CHP Referral for Trailers With a Missing VIN

Effective: July 1, 2015

New Information

Two-or-more axle specially constructed (SPCNS) trailers and manufactured trailers will be referred to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) for vehicle verification or vehicle identification number (VIN) assignment (as applicable) when the VIN is missing, cannot be located, or has never been assigned.

Procedures

When an application for registration of a two-or-more axle trailer with one of the above VIN conditions is submitted:

- A vehicle verification or VIN assignment (as applicable) is required by CHP.
- A vehicle verification by an authorized Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) employee prior to CHP referral is not required when there is no VIN on the application and the customer states there is no VIN on the trailer.
- The applicant will be referred to CHP on a completed Application for Assigned Vehicle Identification Number Plate (REG 124) form.
- The applicant will be issued a 90-day temporary operating permit (TOP).

**NOTE:** CHP VIN inspectors operate by appointment only.

Background

Due to widespread theft of two-or-more axle trailers, which are often disguised as SPCNS trailers by removing the VIN and altering the trailer’s appearance, CHP requested they be referred to CHP for inspection.

Distribution

Notification that this memo is available online, at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov) under Publications was made via California DMV’s Automated E-mail Alert System in June 2015.

Contact

Call the DMV Customer Communications Section, at (916) 657-6560 for further clarification of this memo. Upon request, this document can be produced in Braille or large print.

Reference

*Vehicle Industry Registration Procedures Manual*, Chapter 7

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