FACT SHEET
VIN VERIFICATION

PURPOSE
The purpose of this fact sheet is to explain when a vehicle identification number (VIN) verification is required and who is authorized to verify the VIN of a vehicle in connection with an application for certificate of title where it is impossible to obtain either a legible tracing or a photograph (signed and dated by a certified Pennsylvania inspection mechanic) of the vehicle identification number, as required by 75 PA.C.S. §1103(e) (relating to application for certificate of title).

WHEN VERIFICATION IS REQUIRED
Visual verification shall be required in the following situations when it is impossible to obtain a legible tracing or photograph of the vehicle identification number:

(1) When a Pennsylvania resident acquires a new or used vehicle from a nonresident for use in this Commonwealth.

(2) When a nonresident brings into this Commonwealth, in connection with establishing a Pennsylvania residence, a vehicle previously titled or registered in another state or country.

(3) When the application for initial certificate of title is for a truck, truck-tractor, or motor home, regardless of source of ownership.

WHO MAY VERIFY A VIN
The following persons shall be authorized to inspect and visually verify that the vehicle identification number conforms to the description given in the application:

(1) A certified Pennsylvania inspection station mechanic.

(2) A notary public employed by one of the following:
   (i) A person to whom manufacturer or dealer registration plates have been issued under 75 PA.C.S. §1335 (relating to registration plates for manufacturers and dealers).
   (ii) An authorized full agent, as defined in Title 67, Chapter 43 (relating to temporary registration cards and plates).

(3) If the vehicle is located outside of this Commonwealth one of the following:
   (i) A police officer.
   (ii) A mechanic employed by a dealer.
   (iii) An armed forces installation provost marshal or motor officer.

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