

"P" 13 (2017)

Albany, New York

December 13, 2017

TO: All Enforcement Agencies

SUBJECT: Reminder Regarding Dealer Plates (Originally Memo "P" 9 of 2013)

This memorandum is a reminder about the proper use of dealer plates, as prescribed in the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law and the Commissioner's Regulations.

Pursuant to section 415(8) of the Vehicle and Traffic Law and 15NYCRR 78.21, dealer number plates may be used for the operation of any vehicle owned or controlled by the dealership and held for sale or demonstration, **EXCEPT:**

1. a vehicle rented to another;
2. a vehicle used to transport passengers for hire;
3. a tow truck or wrecker used by the dealer for such purposes;
4. a vehicle equipped for the purpose of towing or pushing disabled vehicles; or
5. a commercial or suburban type vehicle used by the dealer for commercial purposes other than directly affecting the sale or demonstration of that particular vehicle.

**Vehicles being properly operated with dealer number plates, consistent with these purposes, only require one plate and are exempt from registration and inspection. As such, they are not required to display registration or inspection stickers.**

The Department provided dealers with a placard entitled "Dealer Plate Use" (form VS-12) that describes the proper use of dealer plates. Dealers may keep the placard in vehicles that display dealer plates. A sample is attached.

Please share this information with appropriate staff. Thank you.

Theresa L. Egan  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Attachment



Department of  
Motor Vehicles

## DEALER PLATE USE

New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law section 415(8), and NYCRR 78.21 provide that **dealer number plates may be used** for the operation of any vehicle owned and controlled by the dealership and held for sale or demonstration, **EXCEPT**:

1. a vehicle rented to another;
2. a vehicle used to transport passengers for hire;
3. a tow truck or wrecker used by the dealer for such purposes;
4. a vehicle equipped for the purpose of towing or pushing disabled vehicles, or;
5. a commercial or suburban type vehicle used by the dealer for commercial purposes other than directly affecting the sale of demonstration of that particular vehicle.

**Further, vehicles being properly operated with dealer number plates, consistent with these purposes, only require one plate and are exempt from registration and inspection. As such, they are not required to display registration or inspection stickers.**

VS-12 (11/17)