

Government Surplus Vehicles

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New Information

There are three different types of government surplus vehicles (GSVs):

- **Government Surplus Vehicles (GSVs)**—Can be from any federal agency except the military. Most of these vehicles are complying and have:
 - A 17 digit vehicle identification number (VIN).
 - An emission label.
 - A Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) label.
- **Military Vehicles (Humvees)**—Are usually sold through auctions and cannot be registered for on-highway use. However, they may be registered for off-highway use if written on the United States Government Certification to Obtain Title to a Vehicle (SF 97-1) form. These vehicles will **not** have:
 - A 17 digit VIN, but will have a serial number.
 - A secondary or alternate VIN.
 - An emission label.
 - An FMVSS label.
- **Tactical Vehicles**—Are military vehicles except they have a U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Certificate to Register a Tactical Vehicle (DLA 1928) form. These vehicles can be registered for on-highway use, only when an exempt agency is using these vehicles for defense exercises. The U.S. government remains the lien holder on these vehicles. Tactical vehicles will **not** have:
 - A 17 digit VIN, but will have a serial number.
 - A secondary or alternate VIN.
 - An emission label.
 - An FMVSS label.

Procedures

- **GSVs**
 - For titling purposes, these vehicles must have an SF 97-1.
- **Military Vehicles**
 - Do not accept a Verification of Vehicle (REG 31) form from anyone except the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). If DMV is unable to find the serial number, refer the customer to the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

NOTE: Unless the serial number is disfigured or missing, do **not** refer these vehicles to CHP.

—Customers will have an SF 97-1 in lieu of titling documents. If the SF 97-1 is lost, the customer must get a duplicate from the auction. If the auction cannot provide a duplicate, they must provide the contact information of the federal government agency where one can be obtained

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- **Military Vehicles, *continued***

- Send all transactions for military vehicles (Humvees) to the Technical Compliance Section (TCS) at DMV headquarters, MS C271.

- **Tactical Vehicles**

- Do not accept a REG 31 from anyone except DMV. If DMV cannot find the serial number, refer to CHP.

- Do not confuse tactical vehicles with GSVs. GSVs come from different federal agencies and are usually compliant vehicles with a 17 digit VIN, an emission label, and an FMVSS label.

Background

Several Government surplus noncomplying military vehicles were registered for on-highway use in error.

Distribution

Notification that this memo is available online at www.dmv.ca.gov under Publications was made via California DMV's Automated Email Alert System in October 2017.

Reference

Vehicle Industry Registration Procedures Manual §7.015

California Vehicle Code §4000

VIN 2015-19 Tactical Vehicles

VIN 2016-27 Government Surplus Vehicles

Contact

Call the DMV Customer Communications Section at (916) 657-6560 for further clarification of this memo.