REGISTRATION STICKER ELIMINATION
Questions and Answers

Effective December 31, 2016 PennDOT will no longer issue vehicle registration stickers.

Why is PennDOT going to stop issuing registration stickers?
Act 89, passed in November, 2013, provided for the elimination of vehicle registration stickers. The move will also allow our customers to pay online from home or a mobile device, print and sign a permanent registration credential and go about their business, without waiting for delivery by mail of their registration card. Additionally, current technology allows law enforcement to verify through real-time electronic means whether a vehicle registration is valid. Also, eliminating the stickers will result in a significant cost savings for taxpayers.

Do I still have to register my vehicle?
Yes – Act 89 merely eliminated the need to place a registration sticker on your license plate effective December 31, 2016.

When will the last registration sticker be issued?
December 30, 2016

How much money will be saved by not-issuing the stickers?
The elimination of the registration sticker was evaluated as part of a Penn State research study. That study concluded that eliminating the registration sticker has no impact on vehicle registration compliance. The elimination of the registration sticker will realize a cost savings to taxpayers of $1 million per year.

How will law enforcement know my car is registered?
Law enforcement agencies have real-time electronic access to PennDOT’s database from their patrol vehicles and many are investing in license plate reader technology to more efficiently validate registrations.

Do I have to remove my old stickers?
No, you are not required to remove your old sticker(s).

Are there any other benefits to customers related to the elimination of the registration sticker?
The elimination of the registration sticker helps pave the way for PennDOT to leverage technology to make vehicle registration more convenient for our customers with future improvements such as allowing a customer who renews their vehicle registration online to print a permanent registration card at home and eventually allowing customers to upload the registration credential to their smart device.