

**Motor Vehicle Procedure Manual**

**Registration**

**Horseless Carriage (Ancient), Antique (Regular and Permanent) and  
Authenticated License Plates**

**Table of Contents**

Legal Authority .....	1
Description and Use .....	2
Definition and General Information .....	2
Application Requirement for Horseless Carriage (Ancient) and Antique (Permanent) License Plates .....	3
Requirements for Authentication of a License Plate .....	4
Renewals and Transfers .....	6
Requirements for Replacement License Plates .....	6
Lost in Transit .....	7
Miscellaneous Information .....	7
Revision(s) to Procedure .....	9
Exhibit A .....	10
Exhibit B .....	13
Exhibit C .....	15
Exhibit D .....	16

**Legal Authority**

[Section 320.086, Florida Statutes](#), provides for the issuance of Horseless Carriage (Ancient), Antique (regular), and historical authenticated license plates. Upon payment of the license tax for an ancient motor vehicle prescribed by s. 320.08(1)(d), (2)(a) or (3)(e), the customer may be issued one of these special license plates.

[Section 320.086\(3\), Florida Statutes](#), provides for the issuance of a permanent Horseless Carriage (Ancient) or Antique (permanent) license plate to the owner of ancient, or antique fire-fighting apparatus or other historical motor vehicle or former military vehicle.

[Section 320.086\(4\), Florida Statutes](#), provides for the issuance of a historical license plate to the owner of an ancient or antique motor vehicle.

[Section 320.086\(5\), Florida Statutes](#), provides for the issuance of an antique license plate for former military vehicles that are used only in exhibitions, parades, or public display and are exempt from the requirement to display a license plate or registration insignia, if the exemption is necessary to maintain the vehicle's accurate military markings. The license plate and registration certificate must be carried within the vehicle and available for inspection by any law enforcement officer.

[Section 320.086\(6\), Florida Statutes](#), states: “Former military vehicle” means a vehicle, including a trailer, regardless of the vehicle's size, weight, or year of manufacture, that was manufactured for use in any country's military forces and is maintained to represent its military design and markings accurately.

## **Description and Use**

This procedure provides information and instructions to assist employees of the Tax Collector, License Plate Agents, and Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) with the issuance of horseless carriage (ancient), antique, and authenticated license plates.

## **Definition and General Information**

Vehicles classified as ancient or antique may be issued regular, special, specialty, or personalized license plates ([Exhibit B](#)).

A Horseless Carriage (Ancient) motor vehicle is defined as an automobile, truck, or motorcycle manufactured in model year 1945 or earlier. The license plate is permanent and valid for use without renewal as long as the vehicle is owned by the same owner/registrant. The class code for a horseless carriage (ancient) motor vehicle is 82.

Motor vehicles with a model year of 1946-60, currently registered as a Horseless Carriage prior to July 1, 1996, shall be “grandfathered in” and maintain a permanent license plate, until the vehicle is transferred to a new owner. Upon transfer to a new owner, the vehicle will be registered as an antique and renewed annually.

An Antique (regular) motor vehicle is defined as an automobile, truck, or motorcycle manufactured in a model year after 1945 and of the age of 30 years or more after the model year. The license plate must be renewed annually. The class code for an Antique (regular) motor vehicle is 95 (automobiles old class code 95, trucks old class code 91).

Motorcycles manufactured after 1946 and of the age of 30 years or more will be issued a regular series, antique (regular) motorcycle, or authenticated license plate. There are no provisions for a reduced registration fee for motorcycles in this category.

Horseless Carriage or Antique (permanent) license plates may be issued to any ancient or antique firefighting apparatus or other historical motor vehicle or former military vehicle. The license plates shall be permanent and valid for use without renewal if the vehicle is owned by the same owner/registrant.

An Antique permanent license plate for a historical motor vehicle only applies to those that are used in exhibitions, parades, or public display. It is not applicable to a vehicle that is driven on a daily basis.

### **Application Requirement for Horseless Carriage (Ancient) and Antique (Permanent) License Plates**

An application for a Horseless Carriage (Ancient) license plate or Antique (permanent) license plate must be submitted to the department. The address is shown on the form [Application for Registration of a Street](#)

[Rod, Custom Vehicle, Horseless Carriage or Antique \(Permanent\) - HSMV 83045](#). Both the Horseless Carriage and Antique license plates are permanent. The Initial Registration fee is not required.

An application for an Antique (permanent) license plate for a firefighting apparatus (fire truck) may be submitted to any local tax collector's office or license plate agency. It may also be submitted to and processed by the department. See [Exhibit C](#) for processing instructions.

An accurately completed form [HSMV 83045](#), is required for the issuance of the Horseless Carriage (Ancient) or Antique (Permanent) license plate.

The applicant must possess a valid Florida Certificate of Title for the qualifying vehicle.

Proof of Florida insurance is required. Refer to Procedure [RS-36](#) for additional insurance requirements.

Payment of the applicable fees, see form [HSMV 83045](#).

### **Requirements for Authentication of a License Plate**

Authenticated license plates may be issued to any vehicle manufactured in 1975 or earlier. The license plate must be the same year as the model year of the car or truck. The license plate will be approved for issuance by the tax collector office or license plate agent as an authenticated license plate if the license plate has not been refurbished in any way and is still legible for law enforcement purposes. Authenticated license plates may only be issued to cars, motorcycles, and pickups weighing 5,000 pounds or less.

Note: Authenticated Plates containing all zeros are SAMPLE plates and cannot be issued.

Review [Exhibit A](#) for frequently asked questions and answers for authenticated license plates.

The documentation listed below must be submitted by the applicant to the tax collector office or license

plate agent for processing:

- A. The license plate (for authentication purposes) furnished by the owner. [See Exhibit D](#) for correct year and colors of license plate.
- B. A copy of the Registration Certificate, if applicable.
- C. Proof of Vehicle Ownership, if applicable.
- D. Payment of the applicable fees.
  - The Initial Registration fee is not required on vehicles 30 years and older.
- E. Proof of Florida insurance. Refer to [RS-36](#) for insurance requirements.

After verifying the Authenticated license plate is available through a PLP Availability Inquiry in the motor vehicle issuance system, the tax collector office or license plate agency must contact the Inventory Control Unit at the following email address to have the Authenticated license plate added to inventory for issuance. [InventoryControlUnit@flhsmv.gov](mailto:InventoryControlUnit@flhsmv.gov). Allow 24 hours for a response. The following details must be included in the email to the Inventory Control Unit:

- County Number and Agency Number.
- License Plate Number.
- Confirmation that the license plate has been authenticated with the appropriate Year and Colors.

## Renewals and Transfers

- A. A Horseless Carriage or Antique (regular and permanent) license plate may be transferred to any vehicle, which qualifies for a Horseless Carriage or Antique (regular and permanent) license plate.
- B. An authenticated license plate is not required to be replaced in the 10-year replacement cycle. However, it must be renewed annually and may be transferred. Renewals and transfers may be processed at any county license plate agency.

Authenticated license plate transfers can only be made to another antique vehicle of the same model year as the year of the license plate and previous antique vehicle.

- C. When the vehicle is sold and the new owner wants the authenticated license plate, the previous owner may relinquish the license plate to the new owner. Refer to [RS-27](#) for relinquishment procedures.

## Requirements for Replacement License Plates

Applications for replacement antique license plates may be processed by the county license plate agency. Applications for replacement Horseless Carriage license plates must be submitted to the department.

An authenticated license plate is one-of-a-kind. It cannot be replaced in the event of theft or damage. If the customer elects to replace the stolen or damaged authenticated plate with a different authenticated plate, the customer may apply for a new authenticated license plate.

When the Horseless Carriage license plate needs to be replaced, issue a temporary license plate with the reason as "T" (administrative 30 days) and submit request to DMS. This reason must be used for the Horseless Carriage license plate to be issued with the correct fees. The following is required:

A. Form [Application for Replacement License Plate, Validation Decal or Parking - HSMV 83146](#), accurately completed.

B. Replacement Fees.

The Decal on Demand fee does not apply to Horseless Carriage license plates or Antique (permanent) license plates. If the license plate or decal is a replacement or a stolen license plate or decal, there is no fee when the applicant certifies on form [HSMV 83146](#) that the stolen item has been reported to a law enforcement agency.

C. A photocopy of the current registration certificate.

### Lost in Transit

**Application for replacement of “Lost-In-Transit” Horseless Carriage or Antique (permanent) license plate can only be issued by the Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.** Verification may be made in the motor vehicle issuance system to ensure that the license plate has been processed and mailed to the customer. If a determination cannot be made, it will be necessary to contact the county that processed and mailed the license plate. These replacements are issued for no fee when applied for within 180 days of the date issued.

### Miscellaneous Information

A. Question: What is the difference between a regular antique vehicle, custom vehicle, and street rod?

Answer:

- A “Regular Antique” motor vehicle is defined as an automobile, truck, or motorcycle manufactured in a model year after 1945 and of the age of 30 years or more after the model year. The license plate must be renewed annually. The class code for an Antique (regular) motor vehicle is 95 (automobiles old class code 95, trucks old class code 91). The form HSMV 83045 is not required for a regular antique license plate.
- A “Custom Vehicle” is 25 years of age or older and of a model year after 1948 or was manufactured to resemble a vehicle that is 25 years of age or older and of a model year after 1948 and has been altered from the manufacturer’s original design or has a body constructed from non-original materials.

The model year and year of manufacture that the body of a custom vehicle resembles is the model year and year of manufacture listed on the certificate of title, regardless of when the vehicle was manufactured.

The vehicle title/record must carry a brand of “custom vehicle” prior to applying for a custom vehicle license plate. Once branded, an accurately completed form [Application for Registration of a Street Rod, Custom Vehicle, Horseless Carriage or Antique \(Permanent\) - HSMV 83045](#) , is required for the issuance of a custom vehicle license plate. See [RS-28](#) for additional information.

- A “Street Rod” is of a model year of 1948 or older or was manufactured after 1948 to resemble a vehicle of a model year of 1948 or older and has been altered from the manufacturer’s original design or has a body constructed from non-original materials.

The model year and year of manufacture that the body of a street rod resembles is the model year and year of manufacture listed on the certificate of title, regardless of when the vehicle was manufactured.



The vehicle title/record must carry a brand of “street rod” prior to applying for a street rod license plate. Once branded, an accurately completed form [HSMV 83045](#), is required for the issuance of a street rod license plate. See [RS-28](#) for additional information.

#### B. Inquiry Information:

To inquire about a Horseless Carriage (Ancient), enter HC####.

There are several ways to do an inquiry for an antique license plate. Which inquiry method you use depends on when the plate was issued, if the plate is all numeric, or if the plate is alphanumeric.

A license plate with numbers only is an older issue date. Enter “ANTI” followed by the license plate numbers as shown: ANTI#####. If the license plate only has four numbers instead of six numbers, enter two zeros after “ANTI” and before the four-digit license plate number as shown: ANTI00####. If the license plate is alphanumeric, enter it using the letters displayed (BA-BZ) followed by the numbers as shown: BI####. See [RS-01 Exhibit B](#) for more inquiry information.

#### Revision(s) to Procedure

**12/24 Biannual Review conducted. Updated Requirements for Authentication of a License Plate section. Removed requirement of Authenticated license plates issued by FLHSMV. Created Exhibit A.**

10/07/20 Updated contact information to Direct Mail and Issuance Rm #A330 in Section (IV).

08/17/15 Updated information on pages 2 and 5 changing date of manufacture to model year.

**FAQ for Authenticated Plates**

Q. Can government use plates be used by any citizen? Example FHP, SRD, FWC, DMV, PSC, Legislator, member of congress.

A. These plates are not acceptable for authentication.

Q. Except for the government plates identified above as unacceptable for authentication, do the weight codes on a 1975 or older matter for this purpose?

A. No, the plate code is not a factor in the authentication of a plate.

Q. Can tax collectors exercise their best judgement as to whether the condition of the tag is sufficient for use on the road?

A. TC staff can use their discretion on the suitability of a license plate.

Q. Can a plate embossed with split years be used on either year vehicle?

A. Yes.

Q. Are Authenticated plates subject to the 10-year replacement cycle?

A. No, they are coded "AUP" which bypasses mandatory replacement.

Q. How do you handle the four years where two Florida plates were required?

A. First applicant is processed. If a matching plate is presented, the second application is denied. Two plates were issued in the years 1918, 1919, 1920 & 1921.

Q. Can county issued license plates be authenticated?

A. No, only Florida plates issued from 1918 through 1975 can be authenticated.

Q. Does the 5000-pound limitation apply to authenticated plate applications?

A. RS-25, pg. 3, Authenticated license plates may only be issued to cars, motorcycles, and pickups weighing 5,000 pounds or less.

Q. Can an authenticated plate be transferred to a same year vehicle without a new review?

A. Yes, once the plate is authenticated it is transferable to a same year vehicle.

Q. Can a Seminole or Miccosukee Indian plate be used as an authenticated license plate?

A. No.

Q. Can an amateur radio plate be used as an authenticated license plate?

A. No.

Q. Can a handicap license plate be used as an authenticated license plate?

A. No.

Q. Can an (MH) mobile home license plate be used for an automobile?

A. No, these plates were used on automobiles.

Q. Can a National Guard license plate be used as an authenticated license plate?

A. No, they would need to qualify.

Q. Can an (RV) plate be used on a regular automobile?

A. No, they can be used on a same year recreational vehicle.

Q. If a year of manufacture plate is placed into an offices inventory and the transaction is not completed, can the item be removed from the office inventory?

A. Yes. Email Inventory Control Unit to request plate removal.

Q. Would these plates impact our yearly inventory?

A. No. The plate is solely for issuance only, it is never housed in your inventory.

Q. Can a citizen rely on the FLHSMV personal plate query to accurately determine if an authenticated license plate can be used?

A. Yes. <https://services.flhsmv.gov/MVCheckPersonalPlate/>

Q. Will an authenticated license plate search in the motor vehicle issuance system only return results if the plate is issued or has been issued?

Example. We inquired on C252892 and received no response in either system.

A. Yes. If issued or has been issued a result of “not available” will return.

**License Plates Available for Ancient and Antique Vehicles**  
**Year Manufactured: 1946-1979\***

<b>Vehicle Type</b>	<b>License Plates Available</b>
Regular	Antique Non-permanent (AQR) Any regular (RGR/RGS) Any Specialty license plate
Trucks 5000lbs or less	Antique Non-Permanent (AQR) Any regular (RGR/RGS) Any Specialty license plate
Trucks (GVW) 5001lbs or more	Any license plate available for GVW Trucks
Motorcycle	Any motorcycle license plate Antique
Fire Trucks (any weight)	Antique Permanent (AQR) Horseless Carriage HCR (reg use AG) Any regular (RGR/RGS) Any Specialty license plate
Former Military Vehicle	Antique Permanent (AQR) Horseless Carriage HCR (reg use AG) Any regular (RGR/RGS) Any special license plate
Trailer	Any regular (RGR/RGS) Any special license plate

**License Plates Available for Ancient and Antique Vehicles**  
**Year Manufactured: 1945 or Earlier**

<b>Vehicle Type</b>	<b>License Plates Available</b>
Regular	Horseless Carriage (HCR) Permanent Antique (AQR) Non-Permanent Any regular (RGR/RGS) Any Specialty license plate
Trucks 5000lbs or less	Horseless Carriage (HCR) Permanent Antique (AQR) Non-Permanent Any regular (RGR/RGS) Any Specialty license plate
Trucks (GVW) 5001lbs or more	Any license plate available for GVW Trucks
Motorcycle	MC Horseless Carriage (HMR) Any motorcycle license plate Antique
Fire Trucks (any weight)	Antique Permanent (AQR) Horseless Carriage HCR (reg use AG) Any regular (RGR/RGS) Any Specialty license plate
Former Military Vehicle	Antique Permanent (AQR) Horseless Carriage HCR (reg use AG) Any regular (RGR/RGS) Any special license plate
Trailer	Any regular (RGR/RGS) Any special license plate

**\*Latest year will be 30 years prior to the current calendar year.**

**Instructions for Processing a Permanent Antique License Plate on a Fire Truck 30 Years Old or Older**

1. The title must have the vehicle type of “TR” and body type of “FT” for fire truck, net weight must be 5001 lbs. or more.
2. Use the reg-use code of “AG.”
3. Use the inventory code of “AQR.”
4. You must mark the box to issue a license plate (DO NOT MARK THE BOX TO ISSUE A DECAL). Plate will be issued without a decal and does NOT need to be renewed.

If the customer is requesting a Horseless Carriage license plate for this type of vehicle, the application must be mailed to FLHSMV to process.

## Authenticated License Plates

Year Embossed	Background Color	Color of Letters and Numbers on License Plate
1918	Black	White
1919	Orange	Black
1920	Gray	Red
1921	Brown	White
1922	Green	White
1923	Dark Blue	Orange
1924	Black	White
1925	Green	Orange
1926	Black	Yellow
1927	Black	Ivory
1928	Maroon	Yellow
1929	Blue	Orange
1930	Green	White
1931	Maroon	White
1932	Black	Orange
1933	Orange	Black
1934	Black	White
1935	Yellow	Black
1936	Red	White
1937	Green	White
1938	Black	Yellow
1939	White	Red
1940	Black	White
1941	White	Red
1942	Blue	Orange
1943	1942 License Plate with 1943	Yellow on Blue Metal Date Tab
1944	Yellow	Black
1945	Black	Yellow
1946	Dark Blue	White
1947	Green	White
1948	Black	Yellow



<b>Year Embossed</b>	<b>Background Color</b>	<b>Color of Letters and Numbers on License Plate</b>
1949	Cream	Red
1950	Orange	Blue
1951	Yellow	Blue
1952	Blue	Orange
1953	Orange	Blue
1954	Blue	Orange
1955	Orange	Blue
1956	Blue	White
1957	White	Blue
1958	Dark Green	White
1959	White	Dark Green
1960	Blue	Cream Yellow
1961	Yellow	Dark Blue
1962	White	Blue
1963	Blue	White
1964	Orange	Blue
1965	Orange (400th Anniversary)	Yellow
1966	Blue	White
1967	Black	White
1968	Red	White
1969	Green	White
1970	Blue	White
1971	White	Orange
1972	White	Green
1972	White	Orange
1973	White	Green
1973	White	Orange
1974	White	Orange
1975	White	Orange

**Note: Two License Plates Were Manufactured In 1972 And 1973**