license plates based on the weight. After issuing a single GVW plate to a GVW wrecker 26,000 pounds and under, you should hold the remaining duplicate plate for pick up by PRIDE.

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VI. RENEWALS AND TRANSFERS:

Renewals and transfers of these license plates may be processed at any county license plate agency. License plates issued for wreckers and tow trucks with the word "WRECKER" embossed at the bottom of the license plate may only be transferred to another vehicle used as a wrecker. For additional information on transfers, refer to DMS Procedure RS-05.

VII. REPLACEMENT LICENSE PLATES:

Replacement license plates may be issued by any county license plate agency. The following are required:

- A. A copy of the vehicle registration certificate.
- B. Form HSMV 83146, Application for Replacement License Plate, Validation Decal, or Parking Permit. Forms and applications must be complete and accurate.
- C. Payment of the applicable fees, which include the following: Replacement fee, Decal on Demand fee, Service fee (add Branch fee if applying through a county branch agency), Air Pollution Control fee, Reflectorization fee, Emergency Medical Services fee, Advanced Replacement fee, and FRVIS fee. Refer to the Registration Fees and Flat Taxes Distribution Chart for applicable fees.
- D. When an applicant reports a license plate or decal as stolen to a law enforcement agency and attests to this on form HSMV 83146, the tax collector or license plate agency should not charge a fee for the replacement license plate or decal.