# CHAPTER 21

## SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES

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CHAPTER 21

SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES

21.000 Introduction
This chapter contains the requirements for issuance and processing of special license plates. Refer to Appendix 1F for special license plate fees.

21.005 Amateur Radio (HAM) License Plates (CVC §5005)
Persons holding an unexpired Amateur Radio Station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) may be issued one set of Amateur Radio (HAM) License Plates for a passenger motor vehicle, commercial vehicle, or motorcycle registered to the licensee. Amateur Radio License Plates are not available for trailers.

Original License Plate Application—the following must be submitted:
• A completed Special Recognition License Plate Application (REG 17A) form.
• Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle in the applicant’s name.
• A copy of the applicant’s FCC license showing the class of the operator must be attached to the REG 17A. The call letters entered on the REG 17A must match the FCC license.
• The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
• The fees due.

Exchange—Existing personalized license plates may not be exchanged to Amateur Radio License Plates.
Renewal—No additional fee for renewal.
Reassignment—An additional fee is required for reassignment.
Retention—The license plates cannot be retained.
Transfer of Ownership—The license plates remain with the person holding the FCC license that bears the same call letters shown on the Amateur Radio License Plates.

21.010 Antique Motorcycle License Plates (CVC §5004.5)
Antique Motorcycle License Plates may be issued for motorcycles manufactured in 1942, or prior. These motorcycles are subject to all regular fees. Antique Motorcycle License Plates are not available as personalized license plates.

Original Sequential License Plate Application—the following must be submitted:
• A completed Special Recognition License Plate Application (REG 17A) form.
• Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle in the applicant’s name. The title must be submitted if the owner wants the title to show the Antique Motorcycle License Plate.
21.010 Antique Motorcycle License Plates, continued

- The license plate currently assigned to the motorcycle.
- The fees due (the reflectorized license plate fee is not due).

**Exchange**—An existing personalized license plate may not be exchanged to an Antique Motorcycle License Plate.

**Reassignment**—The license plate cannot be reassigned.

**Renewal**—No additional fee for renewal.

**Retention**—The license plate cannot be retained.

**Transfer of Ownership**—The license plate remains with the motorcycle and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.

21.015 Bicentennial Bill of Rights License Plates (CVC §5101.9)

Bicentennial Bill of Rights License Plates were issued between July 1, 1990, and December 31, 1991, to automobiles, commercial vehicles, and trailers. Bicentennial Bill of Rights License Plates are no longer available for issuance or replacement, but existing license plates may be renewed and may be reassigned as explained in the Reassignment of Special License Plates section in this chapter.

**Reassignment**—An additional fee is required for reassignment.

21.020 Breast Cancer Awareness License Plates (CVC §5108)

Breast Cancer Awareness License Plates are available for automobiles, commercial vehicles, and trailers in configurations from two to six characters and for motorcycles in configurations from two to five characters.

**Original Sequential License Plate Application**—The following must be submitted:

- A completed Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form.
- Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle in the applicant’s name.
- License plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The fees due.

**Original or Exchange Personalized License Plate application**—The following must be submitted:

- A completed REG 17.
- Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle in the applicant’s name.
- The fees due.

**Exchange**—Existing personalized license plates may be exchanged to personalized California Breast Cancer License Plates for a fee.
21.025 California (CA) 1960s Legacy License Plates (CVC §5004.3)

Legacy License Plates are available in sequential configurations of six characters and in personalized configurations of two to seven characters and may be issued to automobiles, commercial vehicles (excluding international registration plan [IRP]), motorcycles, trailer coach (CCH), and permanent trailer identification (PTI).

Original Sequential License Plate Application—The following must be submitted:

- A completed Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form.
- Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle in the applicant’s name.
- License plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The fees due.

Original or Exchange Personalized License Plate application—The following must be submitted:

- A completed REG 17.
- The fees due.

Exchange—Existing personalized license plates may be exchanged to personalized California Legacy License Plates for a fee.

Renewal/Reassignment—An additional fee is required for renewal or reassignment.

Retention—An additional fee is required for retention.

Transfer of Ownership—The license plates remain with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.

21.030 California Agriculture (CalAg) License Plates (CVC §5156)

CalAg License Plates are available in a sequential series or personalized with two to six characters and may be issued to automobiles, commercial vehicles, trailers, and motorcycles (two to five characters).

Original Personalized License Plate Application—The following must be submitted:

- A completed Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form.
- Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle in the applicant’s name.
- The fees due.
21.030 CalAg License Plates, continued
Original Sequential License Plate Application—The following must be submitted:

- A completed REG 17.
- Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle in the applicant’s name.
- The fees due.

Exchange—Existing personalized license plates may be exchanged to personalized CalAg License Plates for a fee.

Renewal/Reassignment—An additional fee is required for renewal or reassignment.

Retention—An annual retention fee is required to retain the personalized license plates if the registration is not renewed.

Transfer of Ownership—The license plates remain with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.

21.035 California Arts Council License Plates (CVC §5074)
Arts Council (Arts) License Plates are available in a sequential series or personalized with two to six characters and may be issued to automobiles, commercial vehicles, and trailers. Arts License Plates are not available for motorcycles.

Original Personalized License Plate Application—The following must be submitted:

- A completed Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form.
- Registration in the applicant’s name or documents required to register the vehicle in the applicant’s name.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The fees due.

Original Sequential License Plate Application—The following must be submitted:

- A completed REG 17.
- Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle in the applicant’s name.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The fees due.

Exchange—Existing personalized license plates may be exchanged to personalized Arts Council License Plates for a fee

Renewal/Reassignment—An additional fee is required for renewal or reassignment.

Retention—An annual retention fee is required to retain the personalized license plates if the registration is not renewed.

Transfer of Ownership—The license plates remain with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.
21.040 California Coastal Commission (Whale Tail) License Plates (CVC §5067)

Coastal Commission (Whale Tail) License Plates are available in a sequential series or personalized with two to seven characters and may be issued to automobiles, commercial vehicles, trailers, and motorcycles (two to five characters).

**Original Personalized License Plate Application—The following must be submitted:**
- A completed Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form.
- Registration in the applicant’s name or documents required to register the vehicle in the applicant’s name.
- The fees due.

**Original Sequential License Plate Application—The following must be submitted:**
- A completed REG 17.
- Registration card in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle in the applicant’s name.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The fees due.

**Exchange**—Existing personalized license plates may be exchanged to personalized Whale Tail License Plates for a fee.

**Renewal/Reassignment**—An additional fee is required for renewal or reassignment of the license plates to another vehicle.

**Retention**—An additional fee is required for retention of the license plates.

**Transfer of Ownership**—The license plate remains with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.

21.045 California Firefighter License Plates (CVC §5101.2)

Firefighter License Plates are available in a sequential series or personalized with two to six characters and may be issued to automobiles, commercial vehicles, trailers, and motorcycles (two to five characters).

**License Plate Eligibility Requirements—Only** regularly employed or retired firefighters and volunteer firefighters or surviving family member of a deceased firefighter may obtain these license plates; they cannot be purchased by the general public. A surviving family member is the spouse (including a domestic partner, excluding a former spouse) and any child (including an adopted child, stepchild, or recognized natural child) of a deceased firefighter (active, retired, or volunteer) The applicant’s principal duties must be, or have been prior to retirement, within the scope of active firefighting and of providing fire prevention service, fire training, hazardous materials abatement, arson investigation, and emergency medical services.

The applicant’s fire department identification (ID), International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), or California Professional Firefighters (CPF) Callback Association membership card must be presented and verified as proof of eligibility.
21.045 California Firefighter License Plates, continued

**Note:** A photocopy of the Firefighter’s Fire Department ID or CPF Callback Association membership must accompany mail applications or applications for license plates being purchased as a gift. After verification, destroy the photocopy.

Original Personalized License Plate Application—The following must be submitted:

- A completed Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form.
- The applicant’s fire department ID, IAFF membership, or CPF Callback Association membership card as proof of their eligibility.
- Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- The fees due.

Original Sequential License Plate Application—The following must be submitted:

- A completed REG 17.
- The applicant’s fire department ID, IAFF, or CPF Callback Association membership cards as proof of their eligibility.
- Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The fees due.

Exchange—Existing personalized license plates may be exchanged to personalized Firefighter License Plates for a fee.

Renewal/Reassignment—Requires an additional fee for renewal or reassignment.

Retention—Requires an additional fee for retention. The firefighter’s surviving spouse may retain the Firefighter License Plates without setting a time limit to transfer the license plate. A family member may also retain one of the license plates as a family heirloom.

The following must be submitted:

- A Statement of Facts (REG 256) form stating the relationship to the Firefighter License Plate owner and/or surviving spouse. In the absence of a surviving spouse or where the spouse dies while in possession of the Firefighter License Plate, a member of the deceased firefighter’s family may retain one of the Firefighter License Plates. Family is defined as a spouse, parent, step-parent, child, grandparent, sibling, stepchild, stepgrandparent, and stepsibling. They must state the license plate will not be placed on a vehicle and will be kept as a family heirloom.

Transfer of Ownership—The license plate remains with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.
21.050 California Memorial License Plates (CVC §5066)

California Memorial License Plates are available in a sequential series or personalized with two to six characters and may be issued to automobiles, commercial vehicles, trailers, and motorcycles (two to five characters).

- A completed Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form.
- Registration in the applicant’s name or documents required to register the vehicle in the applicant’s name.
- The fees due.

**Original Sequential License Plate Application**—The following must be submitted:

- A completed REG 17.
- Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle in the applicant’s name.
- The fees due.

**Exchange**—Existing personalized license plates may be exchanged to personalized California Memorial License Plates for a fee.

**Renewal/Reassignment**—An additional fee is required for renewal or reassignment of the license plates.

**Retention**—An additional fee is required for retention.

**Transfer of Ownership**—The license plates remain with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.

21.055 California Museums License Plates (CVC §5156)

California Museums License Plates are available in sequential configurations of six characters and in personalized configurations of two to six characters and may be issued to automobiles, commercial vehicles (excluding apportioned vehicles), and trailers. The license plates are also available for motorcycles in sequential configurations of five characters and in personalized configurations of two to five characters.

**Original Sequential License Plate Application**—The following must be submitted:

- A completed Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form.
- Registration in the applicant’s name or documents required to register the vehicle in the applicant’s name.
- License plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The fees due.

**Original or Exchange Personalized License Plate Application**—The following must be submitted:

- A completed REG 17. The fees due.
- The fees due.

**Exchange**—Existing personalized license plate may be exchanged to personalized California Museums License Plates for a fee.
21.055 California Museums License Plates, continued

Renewal/Reassignment—An additional fee is required for renewal or reassignment.

Retention—An additional fee is required for retention.

Transfer of Ownership—The license plates remain with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.

21.060 Collegiate License Plates (CVC §5024)

Collegiate License Plates are available in a sequential series or personalized with two to six characters and may be issued to automobiles, commercial vehicles, and trailers. Commemorative Collegiate License Plates are not available for motorcycles. The only participant is UCLA.

Original Personalized License Plate Application—The following must be submitted:

• A completed REG 17.
• Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
• The fees due.

Original Sequential License Plate Application—The following must be submitted:

• A completed REG 17.
• Registration card in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
• The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
• The fees due.

Exchange—Existing personalized license plates may be exchanged to personalized Collegiate License Plates for a fee.

Renewal/Reassignment—Requires an additional fee for renewal or reassignment of the license plates to another vehicle.

Retention—No additional fee is required.

Transfer of Ownership—The license plates remain with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.

21.065 Congressional Medal of Honor License Plates (CVC §5101.6)

A Congressional Medal of Honor (CMOH) recipient may obtain CMOH License Plates for one passenger motor vehicle, motorcycle, or commercial motor vehicle with an unladen weight of 8,000 pounds or less, which they own. CMOH License Plates are not available as a personalized license plate.

The CMOH recipient is exempt from payment of all fees, except fees for duplicates, on that one vehicle only. The vehicle cannot be used for transportation for hire, compensation, or profit.
21.065  **Congressional Medal of Honor License Plates, continued**

Vehicles with CMOH License Plates are assigned a 12/31/XX expiration date and must be renewed annually for no fee. The CMOH License Plates may be transferred to another vehicle owned by the recipient.

**Note:** The fee exemption in CVC §9105 can be used for one vehicle only. An individual who qualifies for more than one type of fee-exempt license plate, such as CMOH and POW License Plates, cannot obtain both license plates.

**Original Sequential License Plate Application—The following must be submitted:**

- A completed Special Recognition License Plate Application (REG 17A) form.
- Registration card in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- A copy of the letter given to the applicant when they were awarded the CMOH or a copy of the applicant’s service record.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.

**Exchange**—Existing personalized license plates may not be exchanged to Congressional Medal of Honor License Plates.

**Renewal**—No additional fee for renewal.

**Retention**—The license plates cannot be retained.

**Reassignment——The following must be submitted:**

- The current registration card in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- If the license plates are being retained by the surviving spouse, a Statement of Facts (REG 256) form completed by the surviving spouse stating that they are the spouse of the CMOH License Plate owner and wishes to retain the license plates.

**Retention by Surviving Spouse**—The surviving spouse of a CMOH License Plate owner may retain the license plates and all license plate privileges, such as the accompanying exemption from registration, license plate reassignment, adding or deleting a co-owner, and license plate replacement fees until the death of that spouse. If there is no surviving spouse, the license plates must be returned to DMV.

**Surrender**—The CMOH License Plates must be returned to DMV within 60 days of the license plate owner’s or surviving spouse’s death, as appropriate, or by the vehicle registration expiration date, whichever occurs first. If a family member chooses to retain one license plate as a heirloom, only one license plate must be surrendered.
21.065 Congressional Medal of Honor License Plates (CVC §5101.6), continued

**Family Heirloom**—A family member (limited to: parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, grandparent, stepgrandparent, sibling, or stepsibling) may keep one CMOH License Plate as a family heirloom upon the death of the license plate owner and the surviving spouse, if any. The exemption from registration fees is not extended to the family members. Additional CMOH License Plates will not be made for family members as heirlooms.

The following must be submitted:

- A REG 256 completed by the family member stating their relationship to the CMOH License Plate holder and that they will not use the license plate for registration purposes.

21.070 Disabled Person Definition (CVC §295.5)

A disabled person is any person who:

- Has lost, or lost the use of, one or more lower extremities or both hands.
- Has a significant limitation in the use of lower extremities, or a diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs or interferes with mobility, or is so severely disabled as to be unable to move without the aid of an assistance device.
- Is blind.
- Is suffering from lung disease.
- Is suffering from cardiovascular disease.

21.075 Disabled Person Certification (CVC §§5007, 22511.55, 22511.59)

**Certification**—A properly completed Application for Disabled Person Placard or Plates (REG 195) form is required for Disabled Person License Plates and/or a Disabled Person placard. The certification of the applicant’s disability must be completed as follows:
### 21.075 Disabled Person Certification, continued

<table>
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<th><strong>If the Applicant Suffers From</strong></th>
<th><strong>The Certification Required Is</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>A lung disease</td>
<td>Sections 6 and 6A of the REG 195 must be completed by a:</td>
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<td>A cardiovascular disease</td>
<td>• Physician (items 2–8 only).</td>
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<tr>
<td>A diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs or interferes with mobility</td>
<td>• Surgeon (items 2–8 only).</td>
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<td>A severe disability in which they are unable to move without the aid of an assistant device</td>
<td>• Physician’s assistant (items 2–8 only).</td>
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<tr>
<td>A significant limitation in the use of lower extremities</td>
<td>• Nurse practitioner (items 2–8 only).</td>
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<tr>
<td>The loss or loss of use of one or more lower extremities and does not apply in person</td>
<td>• Certified nurse midwife (items 4–7 only).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The loss or loss of use of both hands and does not apply in person</td>
<td>• Podiatrist (items 4–7 only).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central visual acuity that does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye, with corrective lenses</td>
<td>• Chiropractor (items 6–8 only).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The loss of one or more lower extremities or both hands and applies in person</td>
<td>Section 6A DMV USE ONLY of the REG 195 may be completed by a DMV employee.</td>
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The certification must include the medical license number and signature of the authorized medical provider from California or another state.

**Note:** Certification by a medical provider located and licensed in another country is acceptable only if the customer is applying for a DP travel placard.

The medical provider’s medical license number must be keyed in the MISC field on the RO/LO screen.

### 21.080 Disabled Person License Plates (CVC §5007)

Disabled Person (DP) License Plates may be issued for any/all passenger and commercial vehicles or motorcycles currently registered to:
- A qualified permanently disabled person.
- An organization or agency involved in the transportation of disabled persons if the vehicle is used solely for the purpose of transporting those persons.

**Certification Card**—A disabled person must present a Disabled Person or Disabled Veteran License Plate Certification Form (REG 3060), upon request, to law enforcement or parking enforcement personnel, which verifies the person’s eligibility for DP License Plates. The license plate owner must be the driver or a passenger for the vehicle to be eligible for disabled person parking privileges.
21.080 Disabled Person License Plates, continued

Commercial Vehicles—One commercial vehicle with an unladen weight of 8,000 pounds or less is exempt from the weight fee. Any additional commercial vehicles assigned DP License Plates are subject to all registration fees.

Disabled Person License Plates for Trustees—May be issued to a vehicle registered to a trust when the applicant’s full name (first and last names) is shown as part of a trust name or as a trustee.

When a customer submits an application for DP License Plates for a vehicle registered to a trust, continue to follow procedures in the Special License Plates section of this chapter, and issue the DP License Plates if the trust name:

- Contains the full name of the applicant (Example: Mary Smith Trust), or:
- Reflects the applicant’s full name as a trustee (Example: Mary Smith Trustee).

DP License Plate Exclusions—DP License Plates are not issued to:

- A vehicle owned by someone other than a qualified disabled person.
- A vehicle owned by an organization or agency that is not used solely to provide transportation services to the disabled.
- A temporarily disabled person.
- Invalid tricycles or wheelchairs.
- Vehicles with Disabled Veteran (DV), Congressional Medal of Honor (CMOH), or Prisoner of War (POW) License Plates.
- A vehicle used by a disabled person in a street vending business operation.
- Trailers.

DP Parking Privileges—Vehicles with DP License Plates and/or a DP placard are entitled to certain parking privileges which are not granted to other vehicles (CVC §22511.5).

Disabled Persons with Special Interest License Plates—A qualified permanently disabled person who chooses to have special interest license plates on their vehicle, rather than DP License Plates, must have a DP placard displayed in the vehicle to receive DP parking privileges.

Government Agency or Private Organization—Any government agency or private organization providing transportation to disabled persons may obtain DP License Plates if the vehicle is used solely for the purpose of transporting those persons.

Medical Certification Not Required—A medical certification is not required for applicants who have been issued California DV License Plates or a California permanent DP placard. In this case, write the applicant’s DV License Plate or DP placard number on the Application for Disabled Person Placard or Plates (REG 195) form.
Disabled Person License Plates, *continued*

**Original License Plate Application**—the following must be submitted:

- Proof of true full name and date of birth, which consist of:
  - A copy of state-issued driver license or identification card (DL/ID) card, if applicable.
  - A copy of birth date/legal presence/identity (BD/LP/Identity) document to establish true full name or birth.

**Note:** Proof of residency is not an acceptable document to establish true full name or birth. Proof of legal presence is not required for a DP License or placard application.

- A completed and signed Application for Disabled Person Placard or Plates (REG 195) form and one of the documents listed above.
  - The applicant’s true full name as it appears on the DL/ID card or other acceptable proof must be the same as the name shown on the REG 195. If the applicant’s name on the proof of true full name document does not match the name on the REG 195 as a result of a name change, the applicant must submit copies of a name change document which contain the applicant’s legal name both before and after the name change.

- The current registration card in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.

- A Statement of Facts (REG 256) form for issuance of DP License Plates to an organization or agency that certifies the vehicle is used *solely* for the purpose of transporting disabled persons.

- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.

**The procedures below must be followed:**

- Review and complete the DMV USE ONLY box at the bottom of the REG 195.
- Retain a copy of the acceptable BD/LP Identity and, if applicable, true full name.
- Return original proof documents to the applicant.

**Processing DP License Plates and DP Placard Applications Together**—
Permanently disabled persons may use one REG 195 to apply for DP License Plates and a permanent DP placard at the same time.

**Renewal/Reassignment**—No additional fee is required for renewal or reassignment of a DP License Plate.

**Retention**—No additional fee is required for retention of a DP License Plate.

**Surrender of License Plates Required**—DP License Plates must be returned to DMV within 60 days of the license plate owner’s death or upon expiration of the registration, whichever occurs first.

**Transfer of Ownership**—The license plate remains with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.
21.085 Disabled Person Parking Placards

Types of Disabled Person (DP) Parking Placards:

- **Permanent** (CVC §22511.55)—Issued to persons with permanent disabilities. The DP placard is valid for two years and expires on June 30 of an odd numbered year. A renewal year placard is issued on original applications submitted on or after January 1 of the expiration year. A DP is not eligible for more than one permanent placard at any time. Only 4 substitute permanent DP placards can be issued during a 2-year renewal period.

- **Temporary** (CVC §22511.59(b))—Issued to persons with temporary disabilities. The DP placard is valid for up to 180 days (six months) or until the date noted by the qualified medical person certifying the disability on the application, whichever is less.

- **Travel-California Residents** (CVC §22511.59(d))—Issued to persons who currently have a California permanent DP parking placard, DP License Plates, or DV License Plates. The DP placard is valid for 30 days from the DMV issue date.

- **Travel-Nonresidents** (CVC §22511.59(c))—Issued to persons who are disabled and plan to travel in California. The DP placard is valid for up to 90 days, or until the date noted by the qualified medical person certifying the disability on the application, whichever is less.

**Automatic Renewal of Permanent Placards**—A renewal notice must be sent to each permanent DP placard holder every 6 years. A renewal DP placard and identification (ID) card are automatically issued to placard owners prior to June 30, of the expiration year unless the Bureau of Vital Statistics records show the owner as deceased. DMV compares its DP placard records with the Department of Health Services Bureau of Vital Statistics to ensure renewal placards are not mailed to deceased placard owners.

**Government Agency or Private Organization**—Any city, county, or state government agency or private organization providing transportation to disabled persons may obtain a no-fee DP placard for each vehicle maintained for that purpose. The applicant’s birthdate and a qualified medical person’s certification are not required on the application.

**Medical Certification Not Required**—A medical certification is not required for applicants who have been issued California DV or DP License Plates. In this case, write the applicant’s DV or DP License Plate number on the REG 195.

**Minor Children**—The REG 195 may be signed by the parent or guardian of a disabled minor child.

**Parking Privileges**—A DP placard:

- May be used in any vehicle transporting the placard owner.
- Provides the same parking privileges as DP License Plates.
21.085 Disabled Person Parking Placards, continued

Original License Plate Application—the following must be submitted:

- Proof of true full name and date of birth, which consist of:
  - A copy of state-issued driver license or identification card (DL/ID) card, if applicable.
  - A copy of birth date/legal presence/identity (BD/LP/Identity) document to establish true full name or birth.

**NOTE:** Proof of residency is not an acceptable document to establish true full name or birth. Proof of legal presence is not required for a DP License or placard application.

- A completed and signed Application for Disabled Person Placard or Plates (REG 195) form and one of the documents listed above.
  - The applicant’s true full name as it appears on the DL/ID card or other acceptable proof must be the same as the name shown on the REG 195. If the applicant’s name on the proof of true full name document does not match the name on the REG 195 as a result of a name change, the applicant must submit copies of a name change document which contain the applicant’s legal name both before and after the name change.

- The current registration card in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.

- A Statement of Facts (REG 256) form for issuance of DP License Plates to an organization or agency that certifies the vehicle is used solely for the purpose of transporting disabled persons.

- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.

The procedures below must be followed:

- Review and complete the DMV USE ONLY box at the bottom of the REG 195.
- Retain a copy of the acceptable BD/LP Identity and, if applicable, true full name.
- Return original proof documents to the applicant.

21.090 Disabled Veteran Definition (CVC 295.7)

A disabled veteran is a veteran who, as a result of an injury or disease suffered while on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces:

- Has a service-connected disability rated at 100 percent by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, due to a diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs or interferes with mobility.
- Is so severely disabled as to be unable to move without the aid of an assistive device.
- Has lost, or lost the use of, one or more limbs.
- Has permanent blindness, as defined in the *California Welfare and Institutions Code* §19153.
21.095 Disabled Veteran License Plates and Fees Exemption
(CVC §§5007 and 9105)

A qualified disabled veteran is exempt from the payment of all fees, except fees for duplicate certificates, license plates, and stickers for one passenger motor vehicle, motorcycle, or commercial motor vehicle with an unladen weight of 8,000 pounds or less, that is not used for transportation for hire, compensation, or profit that is owned by the disabled veteran and displays Disabled Veteran (DV) License Plates. Vehicles assigned DV License Plates expire on 12/31/XX and must be renewed annually.

**Note:** The fee exemption in CVC §9105 can be used for one vehicle only. An individual who qualifies for more than one type of fee-exempt license plate, such as POW or DV License Plate, cannot obtain both.

**Certification Card**—A disabled veteran must present a Disabled Person or Disabled Veteran License Plate Certification Form (REG 3060), upon request, to law enforcement or parking enforcement personnel, which verifies the person’s eligibility for DV License Plates. The license plate owner must be the driver or a passenger for the vehicle to be eligible for disabled person (DP) parking privileges.

**Disabled Veterans With Special Interest License Plates**—A qualified disabled veteran who chooses to have special license plates on his/her vehicle rather than DV License Plates must have a DP placard displayed in the vehicle to receive the disabled veteran parking privileges.

**Disabled Veterans Who Are Also Purple Heart Recipients**—A disabled veteran who is also a Purple Heart recipient may request the DV License Plate fee exemption and issuance of Purple Heart License Plates in lieu of DV License Plates.

In this case, advise the applicant that a DP placard must be displayed in the vehicle to receive the DP parking privileges.

In addition to the requirements for a DV License Plate application, the applicant must provide the proof of eligibility documentation required for the issuance of Purple Heart License Plates, as shown in the Purple Heart License Plates section in this chapter.

21.095 Disabled Veteran License Plates and Fees Exemption, continued

**Original Sequential License Plate Application**—The following must be submitted:

- The current registration card in the applicant’s name or the document required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- A letter issued by a USDVA Regional Office specifically for the disabled veteran program stating the veteran’s service-connected disabilities or a USDVA letter certifying that the veteran meets the service-connected qualifications of a disabled veteran, according to the provisions of CVC §295.7.
21.095 Disabled Veteran License Plates and Fees Exemption, continued

- A Disabled Veteran Certification front of Miscellaneous Statement of Facts (REG 256A) form completed by the applicant and must include:
  — License plate number, vehicle identification number, year model, and make of the vehicle.
  — Disabled veteran’s certification (Section A).
  — Disabled veteran’s signature (Section F).
- A medical certification (reverse of REG 256A) form completed by an authorized medical provider certifying that the veteran meets the qualifications of a disabled veteran, according to the provisions of the CVC §295.7. Only one eligibility box on the form needs to be checked.
- A USDVA certification letter is acceptable in lieu of a medical certification on the back of the REG 256A.

The USDVA certification letter:
- Must certifying that the veteran meets the service-connected qualifications of a disabled veteran, according to the provisions of the CVC §295.7. Only one eligibility box on the form needs to be checked.
- Does not require the signature of a medical professional.
- Can be signed by an authorized employee of USDVA.

**Note:** Continue to accept a letter from the USDVA that certifies the applicant meets the service-connected qualifications of a disabled veteran as described in CVC § 295.7 in lieu of the medical certification.

The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle or a completed Statement of Facts (REG 256) form requesting fees exemption but not disabled veteran license plates.

**Proof of Eligibility Required**—The veteran must submit a letter issued by a USDVA Regional Office specifically for the disabled veteran program stating the veteran’s service-connected disabilities or a USDVA letter certifying that the veteran meets the service-connected qualifications of a disabled veteran, according to the provisions of CVC §295.7.

**Renewal/Reassignment**—No additional fee for renewal or reassignment.

**Retention**—Do not require an additional fee for retention.

**Surrender of License Plates Required**—DV License Plates must be returned to DMV within 60 days of the death of the disabled veteran, or by December 31 of the current registration year, whichever occurs first.

**Transfer of Ownership**—The DV License Plate remains with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.
21.100 Environmental License Plates (CVC §5101)

Environmental License Plates (ELP) are the original personalized license plate. ELPs are only available personalized with two to seven characters and may be issued to automobiles, commercial vehicles, motorcycles, and trailers.

Original Personalized License Plate Application—the following must be submitted:

- A Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form.
- Registration in the applicant’s name or the document required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- The fees due.

Exchange—Existing personalized license plates may be exchanged to ELPs for a fee.

Renewal/Reassignment—An additional fee is required for renewal or reassignment.

Retention—An additional fee is required for retention.

Transfer of Ownership—ELPs remain with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.

21.105 Ex-Prisoner of War (POW) License Plates (CVC §§ 324.5, 4001, 5101.5, 9501)

A POW is any person who, while serving as a member of the U. S. Armed Forces, as a member of the Philippine Commonwealth Armed Forces as part of the U. S. Expeditionary Force, or as a U. S. citizen, was held as a POW by forces hostile to the United States during any armed conflict and is currently a resident of California.

An eligible POW is exempt from the payment of all fees, except fees for duplicates, for one passenger motor vehicle, motorcycle, or commercial motor vehicle with an unladen weight of 8,000 pounds or less, which is owned by the POW and assigned POW License Plates. The vehicle cannot be used for transportation for hire, compensation, or profit.

Note: The fee exemption is for one vehicle only. An individual who qualifies for more than one type of fee-exempt license plate, such as POW or Disabled Veteran (DV) License Plates, cannot obtain both.

Vehicles assigned POW License Plates are assigned expiration dates and must be renewed annually.

Evidence of Eligibility—Applicants for POW License Plates must present written documentation of eligibility that indicates the applicant was held prisoner of war by forces hostile to the United States during a period of conflict. Acceptable evidence includes:

- A letter of verification from the National Personnel Records Center.
- An official document marked former American POW.
- Discharge papers declaring the bearer to be a former American POW.
21.105  **Ex-Prisoner of War (POW) License Plates, continued**

**Note:** Information about obtaining documentation is available on The National Archives website at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) by searching for Standard Form 180. Applicants may also obtain written documentation of eligibility by sending a letter with their name, birthdate, service or social security number, branch of service, capture date, capturing country, and any other pertinent information to:

Modern Military Records (NWCTM)
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

**Original Personalized/Sequential License Plate Application**—the following must be submitted:

- A completed Special Recognition License Plate Application (REG 17A) form. Four specific numbers may be requested and two choices indicated.
- Evidence of eligibility for POW License Plates.

**License Plate Assignment or Reassignment**—the procedures below must be followed:

- Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- If the license plates are being retained by the surviving spouse, a Statement of Facts (REG 256) form completed by the surviving spouse stating that they are the spouse of the POW License Plate owner and wishes to retain the license plates.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.

**Family Heirlooms**—A family member (limited to: parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, grandparent, stepgrandparent, sibling, or stepsibling) may keep one POW License Plate as a family heirloom upon the death of the license plate owner and surviving spouse (if any). The exemption from registration fees is not extended to family members. Additional POW License Plates will not be made for family members as heirlooms.

**The following must be submitted:**

- A Statement of Facts (REG 256) form completed by the family member stating his/her relationship to the POW License Plate owner and that they will not use the license plate for registration purposes.

**Retention of License Plates by Surviving Spouse**—The surviving spouse of a POW License Plate owner may retain the special license plates and all license plate privileges, such as the accompanying exemption from registration fees, license plate reassignment, adding or deleting a co-owner, and replacing a lost license plate.

**Surrender of License Plates**—POW License Plates must be returned to DMV within 60 days of the license plate owner’s or surviving spouse’s death, as appropriate, or by the vehicle registration expiration date, whichever occurs first. If a family member chooses to retain one license plate as a heirloom, only one license plate must be surrendered.
21.110 Foreign Organization License Plates (CVC §5006.5)

Foreign Organization License Plates are only issued to automobiles that are currently registered to an officer or designated employee of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO). The license plates have a December 31 expiration date and must be renewed annually. Vehicles assigned Foreign Organization License Plates are exempt from all fees (use tax included), except fees for transfer, duplicate certificates, license plates, and stickers. Foreign Organization License Plates are not available as a personalized license plate.

All information regarding an individual’s eligibility is provided to DMV by the American Institute in Taiwan, which is headquartered in Arlington, Virginia.

Original Sequential License Plate Application—the following must be submitted:

• The California Certificate of Title or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
• A Miscellaneous Certification (REG 256A) form with the TECO, R&TC §10781.1 section completed.
• A photocopy of the applicant’s Tax Exemption Card issued by the California Board of Equalization.
• A photocopy of the applicant’s ID card issued by the U.S. Department of State.
• A smog certification, if appropriate.
• The out-of-state/foreign country license plates assigned to the vehicle.

Exchange—Existing personalized license plates may not be exchanged to Foreign Organization personalized license plates.

Renewal—No additional fee for renewal.

Reassignment—The license plates cannot be transferred between vehicles.

Retention—The license plates cannot be retained.

Transfer of Ownership—The license plates must be surrendered to DMV if the vehicle is transferred.

21.115 Gold Star Family License Plates

Gold Star Family License Plates are issued to qualified family members whose relative lost their life in the line of duty while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States (U.S.) during one of the following:

• Wartime.
• An international terrorist attack that has been recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Defense as an attack against the U.S., or to a foreign nation friendly to the U.S.
21.115 **Gold Star Family License Plates, continued**

- Military operations while serving outside the U.S., including commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the U.S.
- Personnel assigned to a force engaged in a peacekeeping operation authorized by the United Nations Security Council.

**Qualified family members are:**

- Widow/Widower
- Biological Parent
- Adoptive Parent
- Stepparent
- Foster Parent in Loco Parentis
- Biological Child
- Stepchild
- Sibling
- Half Sibling
- Grandparent
- Grandchild

The license plates must be assigned to a California-registered vehicle owned by the qualified family member. Gold Star Family License Plates are available in a sequential series only through the Special Processing Unit (SPU) at DMV headquarters.

**Original Sequential License Plate Application must include—the following must be submitted:**

- A Special Recognition License Plate Application (REG 17A) form.
- A Report of Casualty (DD 1300) form from the Department of Defense.
- A Project: Gold Star License Plate Application which **must** be certified by a local County Veterans Service Official.
- The fees due.
- The application to:
  - SPU by mail at:
    - DMV
    - Special Processing Unit
    - PO Box 932345 MS D238
    - Sacramento, CA 94232-3450
  - A field office with the license plates from the vehicle being assigned the Gold Star Family License Plates.
21.115 Gold Star Family License Plates, continued

**Exchange**—Existing personalized license plates may be exchanged to personalized Gold Star Family License Plates for a fee.

**Renewal**—No additional fee for renewal.

**Reassignment**—An additional fee is required for reassignment of the license plates.

**Retention**—The license plates cannot be retained.

**Transfer of Ownership**—The license plates remain with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.

21.120 Historical Vehicle and Horseless Carriage License Plates (CVC §5004)

Permanent special identification plates may be issued to vehicles of historic value and interest. Vehicles assigned Horseless Carriage or Historical Vehicle License Plates are limited to operation or movement over the highway primarily for the purpose of historical exhibition or other similar, noncommercial purposes, such as parades or historic vehicle club activities, and are subject to a fixed annual vehicle license fee (VLF) of $2. Historical Vehicle and Horseless Carriage License Plates are not available as personalized plates (R&TC §10753.5).

**Horseless Carriage License Plates** are issued to two types of motor vehicles:

- With an engine size of 16 or more cylinders manufactured prior to 1965.
- Manufactured in 1922 or before.

**Historical Vehicle License Plates** are issued to motor vehicles or trailers that are:

- Manufactured after 1922.
- At least 25 years old.
- Of historic interest.

**Original Sequential License Plate Application**—the following must be submitted:

A completed Special Recognition License Plate Application (REG 17A) form.

- The registration card in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.

- **Commercial Vehicles**—The California Certificate of Title is required.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The fees due.

**Exchange**—Existing personalized license plates may not be exchanged to Historical Vehicle License Plates.

**Reassignment**—Horseless Carriage and Historical Vehicle License Plates are permanently assigned to the vehicle and cannot be reassigned.
21.120 Historical Vehicle and Horseless Carriage License Plates, continued

Renewal—No additional fee for renewal.
Retention—The license plates cannot be retained.
Substitute Plates—If another type of license plate is requested for a vehicle with Horseless Carriage or Historical Vehicle License Plates:

- The Horseless Carriage or Historical Vehicle License Plates assigned to the vehicle must be picked up.
- A new VLF class based on the last purchase price/cost or by the VLF class shown on a prior registration card for the vehicle is assigned.
- Additional VLF is not collected. VLF based on the new VLF classification will be due the next registration year.
- The application will be processed in accordance with procedures for the type of license plate requested.

Transfer of Ownership—The license plate remains with the vehicle and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.

21.125 Honorary Consul License Plates (CVC §5006)

Honorary Consuls (U.S. citizens or residents appointed by a foreign jurisdiction) are excluded from the Federal Diplomatic Vehicle Registration Program (Consul Corp), but may be issued Honorary Consul License Plates by DMV. The license plates must remain on a vehicle currently registered to the Honorary Consul or be surrendered to by DMV. The vehicles have a 12/31/XX expiration date and must be renewed annually.

Original Sequential License Plate Application—the following must be submitted:

- A completed Special Recognition License Plate Application (REG 17A) form.
- A photocopy of the consular identification card, in lieu of the certified copy of a Letter of Notification previously issued by U.S. Department of State.
- The registration card in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The fees due.

Exchange—Existing personalized license plates may not be exchanged to Honorary Consul License Plates.

Reassignment—Honorary Consul License Plates maybe reassigned to any vehicle registered to Honorary Consul. An additional fee is required for reassignment.

Renewal—An additional fee is required for renewal.

Retention—An additional fee is required for retention.

Transfer of Ownership—The license plate remains with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.
21.130 Kids License Plates (CVC §5072)

Have a Heart, Be a Star, Help Our Kids (Kids) License Plates are available in sequential series or personalized with two to six characters and may be issued to automobiles, commercial vehicles, trailers, and motorcycles (two to five characters).

Original Personalized License Plate Application—the following must be submitted:

- A completed Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form.
- Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The fees due.

Original Sequential License Plate Application—the following must be submitted:

- A completed Special Recognition License Plate Application (REG 17A) form.
- The registration card in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The fees due.

Renewal/Reassignment—An additional fee is required for renewal or reassignment.

Exchange—Existing personalized license plates may be exchanged to personalized Kids License Plates for a fee.

Retention—No additional fee is required.

Transfer of Ownership—The license plates remain with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.

21.135 Lake Tahoe Conservancy License Plates (CVC §5075)

Lake Tahoe Conservancy License Plates are available in a sequential series or personalized with two to seven characters and may be issued to automobiles, commercial vehicles, trailers, and motorcycles (two to five characters).

Exchange—Existing personalized license plates may be exchanged to Lake Tahoe Conservancy personalized license plates for a fee.

Original Personalized License Plate Application—the following must be submitted:

- A completed Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form.
- The registration in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The fees due.

Original Sequential License Plate Application—the following must be submitted:

- A completed Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form.
- The registration card in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
21.135 Lake Tahoe Conservancy License Plates, continued

- The fees due.

**Exchange**—Existing personalized license plates may be exchanged to personalized Lake Tahoe Conservancy License Plates for a fee.

**Renewal/Reassignment**—An additional fee is required for renewal and reassignment.

**Retention**—No additional fee is required.

**Transfer of Ownership**—The license plate remains with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.

21.140 Legion of Valor (LV) License Plates (CVC §5101.4)

Recipients of LV recognition awards may obtain multiple LV license plates (one set for each vehicle the recipient owns or co-owns). The LV award recipient is not required to have more than one award to order more than one set of license plates.

LV License Plates may be assigned to vehicles owned by a recipient of any of the following decorations for valor:

- Army Medal of Honor
- Army Distinguished Service Cross
- Air Force Medal of Honor
- Air Force Cross
- Navy Medal of Honor
- Navy Cross

The license plates display an adhesive sticker denoting which decoration for valor the recipient was awarded. LV License Plates are not available for motorcycles or as personalized license plates.

**Original Sequential License Plate Application**—the following must be submitted:

- A Special License Plate Application (REG 17A) form.
- A photocopy of the applicant’s Department of Defense Form 214 or service record indicating the award of one of the named military decorations.
- The registration card in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.

**Exchange**—Existing personalized license plates may not be exchanged to Legion of Valor License Plates.

**Renewal/Reassignment**—No additional fee is required for renewal or reassignment.

**Retention**—No additional fee is required for retention as an heirloom only (cannot be used on a vehicle). A family member is allowed to keep one LV License Plate as a **family heirloom** upon the death of LV License Plate owner and/or surviving spouse, if applicable. For this purpose, a family member is limited to the following: parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, grandparent, stepgrandparent, sibling, and stepsibling.
21.140 Legion of Valor (LV) License Plates, continued

The following must be submitted:

- A Statement of Facts (REG 256) form stating the relationship to the LV License Plate owner and/or surviving spouse. They must state the license plate will not be placed on a vehicle and will be kept as a family heirloom.
- If one license plate is missing, the family member must indicate that on the REG 256.
- Place the completed REG 256 with the miscellaneous work.

Surrender of License Plates Required—License plates must be surrendered to DMV within 60 days following the death of the LV License Plate owner or the surviving spouse, as appropriate, or upon the vehicle registration expiration date, whichever occurs first.

Transfer of Ownership—The license plate remains with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.

21.145 Legislative License Plates (CVC §5002.8)

A current or retired federal or state legislator may obtain fee-paid Legislative License Plates displaying the Legislator’s district number for their personal vehicle(s). Legislative License Plates may be transferred between vehicles owned by the Legislator. Legislative License Plates have a permanent 12/31/XX expiration date.

Authority to approve, issue, and reassign Legislative License Plates is granted only to the Capitol Legislative Office staff. All Legislative License Plate applications must be processed at DMV’s Capitol Legislative Office.

Field Office/Call Centers—Refer all questions about the application or issuance of Legislative license plates to DMV’s Capitol Legislative Office at (916) 445-9492.

21.150 Livery License Plates (CVC §§5011.5 and 5011.9)

The Livery License Plates program, which required limousines operated by charter-party carriers to display Livery License Plates, has been discontinued.

Current Livery License Plates remain valid and may be renewed. However, originals, replacements, and reassignments of Livery License Plates are not allowed.

Commercial license plates are now issued to limousines operating for hire.

If duplicate or substitute Livery License Plates are requested, regular series commercial license plates may be issued, or different special interest license plates may be purchased for the required license plate fee.
21.150 Livery License Plates, continued

To exchange sequential Livery License Plates for regular series license plates, the following must be submitted:

- An Application for Replacement Plates, Stickers, Documents (REG 156) form to apply for the replacement license plates.

To exchange personalized Livery License Plates for regular series license plates, the following must be submitted:

- A Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form to release interest in the Livery License Plates.
- A REG 156 to apply for the replacement license plates.

To exchange personalized Livery License Plates for other personalized special interest license plates with the same license plate configuration, follow current procedures for the new license plate type in this chapter.

Automobiles that will be operated as limousines for hire require commercial license plates. If the body type model (BTM) cannot be issued commercial license plates (for example, sedan [SD]), change the BTM to limousine (LM). Follow current procedures in the Vehicle Industry Registration Procedures Manual, Chapter 13, Conversion from Auto to Commercial License Plates section.

Transfer and Exchange of Personalized Livery License Plates—In addition to basic transfer requirements, the following must be submitted:

A Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form completed by the seller to release interest in the personalized Livery License Plates.
- A REG 17 completed by the new owner to apply for other personalized special license plates in the same configuration. Existing Livery License Plates cannot be transferred.
- The fees due for original personalized license plates.

**Note:** Existing Livery License Plates must be surrendered upon transfer to a new owner, even if the new owner qualifies for Livery License Plates.

Exchange—Existing personalized license plates cannot be exchanged to personalized Livery License Plates.

Renewal—Sequential Livery License Plates do not require an additional fee for renewal. However, a fee is required for renewal of a personalized Livery License Plate.

Reassignment—Livery License Plates cannot be reassigned.

Retention—Livery License Plates cannot be retained.

Transfer of Ownership—Livery License Plates must be surrendered upon transfer of ownership. However, personalized Livery License Plates may be exchanged for other personalized special interest license plates with the same configuration and reassigned to a qualified new owner. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.
21.155 Metal Tabs for Special License Plates

A full-year metal tab may be issued when special license plates are assigned to a commercially-registered station wagon.

The metal tab inventory is available at DMV headquarters for inventory issuance.

21.160 Motorized Bicycle (Moped) License Plates (CVC §§5030-5039)

Motorized bicycles (mopeds) must be licensed before they are operated or moved upon a highway. A license plate and identification card (ID) are issued. A title is not issued. Mopeds are not subject to annual renewal.

Dealers (CVC §5034)—DMV does not license moped dealers. Moped dealers may apply for moped license plates to use for demonstration or delivery of a moped. The license plates may be moved from one moped to another. Type transaction code (TTC) DCS inquiries on a moped dealer license plate will show “Dealer” in the VIN field of the database record.

The procedures below must be followed:

- A completed Motorized Bicycle Instructions/Application (REG 230) form. Leave the identifying vehicle information section blank.
- A Statement of Facts (REG 256) form explaining the applicant is in retail sales of mopeds.
- The fees due. A fee is due for each license plate issued.

Original License Plate Applications—the following must be submitted:

- A REG 230. form.
- The fees due. A late penalty is not assessed and use tax is not collected. Exempt agencies are exempt from fees other than for duplicates.

Parking Violations—DMV returns any moped parking violations received to the parking agency and does not add them to the moped record.

Speeding in Excess of 30 mph—A moped capable of attaining speeds in excess of 30 mph is subject to registration as a motor-driven cycle (motorcycle). A registration application and the required fees must be submitted if a moped operator is cited for speeds in excess of 30 mph. Fees become due upon first operation after modification of the moped to increase its speed to more than 30 mph.

Transfers—Sections C and D of the REG 230 must be properly completed and mailed with the ID card and the moped transfer fee to DMV at the address on the form. A late transfer penalty is not assessed and use tax is not collected. The Motorized Bicycle License Plate remains on the moped.

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) Required—A VIN is required to license a moped. Suspense any application to register a moped without a VIN to SPU at DMV headquarters. A VIN will be assigned by SPU and instructions for placing the VIN on the moped are printed on the moped ID card.
21.165 Olympic Games License Plates (CVC §5022)

Olympic Games License Plates (OGLP) are no longer available for issuance or replacement. Existing license plates may be reassigned as explained in the Reassignment of Special License Plates section in this chapter. Personalized OGLPs may be kept by the license plate owner as a souvenir and reassigned at a later date. A retention fee must be paid each year to retain the personalized configuration.

The procedures below must be followed:

- To retain the personalized OGLP as a souvenir:
  - A Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form from the license plate owner marked “RETAIN INTEREST.”
  - An Application for Replacement Plates, Stickers, Documents (REG 156) form for substitute license plates.
  - No additional fee is required.

- To exchange to another special license plate in the same configuration as the personalized OGLP:
  - A REG 17 requesting the exchange.
  - The appropriate special license plate fee.

- To request regular series license plates:
  - A REG 156.
  - A REG 17 marked “RELEASE INTEREST.”

- For reassignment of OGLPs retained as souvenirs to another vehicle:
  - The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle must be picked up and destroyed.

Exchange—Existing personalized license plates may not be exchanged to personalized OGLP.

Renewal/Reassignment—An additional fee is required for renewal and reassignment.

Retention—No additional fee is required.

21.170 Olympic Training Center License Plates

Olympic Training Center (OTC) License Plates are no longer available for issuance or replacement. Existing license plates may be renewed and reassigned as explained in the Reassignment of Special License Plates section in this chapter. Personalized OTC License Plates may be kept by the license plate owner as a souvenir and reassigned at a later date.
21.170 Olympic Training Center License Plates, *continued*

The following must be submitted:

- To **retain** the personalized OTC License Plate as a souvenir:
  - A Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form from the license plate owner marked “RETAIN INTEREST.”
  - An Application for Replacement Plates, Stickers, Documents (REG 156) form for substitute license plates.
  - No retention fee.
- To **exchange** to another special license plate in the same configuration as the OTC License Plate:
  - A REG 17 requesting the exchange.
  - The appropriate special license plate fee.
- To **request** regular series license plates:
  - A REG 156.
  - A REG 17 marked “RELEASE INTEREST.”

**Exchange**—Existing personalized license plates may not be exchanged to personalized OTC License Plates.

**Renewal/Reassignment**—An additional fee is required for renewal or reassignment.

**Retention**—No fee is required for retention of a personalized license plate.

**Transfer of Ownership**—The license plate remains with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.

21.175 Pearl Harbor Survivor License Plates (CVC §5101.3)

Pearl Harbor Survivor (PHS) License Plates may be issued for vehicles owned by a qualified Pearl Harbor survivor. PHS License Plates are not issued to commercial vehicles operated for hire.

**Applicant Qualifications**—The applicant must have been a member of the Armed Forces stationed at Pearl Harbor, Island of Oahu, or offshore within a distance of three miles, on December 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., Hawaii time, and must have received an honorable discharge from the military service.

**Original Sequential License Plate Application**—the following must be submitted:

- A Special Recognition License Plate Application (REG 17A) form completed and signed by an officer of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.
- Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents to register the vehicle in the applicant’s name.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The fees due.

**Exchange**—Existing personalized license plates may not be exchanged to sequential and personalized Pearl Harbor Survivor License Plates.

**Renewal/Reassignment**—No additional fee is required for renewal or reassignment.

**Retention**—No additional fee for retention.
21.175 Pearl Harbor Survivor License Plates, continued

Surrender of Plates Required—Upon the death of the PHS license plate owner, the surviving spouse may retain the license plates. The license plates must be surrendered to DMV within 60 days following the death of the surviving spouse, or upon the vehicle registration expiration date, whichever occurs first.

Transfer of Ownership—The license plate remains with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.

21.180 Personalized Configurations—Mandatory Refusal

DMV must refuse any personalized license plate configuration that may carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency, or which would be misleading, based on criteria which includes, but is not limited to, any configuration that:

- Has a sexual connotation or is a term of lust or depravity.
- Is a vulgar term; a term of contempt, prejudice, or hostility; an insulting or degrading term; or an racially degrading term.
- Is a swear word or term considered profane, obscene, or repulsive.
- Has been restricted (deleted) from regular series license plates.
- Has a negative connotation to a specific group.
- Misrepresents a law enforcement entity.
- Is a foreign or slang word or term.
- Is a phonetic spelling or mirror image of a word or term falling into the categories described above.

Similar Configurations—A personalized license plate application for a configuration similar in appearance to an existing special license plate are not accepted. Applicants cannot substitute a letter for a number or a number for a letter in the middle, front, or end of a configuration it it creates a configuration similar to an existing special license plate.

Unacceptable Letter/Number Substitutions—Any special license plate application which contains “1” and “I” used interchangeable or “0” and “O” or “Q” used interchangeably must be rejected.

Restricted License Plate Configurations—The following configurations are deleted from the regular series license plate configuration and are not available for personalized license plates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABM</th>
<th>ANO</th>
<th>APE</th>
<th>ARS</th>
<th>ASB</th>
<th>ASS</th>
<th>BAD</th>
<th>BAG</th>
<th>BED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRA</td>
<td>BUN</td>
<td>BUT</td>
<td>BVD</td>
<td>CHP</td>
<td>CIA</td>
<td>COC</td>
<td>COK</td>
<td>CON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COP</td>
<td>CQC</td>
<td>CQK</td>
<td>CQN</td>
<td>CUL</td>
<td>CUM</td>
<td>CUN</td>
<td>CUR</td>
<td>CZU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAG</td>
<td>DAM</td>
<td>DDT</td>
<td>DIC</td>
<td>DIE</td>
<td>DIK</td>
<td>DOA</td>
<td>DUD</td>
<td>DUF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUM</td>
<td>DUN</td>
<td>FAG</td>
<td>FAN</td>
<td>FAT</td>
<td>FBI</td>
<td>FCK</td>
<td>FKU</td>
<td>FOC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOK</td>
<td>FQC</td>
<td>FQK</td>
<td>FQU</td>
<td>FUC</td>
<td>FUD</td>
<td>FUG</td>
<td>FUK</td>
<td>FUN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUX</td>
<td>FUY</td>
<td>GAT</td>
<td>GAY</td>
<td>GEE</td>
<td>GOD</td>
<td>GQD</td>
<td>GUT</td>
<td>HAG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>HIC</td>
<td>HIK</td>
<td>HIR</td>
<td>HOG</td>
<td>HOR</td>
<td>HQR</td>
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<td>JAZ</td>
<td>JEW</td>
<td>JIG</td>
<td>KIK</td>
<td>KKK</td>
<td>KOC</td>
<td>KOK</td>
<td>KON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOX</td>
<td>KQC</td>
<td>KQK</td>
<td>KQN</td>
<td>KQX</td>
<td>KYK</td>
<td>LAY</td>
<td>LSD</td>
<td>MEX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAG</td>
<td>NGR</td>
<td>NIG</td>
<td>NIP</td>
<td>NUN</td>
<td>OVA</td>
<td>PEA</td>
<td>PEE</td>
<td>PEW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIG</td>
<td>PIS</td>
<td>POT</td>
<td>POW</td>
<td>PST</td>
<td>PUD</td>
<td>PUS</td>
<td>PYS</td>
<td>QVA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
21.180 **Personalized Configurations—Mandatory Refusal, continued**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License Plate Configuration</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>License Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 numbers; 2 letters</td>
<td>000AA–000E0</td>
<td>Reserved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(restricted only to letters AA through E0)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 numbers; 3 letters</td>
<td>123SAM</td>
<td>Automobile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 numbers; 2 letters</td>
<td>0000PH</td>
<td>Purple Heart Vessels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1234AB</td>
<td>Disabled Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0000DP</td>
<td>Disabled Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0000DV</td>
<td>Disabled Veteran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 numbers; 1 letter</td>
<td>12345R</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 numbers; 2 letters</td>
<td>30000DP</td>
<td>Disabled Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>00000DV</td>
<td>Disabled Veteran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 numbers; 1 letter; 1 number</td>
<td>11111A1</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 numbers</td>
<td>1234567</td>
<td>CA Exempt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Restricted Letter/Number Combinations**—The following combinations are not available for personalized license plates, because they conflict with existing license plate series:

- RAG
- RAT
- RAW
- RUT
- SAC
- SAK
- SAM
- SEX
- SHT
- SIF
- SIN
- SLA
- SOB
- SOT
- SQB
- SUC
- SUK
- SUR
- SUX
- TIT
- TUB
- UCK
- UPP
- UPU
- URN
- URP
- USB
- USR
- VUC
- VUK
- VUX
- WAD
- WOP
- WQP
- YEP
- YID

21.185 **Personalized License Plate Applications**

**Original License Plate Application**—the following must be submitted:

Before a license plate reservation can be processed, the applicant must complete a Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form. The REG 17 must:

- Be completed in the same name as the reservation. The license plate owner and the vehicle owner of record must be the same. A license plate purchased as a gift must be keyed in the intended recipient’s name.
- Show the type of vehicle (auto, commercial, etc.) to which the license plates will be assigned.
- Show a field office or auto club location where the license plates will be exchanged, if the specific vehicle to which the license plates will be assigned is not known.
- The personalized configuration must be completed as required.
- The number zero (0) cannot be used; only the letter “O” is acceptable.
- The number one must be shown as “1.”
- The letter “I” must be shown “I.”
- The letter “I” cannot be substituted for the number “1” or vice versa.
- The letter “Q” cannot be substituted for the letter “O” or vice versa.
- An asterisk (*) must be used to show where a full space is desired.
- A slash (/) must be used to show where a half-space is desired.
21.185 **Personalized License Plate Applications, continued**

- The meaning must be explained appropriately for the configuration.
- If the number “69” is used, the make and current license plate number or vehicle identification number (VIN) for a 1969 year model vehicle to which the license plates will be assigned must be part of the application (for verification purposes).
- The reserved choice on the REG 17 must be circled.
- The license plate configuration (spaces and characters) must be verified that it was keyed correctly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>POW and Firefighter License Plate Requests</strong> — To ensure compliance with statutory requirements, there are additional processing requirements for:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>POW</strong> License Plate applications. Refer to the Former Prisoner of War (POW) License Plates section in this chapter for the additional processing requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Firefighter</strong> License Plate applications. Refer to the Firefighter License Plates section in this chapter for additional processing requirements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special License Plates as Gifts (CVC §5110)** — To reserve special license plates as a gift, the name of the intended recipient must be the registered owner of the vehicle to which the license plates will be assigned and must be shown on the REG 17.

**Cancelling a Reservation** — A special license plate reservation cannot be cancelled if the work has been transmitted to DMV Headquarters. To cancel a reservation in work still in the office, void the original reservation transaction, make the correct reservation, and attach the new DMV file copy to the REG 17.

**Unavailable Special License Plate Choices (CVC §5105)** — When a personalized special license plate application is received in the mail or a dealer bundle and none of the applicant’s choices are available, return the original REG 17 form, a blank REG 17 (in case the applicant wants to try again), and the application fee to the applicant or dealer, as follows:

- **Requests Submitted by a Dealer** — A credit media or a refund on the bundle issued in the dealer’s name must be returned to the dealer. The dealer is responsible for contacting the customer and refunding the fee.
- **Requests Submitted by an Individual** — The applicant’s check or receipt must be returned with the REG 17. If only a portion of the fees are being returned or the fee was paid by other than a personal check, the fee must be converted to a receipt.

21.190 **Personalized License Plate Assignments**

**Field Office Assignment** — Personalized license plates are sent to DMV field offices for issuance to customers if the Special License Plate Application (REG 17) form was not submitted with a registration application, or the applicant did not know the vehicle to which the license plates would be assigned.
21.190 Personalized License Plate Assignments, continued

- Any license plates that are offensive to good taste and decency must be returned to the DMV Special Processing Unit (SPU) following the procedures in the Personalized Configurations—Mandatory Refusal section in this chapter.
- License plates received in error must be forwarded to the correct DMV office.
- License plates manufactured incorrectly must be reordered.
- The license plate owner must be notified that the license plates have arrived in the office using the Notification Procedure in the following section.

Notification Procedure—DMV will make three attempts to contact the license plate owner approximately 30 days apart. Contact may be by telephone or by mailing an Environmental Plate Notice (FO 17) form. There will be a record of all attempts to contact the license plate owner on the ELP Reservation Confirmation (REG 272) form (insert received with the license plates). If the license plate owner does not respond to the first and second notifications to pick up and assign his/her special license plates:
- A Last Notice (FO 16) form advising the owner that the license plates will be destroyed in 30 days and priority to that personalized configuration will be lost is sent.
- If an applicant does not respond to the final 30-day notice, the license plates are considered unclaimed and will be destroyed.
- A note “license plates destroyed” and the date on the REG 272 is forwarded to the DMV Special Processing Unit (SPU) at Mail Station (MS) D238.
- If the applicant comes to claim the license plates after they have been destroyed, they must complete a new application and pay to reorder the license plates.

License Plate Assignments—The following must be submitted:
(for license plates other than Congressional Medal of Honor (CMOH) or Former Prisoner of War (POW) license plates):
- The registration card showing the vehicle is currently registered and owned by, or leased to, the license plate owner. License plates cannot be assigned to a vehicle with PNO status.
  — If the license plate owner is not shown as the lessee or the vehicle is registered in a company/business name, a Statement of Facts (REG 256) form completed by the registered owner authorizing use of the special license plate on the vehicle must be submitted with the application.
- The REG 272, for license plate ownership information.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Fees Due.
21.190 Personalized License Plate Assignments, continued

Wrong/Incorrect Personalized Configuration—If, prior to accepting a special license plate, the customer states the license plate (configuration) is incorrect, call FOSU at (916) 657-6978 to verify the information on the original application. If the license plates were manufactured incorrectly due to DMV error, the customer may be issued new license plates for no fee. The transaction must be approved by the office manager.

21.195 Personalized License Plate Configuration Exchanges

Any personalized license plate configuration may be exchanged to another special license plate only if the configuration is within the number of characters allowed for the requested plate type.

Exchange Applications:

- A Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form.
- The registration card in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The fees due.

21.200 Personalized License Plates Retention (CVC §5109)

A personalized license plate owner may remove and retain his/her license plates without reassigning them to another vehicle provided the license plate retention fee is paid each year (CVC §5106(b)).

Retentions—The procedures below be must followed:

- A Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form, which shows the personalized license plate configuration and requests of the license plates.
- The retention fee. The fee is due for each year whether or not the license plates are assigned to a vehicle.

21.205 Personalized License Plates Surrendered to DMV

License Plates and Priority Surrendered By the Owner—The procedures below be must followed:

- A Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form indicating surrender of the license plates and release of priority.
- The license plates.

**Note:** If an applicant wants regular series license plates in lieu of lost or stolen personalized special license plates, “lost or stolen” must be checked on the REG 17 and a substitute license plate fee is due.
21.205  Personalized License Plates Surrendered to DMV, continued

License Plates Surrendered By Someone Other than the Owner—The procedures below be must followed:

- The license plate owner must be mailed a 30-day Environmental Plate Notice (FO 17) and a REG 17 and must be advised that the license plates will be retained in the DMV office for 30 days then destroyed.
- After the 30 days, destroy the license plates, note “license plates destroyed” on (show the date) on a REG 17 to DMV headquarters with the office’s miscellaneous work.

21.210  Pet Lovers License Plates (CVC §5156)

Pet Lovers License Plates are available in sequential configurations of six characters and in personalized configurations of two to six characters and may be issued to automobiles, commercial vehicles (excluding apportioned vehicles), trailers, and motorcycles.

Original Sequential License Plate Applications—the following must be submitted:

- A completed Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17).
- Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- License plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The fees due.

Original or Exchange Personalized License Plate Applications—the following must be submitted:

- A completed REG 17.
- The fees due.

Exchange—Existing personalized license plates may be exchanged to personalized Olympic Training Center License Plates for a fee.

Renewal/Reassignment—An additional fee is required for renewal or reassignment.

Retention—An additional fee is required for retention of personalized license plate.

Transfer of Ownership—The license plate remains with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.
21.215 Press Photographer License Plates (CVC §5008)

Press Photographer License Plates may be issued to persons regularly employed or engaged as newspaper, newsreel, television photographers, or camera operators. Press Photographer License Plates cannot be issued to a trailer.

Original Sequential License Plate Application—the following must be submitted:

- A Special Recognition License Plate Application (REG 17A) form completed by the applicant and signed by his/her employer.
- Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents to register the vehicle in the applicant’s name.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The fees.

Exchange—Existing personalized license plates may not be exchanged to personalized Press Photographer License Plates.

Renewal—No additional fee for renewal.

Reassignment—An additional fee is required for reassignment.

Retention—The license plates cannot be retained.

Transfer of Ownership—The license plate remains with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.

21.220 Privately-Owned School Bus (PSB) (CVC §9102.5)

A privately-owned school bus (PSB) is a school bus operated under contract or owned/operated by a private, nonprofit educational organization in accordance with rules and regulations of the Department of Education and California Highway Patrol (CHP) and used exclusively to transport school pupils at or below 12th grade level, and school employees, to and from a public or private school, or school activities. PSB registration expires 12 months from the application date and must be renewed annually.

Note: A school bus that transports developmentally disabled persons (as defined by the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, Div. 4.5 starting with the California Welfare and Institutions Code §4.500) to or from vocational, prevocational, or work training centers sponsored by the State Department of Developmental Services is not eligible for PSB registration.

Original License Plate Application—the following must be submitted:

- A School Bus Registration or Permit Application (REG 123) form signed by an authorized agent of the school, vehicle owner, or vehicle operator, and CHP officer who inspected and approved the vehicle for operation as a PSB.
- The California Certificate of Title or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- The PSB fee (a penalty is not collected on this fee).
21.220 Privately-Owned School Bus, continued

Renewal:

- A School Bus Registration or Permit Application (REG 123) form signed by an authorized agent of the school, the vehicle owner, or the vehicle operator, and the CHP officer who inspected and approved the vehicle for operation as a PSB.
- The PSB fee (a penalty is not collected on this fee).

**PSB to Regular Registration**—Failure to obtain operating authority prior to commercial operation subjects the school bus to full-year commercial registration fees from the date of first commercial operation.

**The procedures below must be followed:**

- The California Certificate of Title or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- If the vehicle is commercial, a:
  - Request for Commercial Registration of a Passenger Vehicle (REG 590) form from the applicant.
  - Weight certificate unless the unladen weight can be verified from the title or the vehicle is over 10,001 pounds unladen, then the estimated weight may be accepted on a Statement of Facts (REG 256) form.
  - A Declaration of Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight (CGW) (REG 4008) form.
- Fees due as follows:
  - **Full-Year**—full registration fee, prorated vehicle license fee (VLF), and prorated weight fee to the expiration date on the current registration card.
  - **Partial Year Registration (PYR)**—full registration fee, prorated VLF to 12/31/XX, weight fee prorated for the number of months requested, and the PYR service fee.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.

**Regular Registration to PSB**—The following must be submitted:

- A School Bus Registration or Permit Application (REG 123) form signed by an authorized agent of the school, vehicle owner, vehicle operator and CHP officer who inspected and approved the vehicle for operation as a PSB.
- The California Certificate of Title or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The PSB fee (a penalty is not collected on this fee).

**Temporary Operation for Charter or Other Use**—To operate a PSB for charter or other use where the registration fees become due, the operator may secure a temporary registration.
21.220 Privately-Owned School Bus, continued

Vehicles Erroneously Registered as PSB—Three prior years of regular registration fees may be due if it is discovered that an organization does not qualify for PSB registration. Credit is allowed for any PSB fee previously paid and penalties are not assessed.

21.225 Purple Heart License Plates (CVC §5101.8)

Purple Heart License Plates may be issued to recipients of the Purple Heart at no fee for any automobile, commercial vehicle, trailer, or motorcycle owned by the recipient which is not operated for hire or compensation.

Recipients of Purple Heart recognition awards may obtain multiple Purple Heart license plates (one set for each vehicle the recipient owns or co-owns). The Purple Heart award recipient is not required to have more than one award to order more than one set of license plates.

**Note:** A Purple Heart recipient who is also a qualified disabled veteran, may request the Disabled Veteran (DV) License Plate fee exemption and issuance of Purple Heart License Plates in lieu of DV License Plates.

In addition to the issuance requirements of the Purple Heart License Plates, the applicant must provide the proof of eligibility documentation required for a disabled veteran as shown in the Disabled Veteran License Plates section in this chapter.

A Disabled Person (DP) Parking Placard must be displayed in the vehicle to receive the DP parking privileges.

The DV License Plate fee exemption may be used for one vehicle only. An applicant who chooses this option cannot have DV License Plates assigned to another vehicle.

**Original Sequential License Plate Application—the following must be submitted:**
- A Special Recognition License Plate Application (REG 17A) form.
- The current registration card in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- One of the following as proof of the applicant’s eligibility:
  - Orders awarding the Purple Heart to the applicant.
  - A copy of the applicant’s service record or discharge papers showing the Purple Heart award.
  - Certification from a Purple Heart organization.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The fees due.

**Exchange**—Existing personalized license plates may not be exchanged to personalized Purple Heart License Plates.
21.225 Purple Heart License Plates, continued

Renewal/Reassignment—No additional fee is required for renewal or reassignment.

Retention of License Plates by Surviving Spouse—Purple Heart License Plates may be retained by the surviving spouse upon the death of the license plate owner (CVC §5101.8(d)).

Surviving spouse—the following must be submitted:
• Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents to register the vehicle in the applicant’s name.
• A Statement of Facts (REG 256) form stating that the spouse of the Purple Heart License Plate owner and wishes to retain the license plates.

Family Heirlooms—A family member (limited to parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, grandparent, stepgrandparent, sibling, and stepsibling) may keep one Purple Heart License Plate as a family heirloom upon the death of the Purple Heart License Plate owner and surviving spouse, if any.

Family member—the following must be submitted:
• A Statement of Facts (REG 256) stating the relationship to the license plate owner or surviving spouse, the license plate being retained will not be placed on a vehicle, and will be kept as a family heirloom.
• The license plate not being retained or must write on the REG 256 the disposition of the license plate, if missing.
• Surrender of License Plates Required—License plates must be surrendered to DMV within 60 days following the death of the Purple Heart License Plate owner or the surviving spouse, as appropriate, or upon the vehicle registration expiration date, whichever occurs first.

21.230 Reassignment of Old License Plates to Collector Vehicles
A previously issued regular series license plate may be reassigned to a collector vehicle provided:
• There is not a database record of the collector license plate.
• The license plate configuration is not on the record as a special interest license plate.
• An original or photocopy of the California Certificate of Title, registration card or renewal notice is presented as proof the license plates were previously assigned to the vehicle.

IMPORTANT: Requests for reassignment of old license plates must not be denied when there is a record of the vehicle license plates being assigned.

Definition of a Collector Vehicle (CVC §5051)—A Collector Vehicle is a special interest vehicle of any age, that is unaltered from the manufacturer’s original specifications, which, because of the vehicle’s significance, such as being out-of-production, or a model of which fewer than 2,000 were sold in California in any
21.230  Reassignment of Old License Plates to Collector Vehicles, continued

model year, the vehicle is being collected, preserved, restored, or maintained by a collector or hobbyist for restoration, maintenance, or exhibition. A 25-year old vehicle does not automatically qualify as a collector or historical vehicle.

**Definition of a Collector (CVC §5051)**—A collector is the owner of one or more historical or special interest vehicles who collects, purchases, acquires, trades, or disposes of such vehicle(s), or parts thereof, for his or her own use, in order to preserve, restore, and maintain such vehicle(s) for a hobby or historical purposes.

**Reassignment of Old License plates—the following must be submitted:**

- An original or photocopy of the California Certificate of Title, registration card, or renewal notice is proof the license plates were previously assigned to the vehicle.
- A Statement of Facts (REG 256) stating:
  - The old license plate number to be assigned to the vehicle.
  - The old license plate(s) will not be affixed to the vehicle until DMV sends approval.
  - The license plates currently on the vehicle will be surrendered to DMV if the old license plates are approved.
  - Their daytime telephone number.
- The license plates on the vehicle must not be picked up.
- Any fees due within 75 days of the license plate application date.

**NOTE:** Due to programming limitations, a license plate that still has a record on the database cannot be reassigned. Therefore, customers returning to California after registering their vehicle out of state cannot have their old California license plate reassigned to their collector vehicle if the old license plate still has a record (unless the license plate is eligible under the Year of Manufacture (YOM) License Plate program) or is the owner’s personalized license plate.

**Proof of Old License Plate Exception**—If a customer was previously denied reassignment of old license plates due to the vehicle having a database record, and all documents proving the old license plates were once assigned to the vehicle were submitted to DMV with a prior transaction, accept the application.

21.235  Reassignment of Special License Plates (CVC §§5108 and 5109)

A license plate owner may reassign his/her special license plates to any vehicle registered to the license plate owner. Most special license plates cannot be reassigned to another person, except as shown in the Special License Plate Transfers section in this chapter.
21.235 Reassignment of Special License Plates, *continued*

**Owner-Issued License Plates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License Plate</th>
<th>Year of Manufacture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amateur Radio</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts Council</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicentennial Bill of Rights</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Agriculture (CalAg)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>California Firefighters</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>California Memorial</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>California Museums</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Coastal Commission (Whale Tail)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commemorative Collegiate (UCLA)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congressional Medal of Honor</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Disabled Person</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Disabled Veteran</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Star Family</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorary Consul</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Tahoe Conservancy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative (fee paid)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legion of Valor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olympic Games</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Olympic Training Center</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pearl Harbor Survivor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pet Lover’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Press Photographer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Former Prisoner of War</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Purple Heart</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans Organizations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**License Plate Removal—the following must be submitted:**

- An Application for Replacement Plates, Stickers, Documents (REG 156) form.
- The fees due to currently register the vehicle. A substitute license plate fee is not due.

**License Plate Assignment—the following must be submitted:**

- The registration card in the license plate owner’s name or the documents to register the vehicle to the applicant. The vehicle must be currently registered or the renewal fees paid.
- A Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) or a Special Recognition License Plate Application (REG 17A) completed by the applicant showing reassignment of the license plates.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- The fees due.

**NOTE:** When special license plates with specific issuance requirements such as DP, DV, CMOH, or POW License Plates are reassigned or a name is added or deleted from the vehicle ownership, obtain a Statement of Facts (REG 256) form stating the special license plates belong to the registered owner.

**Reassignment of 12/31/XX Permanent Expiration Date License Plates (CVC §5110)—** Legislative (fee-paid and annual exempt) License Plates are assigned a fixed 12/31 annual expiration date. When the license plates are transferred/reassigned, the registration expiration date for the vehicle to which the license plates are assigned must be changed to a 12/31 expiration date.
21.235 **Reassignment of Special License Plates, continued**

Reassignment With a Duplicate License Plate Application—the following must be submitted:

- A Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) or a Special Recognition License Plate Application (REG 17A) form showing replacement and reassignment of the license plates and whether a sticker must be issued.
- The fees due.

**Additional Requirements for Special License Plate Reassignments**—In addition to the regular reassignment requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If a Special License Plate Is Reassigned</th>
<th>The Application Must Include</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From an auto or commercial motor vehicle to a trailer</td>
<td>• One personalized license plate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From a trailer to an auto or commercial motor vehicle</td>
<td>• The Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form which shows reassignment and replacement of one license plate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To a leased vehicle</td>
<td>If the license plate owner is not the lessee on the vehicle record, a Statement of Facts (REG 256) form from the lessor authorizing use of the applicant’s license plate on the vehicle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To a motorcycle from an auto, trailer, or commercial motor vehicle</td>
<td>For the vehicle the special license plates are assigned to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• From a motorcycle to an auto, trailer, or commercial motor vehicle</td>
<td>• A Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form completed for reassignment and replacement of the license plate(s).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> A duplicate license plate(s) must be ordered because of the change in the license plate size.</td>
<td>• The current license plates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For the vehicle the special license plates are removed from:</td>
<td>• An Application for Replacement Plates, Stickers, Documents (REG 156) form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The personalized license plates.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21.240 **Special License Plate Interchanges**

An applicant issued two types of owner-issued special license plates may interchange (or exchange) the license plates between vehicles owned by the applicant.

- Both vehicles must be currently registered or have renewal fees paid.
- Both license plates must be owner-issued license plates that are permitted to be reassigned from one vehicle to another.

**License Plate Interchange Requirements for each vehicle**—the following must be submitted:

- A Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form indicating the license plate reassignment information.
- The reassignment fees based on the types of license plates.

**Reassignments**—Refer to the Special License Plate Transfers section in this chapter.
21.245 **Special License Plate Transfers (CVC §5110)**

Special License Plates may remain on a vehicle being transferred if the license plate owner of record releases his/her priority and the new owner wishes to retain the license plates.

In addition to the usual transfer requirements shown in Chapter 11, **the procedures must be followed:**

- A Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form completed by the license plate owner of record with the transfer application showing the release of license plate priority.
- A REG 17 completed by the new owner submitted with the transfer application showing they wish to apply for the license plate.

**Special Circumstances**—Use the following guidelines in situations involving personalized special license plates (license plate fees are due for these transactions):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For</th>
<th>Then</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Transfers between husband and wife | • The license plates assigned to the vehicle may remain with vehicle.  
• The relationship **must be** established on a Statement of Facts (REG 256) form included in the application. |
| Repossessed vehicle              | • The license plates **must be** surrendered to DMV.  
• Process as a license plate reassignment and issue no-fee regular series license plates to the repossessed vehicle. |
| Divorces                         | Assume the license plates remain with the vehicle unless other information is furnished or a protest is received.  
If the person having ownership of the vehicle **does not** want to retain the license plates:  
• Obtain a REG 256 form or REG 17 showing release of interest.  
• Contact the Field Office Support Unit (FOSU) at (916) 657-6978 to determine the original applicant for the license plates.  
• The license plates must not be destroyed until the license plate owner has been contacted.  
• If the license plates are surrendered by someone other than the original applicant, contact the original applicant regarding transfer of the license plates to another vehicle, or a release of priority, if the license plates are no longer wanted. |
21.245 Special License Plate Transfers, continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For</th>
<th>Then</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| Deaths                     | • The license plates **may be** inherited with the vehicle. The relationship **is not** limited to husband and wife.  
  • The license plates **must be** surrendered if the applicant is other than an heir. The heir would be named on the Affidavit of for Transfer Without Probate California Titled Vehicle or Vessels Only (REG 5) form or in the court documents.  
  • The relationship of the transferee must be declared on a REG 256 if vehicle ownership is released by an administrator or executor of the estate.                                                                 |
| Other family situations    | • The license plates **may remain** on a vehicle transferred between parents, children, and/or grandparents.  
  • A REG 256 form **is not** required if the transferee has the same surname and the same address.  
  • A REG 256 **form is required** when the related transferee has a different surname or different address.                                                                                 |

21.250 Veterans Organization License Plates (CVC §5068)

Veterans Organization License Plates are available in a sequential series or personalized with two to six characters and may be issued to automobiles, commercial vehicles, trailers, and motorcycles (two to five characters).

**Original Personalized License Plate Applications—The procedures must be followed:**

A Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form including the choice of decal.

• Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents to register the vehicle in the applicant’s name.
• The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
• The fees due.

**Original Sequential License Plate Application—The procedures must be followed:**

A Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form including the choice of decal.

• Registration in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
• The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
• The fees due.

**Exchange**—Existing personalized license plates may be exchanged to personalized Veteran Organization License Plates.

**Renewal/Reassignment**—An additional fee is required for renewal or reassignment.
21.250 Veterans Organization License Plates, continued

Replacement Decal—An additional fee is required for a replacement decal.
Retention—No additional fee is required.
Transfer of Ownership—The license plate remains with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.

21.255 Window Decals for Vehicles With Wheelchair Lifts or Carriers (CVC §5201)

Window decals (white background with black numbers and/or letters) displaying the license plate number assigned to the vehicle are available for no fee to qualified customers who have a wheelchair lift or carrier on their vehicle which obstructs the view of the rear license plate.

To qualify for a decal, the customer must:
Be a Disabled Person (DP) placard holder or transport person(s) with a DP placard. OR
Own a vehicle assigned Disabled Person (DP) or Disabled Veteran (DV) License Plates.

Window decals (white background with black numbers and/or letters) displaying the license plate number assigned to the vehicle are available for no fee to qualified customers who have a wheelchair lift or carrier on their vehicle which obstructs the view of the rear license plate.

To qualify for a decal, the customer must:
Be a Disabled Person (DP) placard holder or transport person(s) with a DP placard. OR
Own a vehicle assigned Disabled Person (DP) or Disabled Veteran (DV) License Plates.

To apply for a window decal
The applicant must complete Section D of the Statement of Facts (REG 256) form stating the:
— Eligible DP placard or DP/DV plate number.
— Make, identification number, year model, and license number of the vehicle to which the decal will be affixed.
— Applicant’s name, mailing address, and signature.

The REG 256 must be mailed to:

Department of Motor Vehicles
Special Processing Unit MS D238
PO Box 932345
Sacramento, CA 94232-3450

Once the decal is manufactured, it will be mailed directly to the requester. The requester must allow six to eight weeks for receipt of the decal.
21.260 Year of Manufacture (YOM) License Plates (CVC §§5004.1, 4463, 4463.5, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 13, Article 3.3, §§205.00-205.14)

YOM License Plates are officially manufactured California license plates issued in:

— **1969 or prior**, for autos, trailers, and motorcycles, *and*
— **1972 or prior**, for commercial vehicles.

In lieu of the license plates otherwise required for the vehicle, YOM license plates may be assigned to any currently registered:

— **1969 or older** year model auto, motorcycle, or trailer of a corresponding model year.
— **1972 or older** commercial vehicle of a corresponding model year.

- DMV must determine that the YOM license plates are legible and serviceable prior to assignment to a vehicle.
- Vehicles with YOM license plates:
  — Have full operating privileges.
  — **Are not** restricted to participation in historical vehicle activities.
- Replica vehicles, such as specially constructed vehicles (SPCNS) and Kit cars (for example, a replica of a 1928 Duesenberg Model J)) **do not** qualify for YOM license plates.
- YOM license plates **must be** supplied by the vehicle owner *and* authenticated by DMV personnel.
  — Base year license plates **must have** the appropriate year validation sticker attached to the plate to be authenticated as other than the base year.

**Examples:**

— A 1956 license plate with a 1958 sticker equals a 1958 plate *and* must be placed on a 1958 year model vehicle.
— A 1963 license plate with a 1968 sticker equals a 1968 plate *and* must be placed on a 1968 year model vehicle.

**Note:** A 1956 base license plate with a 1963, and newer year sticker is **not** valid for a 1963 and newer year model vehicle YOM registration.

- 1963 through 1969 year model autos, trailers, and motorcycles must use a 1963 black background and yellow character base license plate and a corresponding year sticker for the corresponding year model vehicle (unless it is a 1963, no sticker needed).
- Must be with the configuration series AAA000–YYY999.
21.260 Year of Manufacture (YOM) License Plates, *continued*

- 1963 through 1969 commercial vehicles must utilize the 1963 black background and yellow character base license plates, with appropriate year sticker (if applicable) only.
- Must be within the configuration series A00000–Z99999.
- 1970 through 1972 commercial vehicles must utilize the 1970 blue background and yellow character license plates with appropriate year sticker only.
- Must be within the configuration series 00000A–99999Z.
- Blue and yellow license plates:
  - Do not have a specific year model designation, but were not introduced until 1970.
  - Must be within the configuration series 00000A–99999Z.
- Unique plate series, such as exempts, dealers, etc., will be authorized for currently qualified applicants only.

**Example:**
California dealer #103 (if currently licensed) would be allowed to use an authenticated 1956 dealer plate #103 on a 1956 vehicle registered to the dealership. The plates must be:
- original (legible and unaltered characters).
- a configuration authorized for the year of the vehicle entered on the application.

- Legitimate YOM specifications may be determined by verifying the license plate(s) against the license plate information contained in Appendix 1E.
- The YOM plates must be acceptable by DMV and may be rejected by DMV if the configuration carries any connotations offensive to good taste or have been restricted or removed from regular series license plates.
  - Two license plates are required for every qualifying vehicle, except trailers or motorcycles which require only a single plate. **Exception:** In 1945 and 1946, DMV issued only one license plate for all type vehicles, therefore only one license plate is required for a 1945 or 1946 YOM assignment, regardless of vehicle type.
  - The vehicle and the license plate must be compatible for any 1963 and newer vehicle. **Example:** An auto license plate to an auto, a motorcycle license plate to a motorcycle.
  - Weight fees must be collected on all commercial vehicles.
21.260 Year of Manufacture (YOM) License Plates, continued

- Because DMV does not have year model information for all historical vehicles, the YOM applicant may have to prove that the year model of the vehicle described in the application is correct.

Original Plate Application—the following must be submitted:

In addition to the usual registration and/or transfer requirements, the application must include:

- A Year of Manufacture (YOM) License Plate Application (REG 352).
- Authentication of the license plates by DMV which requires taking the plates to a DMV field office.
  - DMV will also verify that the configuration is not duplicated and already in use on another vehicle.
- Surrender of the license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Original YOM license plate fee.

Displaying YOM sticker

The applicant will be issued a PYR (partial year) sticker showing the month and year of expiration, along with a metal permanent sticker well for displaying the PYR sticker.

- The well must be placed behind the license plate, extending above the upper right hand corner, or, if not possible, placed on the right side of the plate.
- The original sticker(s) on the license plate must not be removed from the license plate, or the validation will be void.

Transfer of Vehicle Displaying YOM Plates

- YOM license plates can remain on the vehicle when ownership is transferred if the seller releases interest in the license plates to the new buyer on a the REG 352 for release of interest.
- The buyer completes a new REG 352.

Renewal and Reassignment

YOM license plates require an additional fee for renewal and for reassignment of the plates to another vehicle.

The vehicle must be of the same year model as the vehicle from which the license plates are being removed.

Retention

YOM License Plates may be retained when the registration is not renewed, if the license plate owner pays the annual retention fee due by the registration expiration date for the vehicle last assigned the license plates.
21.260  Year of Manufacture (YOM) License Plates, continued

Retention of Old License Plates (not YOM license plates) on Collector Vehicles
Under specific circumstances, DMV may allow a car collector to retain the old license plates that were originally assigned to the vehicle.

The original or photocopy of the California title or registration showing the plate number originally assigned to that vehicle must be submitted with the application.

- The plate configuration:
  - Must be available.
  - Not in a series reserved for issuance as any other plate series.
- Check with your local DMV office.

21.265  Yosemite Foundation License Plates (CVC §5064)
Yosemite license plates are available in a sequential series or personalized with:
- Two to seven characters for automobiles, commercial vehicles, and trailers.
- Two to five characters for motorcycles.
A qualified existing ELP may be converted to a Yosemite license plate.
Yosemite License Plates belong to the owner and may be transferred to another vehicle.

Original Personalized License Plate Application—the following must be submitted:

The application must include:
A completed Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form.
Original Yosemite Personalized license Plate fee.
If the REG 17 is submitted in conjunction with a registration application, the following is required:
- The usual registration and/or transfer documents and fees.
- The REG 17 and Yosemite personalized license plate fee.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle must be surrendered.

Original Sequential Plate Applications—the following must be submitted:
- A completed Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form.
- The registration card in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Original Yosemite Sequential license Plate fee in addition to any other fees due.

Renewal/Reassignment—Yosemite license plates require an additional fee for renewal and for reassignment of the license plates to another vehicle.

Retention—Yosemite license plates, both ELP and sequential, may be retained when the registration is not renewed if the license plate owner pays the annual retention fee.
21.270 Yosemite License Plates (CVC §5064)

Yosemite license plates are available in a sequential series or personalized with:
— Two to seven characters for automobiles, commercial vehicles, and trailers.
— Two to five characters for motorcycles.

A qualified existing ELP may be converted to a Yosemite license plate.

Yosemite License Plates belong to the owner and may be transferred to another vehicle.

**Original Personalized License Plate Application**—the following must be submitted:

The application must include:
- A completed Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form.
- Original Yosemite Personalized license Plate fee.

If the REG 17 is submitted in conjunction with a registration application, the following is required:

— The usual registration and/or transfer documents and fees.
— The REG 17 and Yosemite personalized license plate fee.
— The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle must be surrendered.

**Original Sequential Plate Applications**—the following must be submitted:

- A completed Special Interest License Plate Application (REG 17) form.
- The registration card in the applicant’s name or the documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle.
- Original Yosemite Sequential license Plate fee in addition to any other fees due.

**Renewal/Reassignment**—Yosemite license plates require an additional fee for renewal and for reassignment of the license plates to another vehicle.

**Retention**—Yosemite license plates, both ELP and sequential, may be retained when the registration is not renewed if the license plate owner pays the annual retention fee.