



BULLETIN #6/2020

February 11, 2020

MASS. REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES BEGINS LIMITED TEMP TAGS PROGRAM

The following information has been provided by the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles

Effective November 12, 2019, the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicle's new computer system - ATLAS - is now the new system of record for all RMV customer records and driver and vehicle services.

As a result of ATLAS going live on that date, the RMV presently has implemented a centralized plate distribution model. Plate types that have the lowest issuance volume will not be stocked at local service centers but will be issued centrally by mail.

Customers requesting reserve, specialty, and vanity license plates that are not available at the time of a new registration will be issued a temporary license plate and corresponding temporary certificate of registration.

Currently, the temp plates are being issued in Service Centers only, and only for customers who do not have a plate and are requesting a "centrally-located" specialty plate. The temp tag functionality will not be available to EVR locations until June or July of this year.

About Temporary Plates:

- In most instances, the temporary plate number is not the same as the permanent plate number. If replacing a current, valid plate (e.g., plates that are damaged or failed inspection), a temporary plate will be issued with the original plate number.
- Temporary plates will be Passenger Special (PAS) type, with the prefix TP followed by a system-generated number.
- Initially valid for 20 days; the customer, however, may extend the temporary plate up to two times in 20-day increments for a total of 60 days.
- Printed on paper and placed inside a plastic sleeve that attaches to the back license plate holder of the vehicle; there is no front temporary plate.
- Available at this time only at Service Centers, but will be available at Electronic Vehicle Registration (EVR) locations later this year.
- Captured in ATLAS, allowing law enforcement to see the plate number.
- Inspections should proceed like any other plated vehicle.

The permanent plates (front and back) will be mailed to the customer with the new registration. Once the plates are received, the customer should immediately put them on the vehicle. The inspection information will stay with the vehicle like any other plate swap situation.



Other Things to Note:

- Both Disabled Parking temporary plates and Disabled Veteran temporary plates will also print with the universally recognized accessibility/disability symbol so they can be used for parking in handicapped accessible spots. Other temporary plates will just have "TP" indicated.
- Active plates that need to be replaced (including damaged plates or those that fail inspection) will receive a temporary plate with the original plate number.
- When doing an advance swap, the registrant's current plate expires in 60 days, but the new registration is effectively immediately. Thus, the vehicle will be associated with two active plates at the same time. If law enforcement inquires on either plate, it would show as valid and return the vehicle information associated with the plate they inquired about. If law enforcement inquires on the vehicle information, a "multiple results found" error will be returned. If they inquire on anything else beside the plate (e.g., VIN, Owner, Title), they would be able to use the VIN or Owner scrolls to scroll between the plates.
- The RMV no longer issues green plates. If a resident needs to replace a green plate (e.g., plate fails inspection) and wants to keep the same number, the RMV will issue the same-numbered plate in red. However, they will receive a temporary back plate with the original number that should be used until the new red plates and corresponding new registration arrives in the mail.

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If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Robert O'Koniewski, Esq., MSADA Executive Vice President, by e-mail at rokoniewski@msada.org, or Peter Brennan, Esq., MSADA staff attorney, by e-mail at pbrennan@msada.org, or either by phone at (617) 451-1051.