

Title Transfer – Out of State Vehicle

Registering an out-of-state vehicle in [California](#) requires a mandatory **in-person visit** to a DMV office because the vehicle must undergo a physical inspection.

1. Physical Vehicle Requirements

- VIN Verification:**
 - If you visit an office only for VIN verification, you do not need an appointment. Enter the designated lane for VIN Verifications at the DMV office to be serviced. However, if additional items need processing, an appointment is highly recommended.
 - If you want to get the VIN verification done in a different state (e.g., where the vehicle is located before entering CA), a peace officer in that state can provide VIN Verification. However, it is mandatory that the peace officer uses the [REG 31](#) form.
- Smog Certification:** Most vehicles require a California-certified smog check. Note that out-of-state smog tests are **not accepted**.
- Odometer Disclosure:** Required for vehicles less than 10 years old.

2. Required Documentation

- Application for Title or Registration (REG 343):** Completed and signed by all owners to be listed on the new title.
- Out-of-State Title:** You must surrender the original out-of-state title. If you are still financing the vehicle, provide the name and address of the lienholder.
- Out-of-State Registration:** Provide the most recent registration certificate or renewal notice.
- Proof of Insurance:** California-compliant liability insurance is required.

3. Fees and Taxes

The [DMV](#) will calculate total fees at the time of your application, which typically include:

- Registration & Service Fees:** A \$28 non-resident service fee plus standard registration fees.
- Title Transfer Fee:** Approximately \$15–\$21.
- Use Tax:** Ranging from **7.25% to 10.25%** based on your California city and county of residence.
- Vehicle License Fee (VLF):** Roughly 0.65% of the vehicle's value.

Important Deadlines

- New Residents:** You must register your vehicle within **20 days** of establishing California residency (e.g., getting a job or renting a home).
- Purchasers:** If you bought the car specifically to bring it to California, you have **10 days** from the date of purchase to initiate the transfer.

Submit to DMV

When your checklist is complete and you've prepared all necessary documents for your out-of-state title transfer, bring your vehicle to a DMV office for VIN verification. Salvaged or Branded Titles must make an appointment with CHP for VIN Verification.