

Florida

Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Division of Motorist Services

PROCEDURE	SUBJECT:
RS-63	TRAILERS
DESCRIPTION AND USE:	
<p>THIS PROCEDURE PROVIDES INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS TO ASSIST TAX COLLECTOR EMPLOYEES, LICENSE PLATE AGENCY EMPLOYEES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES IN ESTABLISHING INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR ISSUANCE OF TRAILER LICENSE PLATES.</p>	
<p>I. PROVISIONS OF LAW:</p> <p>Chapter 320, Florida Statutes, provides the registration requirements for all types of trailers. Section 320.08, Florida Statutes, provides the registration tax structure for all types of trailers. Section 320.0659(1), Florida Statutes, provides that a permanent license plate may be issued for any semi-trailer classified under 320.08(5)(a)2, Florida Statutes. All such license plates shall be of a distinctive color, and shall be imprinted with the words "Permanent Trl" at the bottom. Such license plate is to be displayed as required by 316.605, Florida Statutes, and shall be removed upon the sale of the trailer or upon the trailer's removal from service.</p> <p>II. DEFINITIONS:</p> <p>The following definitions are for different types of trailers, including the specific statutory reference:</p> <p>A. Section 320.01(1)(b)(1), Florida Statutes:</p> <p>TRAVEL TRAILER means a vehicular portable unit, mounted on wheels, of such a size or weight as not to require special highway movement permits when drawn by a motorized vehicle. It is primarily designed and constructed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping or travel use. It has a body width of no more than 8 ½ feet and an overall body length of no more than 40 feet when factory-equipped for the road. Registrations fees are calculated on the length of the trailer (including the hitch).</p> <p>B. Section 320.01(1)(b)(2), Florida Statutes:</p> <p>CAMPING TRAILER means a vehicular portable unit mounted on wheels and constructed with collapsible partial side-walls which fold for towing by another vehicle and unfold at the campsite to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use. Registrations fees are calculated on the length of the trailer (including the hitch).</p>	
<p><i>Revision(s) to this procedure: Added information to section IV., B., 1 and 2 about returning MCO and/or bill of sale to customer after viewing.</i></p>	
EFFECTIVE DATE	REVISION DATE
Immediately	07/11/14

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<p>C. Section 320.01(1)(b)(7), Florida Statutes: PARK TRAILER means a transportable unit which has a body width not exceeding 14 feet and which is built on a single chassis and is designed to provide seasonal or temporary living quarters when connected to utilities necessary for operation of installed fixtures and appliances. The total area of the unit in a setup mode, when measured from the exterior surface to the exterior stud walls at the level of maximum dimensions, not including any bay window, does not exceed 400 square feet when constructed to ANSIA-119.5 standards, and 500 square feet when constructed to United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Standards. The length of a park trailer means the distance from the exterior of the front of the body (nearest to the drawbar and coupling mechanism) to the exterior of the rear of the body (at the opposite end of the body), including any protrusions. Registrations fees are calculated on the length of the trailer (including the hitch).</p> <p>D. Section 320.01(1)(b)(8), Florida Statutes: FIFTH-WHEEL TRAVEL TRAILER means a vehicular unit mounted on wheels designed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping or travel use, of such size or weight as not to require a special highway movement permit, of a gross trailer area not to exceed 400 square feet in the setup mode, and designed to be towed by a motorized vehicle that contains a towing mechanism that is mounted above or forward of the tow vehicle's rear axle. Registrations fees are calculated on the length of the trailer (including the hitch). Use class code 77 or 78 for fifth wheel trailers.</p> <p>E. Section 320.01(4), Florida Statutes: TRAILER means any vehicle without motive power designed to be coupled to or drawn by a motor vehicle and constructed so that no part of its weight or that of its load rests upon the towing vehicle. For trailers having a ball hitch with living and storage space, use class code 78.</p> <p>NOTE: Motorcycle size license plates are permitted on trailers (TL) with a net weight of 1,999 pounds or less.</p> <p>NOTE: Equipment without motive power that is mounted on wheels, designed to be drawn by a motor vehicle such as a cement mixer, tar pot, stump grinder, air compressor, polecat, etc. must be registered as a trailer by weight. If the weight is not available, a certified weight slip will be required.</p> <p>F. Section 320.01(5), Florida Statutes: SEMI-TRAILER means any vehicle without motive power designed to be coupled to or drawn by a motor vehicle and constructed so that some part of its weight and that of its load rests upon or is carried by another vehicle.</p> <p>NOTE: A regular or permanent registration may be issued to the semi-trailer. However, to qualify for a permanent registration, the semi trailer must be drawn by a GVW truck tractor by means of a 5th wheel arrangement, as stated in section 320.08(5)(a)(2), Florida Statutes. A permanent license plate may be issued using class code 103. The permanent license plate is not renewed and is non-transferable. It may only be used/displayed on the trailer it is issued to and is not included in the forced replacement program, therefore, no Advance Replacement Fee is collected.</p>	
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G. **OFFICE TRAILER** is a mobile building, used to conduct normal office duties, duly approved as meeting applicable codes, may or may not be affixed permanently to a foundation and may be removed after completion of a task for which it was installed. The weight of an office trailer is determined by multiplying length X width X 20 pounds. For-hire office trailers are class code 54.

NOTE: Office trailers require a license plate when transferring ownership and when an office trailer is moved on the roads. However, when an office trailer is parked on private property, a valid registration is not required.

H. (Department Definition):

TOW DOLLY is a type of hitch not intended to be used to carry a load, but only manufactured to pull another motor vehicle.

NOTE: A tow dolly does not require registration nor does the vehicle it is transporting. However, the towing vehicle must be currently registered.

I. **CONVERTER GEAR** is a coupling device of one or two axles and a fifth wheel by which a semi-trailer can be coupled to the rear of a tractor-trailer combination forming a double rig.

NOTE: A converter gear does not require registration; however, both vehicles coupled to the gear must be registered.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Slide in campers for pick-up trucks DO NOT require registration.

B. If recreational vehicles are located in this state for 6 months or longer, as listed in section 320.37(2)(c), Florida Statutes, proof of registration must be displayed. This applies to nonresidents. Florida residents are subject to registration upon moving to this state and becoming a resident or from the date the recreational vehicle was acquired.

C. Trailers owned, leased or used by a "government" entity are issued the appropriate government license plate, which must be physically displayed on the trailer (even if the trailer is not moved on the roads).

D. Trailers owned by an eligible non-profit organization as listed in section 320.10, Florida Statutes, may be issued an X-Series license plate. If the applicant requests a regular license plate, the class code will be 53.

E. A "Frequently Asked Questions" page is attached as Exhibit A.

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IV. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:

All license plates may be purchased in any county license plate agency.

- A. If a trailer is required to be titled, it must be currently titled in the applicant's name as owner or the applicant must submit application for title along with the certificate of title accurately completed for transfer to them as purchaser.
- B. If a trailer has a net weight of 1,999 pounds or less, it is not required to be titled. The following would be required to prove ownership in lieu of a title:

1. When the vehicle is a new trailer, a copy of the MCO and/or a bill of sale, showing a complete chain of ownership, is required. **The clerk should return these documents to the customer after viewing them; however, a copy of the MCO or bill of sale should be retained for a period of at least 12 months.**
2. When the vehicle is a used trailer (homemade or manufactured) having a net weight of 1,999 pounds or less, a bill of sale, which includes a complete description of the trailer and the previous owner's Florida license plate number, is required. **The clerk should return the bill of sale to the customer after viewing it; however, a copy of the bill of sale should be retained for a period of at least 12 months.**

There must be a complete chain of ownership. If the used trailer (homemade or manufactured) has never been registered in Florida, a certified weight slip is also required, unless the documentation submitted shows a net weight. When processing a registration to a trailer with no vehicle identification number (VIN), the FRVIS system will generate a trailer identification number (TIN) and a license plate will be issued. The TIN number is NOT a VIN number and is NOT REQUIRED (however, is RECOMMENDED) to be die cut or affixed to the trailer.

NOTE: When processing a registration for a trailer with a net weight of 1,999 pounds or less, a blank bill of sale will print on the registration. When the customer sells the trailer, he/she may use this area to transfer ownership to the new purchaser.

C. FEES:

Refer to form HSMV 83140, License plate Rate Chart, for applicable fees.

V. REPLACEMENT LICENSE PLATES:

Applications for replacement license plates may be processed by any county license plate agency by submitting the following:

- A. Form HSMV 83146, Application for Replacement License Plate, Validation Decal or Parking Permit, accurately completed.

NOTE: Refer to DMS Procedure RS-06 for additional information.

- B. When an applicant reports a license plate or decal as stolen to a law enforcement agency and attests that the license plate or decal has been reported as stolen on form HSMV 83146, no fee should be charged for the replacement license plate or decal.

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EXHIBIT A

Frequently Asked Questions

Question 1: Can someone sell a non-titled trailer without registering it in their name first?

Answer: Yes. An owner of a non-titled trailer does not have to register it in their name before selling it. However, they must be able to prove to the purchaser that they are the owner by way of a “complete chain” of ownership.

The purchaser must submit all ownership documents that make up the “complete chain” of ownership to the tax collector’s office or license plate agency.

Example: John purchases a trailer from Sally. John then sells it to Alex, who sells it to Mark. Mark must submit the following to the agency, which constitutes a “complete chain” of ownership, to register the trailer:

- Sally’s Florida registration (or current FRVIS record in her name)
- Bill of Sale from Sally to John
- Bill of Sale from John to Alex
- Bill of Sale from Alex to Mark (the applicant)

Question 2: Who do I contact when I have built a homemade trailer (TL) or assembled a trailer (TL) from parts, which weighs 2,000 pounds or more?

Answer: The customer must contact the Division of Motorist Services Regional office servicing the area where they reside. A temporary license plate may be issued by the regional office in order for the customer to transport the trailer to be weighed or inspected. If found to be in order, a division Compliance Examiner/Inspector will assign an "FLT" number to the trailer. The "FLT" number must be either die-cut (1/4 inch stamp) or welded to the trailer in a permanent and visible location, usually on the tow hitch or near the front portion of the trailer. The die-cut or welded number must include the prefix "FLT". The placement of the "FLT" identification number on all ASPT trailers must be inspected by a Division of Motorist Services Compliance Examiner/Inspector. If the trailer identification number is not legible the certification will not be approved. See DMS Procedure TL-43 for additional information.

Question 3: Do trailer dealers need a dealer license?

Answer: Trailer dealers who sell trailers which weigh 1,999 or less do not need a dealer license, regardless of the number of trailers they sell within a year.

However, trailer dealers who sell trailers which weigh 2,000 lbs or more are required to obtain a dealer license when they sell 25 or more trailers per year.