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Driver and Vehicle Services Update

Bureau of Motor Vehicles - Research and Support Operations Section
P.O. Box 68031, Harrisburg, PA 17106-8031

This bulletin may be downloaded by visiting the Driver and Vehicle Services
Web site at www.dmv.state.pa.us

BULLETIN NO. 09-01

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ADDITIONAL ACT 133 HIGHLIGHTS

ACT 133 - REISSUANCE OF ILLEGIBLE REGISTRATION PLATES

Act 133 of 2008 eliminated the requirement for PennDOT to re-issue license plates every 10 years. The new law allows an authorized representative of the Department or law enforcement to determine if a license plate is illegible from a reasonable distance. Once it is determined the license plate is illegible, the vehicle owner may request that the Department replace the license plate with a standard issue plate, free of charge. All certified inspection mechanics have been appointed as authorized representatives of the Department for the purposes of certifying a registration plate is illegible.

Beginning January 26, 2009, certified inspection mechanics, during the vehicle's periodic inspection or upon request by the owner/registrant of the vehicle, will determine if the license plate is illegible. A license plate may be deemed illegible when one or more letters or numerals cannot be recognized from 50 feet. For those vehicles bearing an illegible license plate, the certified inspection mechanic will provide the vehicle owner with a postcard that has been completed and signed by him/her. The vehicle owner is then responsible for signing and returning the postcard to PennDOT for processing.

If a vehicle owner believes their license plate is illegible, he/she may contact law enforcement to have Section C of Form MV-44 completed. The vehicle owner is then responsible for returning Form MV-44 to PennDOT for processing.

For additional information, a fact sheet and frequently asked questions regarding the reissuance program, are located on PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services Web site at www.dmv.state.pa.us.

Act 133 was signed into law on November 25, 2008. The changes go into effect January 26, 2009.

- ❖ The definition of motor vehicle has changed to "A vehicle, which is self-propelled except an electric personal assistive mobility device or a vehicle, which is propelled solely by human power.
- ❖ Section 1606 (c)(1) has been added so that no person shall drive a commercial motor vehicle during any period of time that the motor carrier has been placed under an out-of-service order.
- ❖ The definition of an All-Terrain Vehicle has been revised from a dry weight of 800 pounds to a dry weight of 1,000 pounds.
- ❖ Military Commercial Driver's License Skills Testing Waiver - Act 133 of 2008 also allows PennDOT to waive the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Skills Test, specified in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (49 CFR 383.113) for Pennsylvania residents who are active duty military or recent honorably discharged veterans with at least two years experience operating a commercial motor vehicle as part of their military job requirements. The waiver applies to CDL applicants who wish to operate vehicles similar to those they operated in the military. For more information about the Military CDL Skills Test Waiver and to review eligibility requirements, please refer to the Military CDL Skills Test Waiver Fact Sheet under the Military Personnel/Veterans Information Center on PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services Web site, www.dmv.state.pa.us.

SHIPPING AND HANDLING FEE INCREASE

Effective February 1, 2009, the shipping and handling fee for agents ordering temporary registration plates will be increasing by \$2 per order. Orders of up to 50 temporary registration plates will increase from \$5 to \$7 and orders of 51 or more temporary registration plates will increase from \$10 to \$12.

Agents may continue to pick up their temporary plate orders at the Regulated Client Services Section Dealer Counter with no shipping and handling due.

UPDATED BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLE FORMS

The following forms have been revised and have been updated on PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services Web site: www.dmv.state.pa.us.

Form MV-956 has been revised and now has an edition date of 8-08.

Forms MV-38A and MV-950/950A have been revised and now have an edition date of 9-08.

Form MV-41 has been revised and now has an edition date of 10-08.

Form MV-436A has been revised and now has an edition date of 11-08.

Form MV-44 has been revised and now has an edition date of 1-09.