

WAC 308-96A-021 Replacement plates—Requirements. (1) **How do I obtain replacement plate(s) for my current Washington plate(s)?**

You obtain replacement plate(s) by applying(~~+~~

~~(a) Either in person; or~~

~~(b) By mail, to a Washington vehicle licensing office; or~~

~~(c) Online through the department of licensing web page in conjunction with your registration renewal and seven-year replacement requirement)) to a Washington vehicle licensing office in person or by mail.~~

(2) **When do I need to replace my plate(s)?**

You need to replace your plate(s) if:

(a) Your plate(s) are lost, destroyed, or mutilated. For an additional fee, you may replace them with the same (~~number/letter~~) number and letter combination as long as the plate meets a current approved license plate configuration and background; or

(b) Your plate(s) are stolen. You may not request the same (~~number/letter~~) number and letter combination (see the note at the end of this section); or

(c) The primary use of your vehicle has changed requiring new plate(s) designated for the new use of the vehicle. Example: A passenger car used to transport commodities, merchandise, produce, freight or animals for commercial purposes may be licensed as a commercial use truck; or

~~(d) ((Your vehicle license plates have reached the replacement cycle date established by this section by authority in RCW 46.16.233. For an additional fee, you may request the same number/letter combination as long as the plate meets a current approved license plate configuration and background.)) You took ownership of a vehicle, unless you met one of the exemptions in RCW 46.16A.200, or the vehicle is registered as a title purpose only or has one of the following non-standard plates on it at the time of transfer:~~

~~(i) Horseless carriage plates;~~

~~(ii) Collector vehicle plates; or~~

~~(iii) Restored plates.~~

(3) **Who can apply for replacement plate(s)?**

One of the registered owners (~~must~~) or the owner's authorized representative may apply for replacement plate(s).

(4) **What documentation do I need to apply for replacement plate(s)?**

(a) If your plate(s) are lost, stolen (see note at end of this section), destroyed, or mutilated, you need to submit an affidavit of loss or letter of request describing the vehicle by Washington license plate or vehicle identification number. The affidavit of loss or letter of request must be signed by at least one of the registered owners. The registered owner's signature must be either notarized by a notary public or certified by an authorized employee of a Washington vehicle licensing office. A replacement plate fee will be charged. For an additional fee, the same (~~number/letter~~) number and letter combination may be requested as long as the plate meets a current approved license plate configuration and background.

(b) If the primary use of your vehicle has changed requiring new plate(s) designated for the new use of the vehicle, the department

will replace the plate(s) without the affidavit of loss or letter of request. A new plate fee will be charged.

(5) What if the department issued incorrect plate(s) for my vehicle?

When incorrect plate(s) have been issued due to departmental error, the department will replace the plate(s) without the affidavit of loss or letter of request. No replacement plate fee will be charged in this case.

~~(6) ((What is the replacement cycle date for my license plate? The replacement cycle date for your license plate is seven years from the date the license plate(s) were issued. Notification will be included on the renewal notice when it is necessary to replace the license plates for a vehicle.~~

~~(7) When I am required to)) If I replace special license plate(s) on a currently registered vehicle, will I receive the same license plate ((number/letter)) number and letter combination? Yes, for an additional fee, if you are replacing license plates on a currently registered vehicle, your license plates will be replaced with the same ((number/letter)) number and letter combination as shown on the vehicle computer record as long as the plate meets a current approved license plate configuration and background.~~

~~((8) What license plates are required to be replaced? Vehicles that have license plates seven years or older that include:~~

- ~~(a) Standard issue;~~
- ~~(b) Collegiate;~~
- ~~(c) HAM/MARS;~~
- ~~(d) Personalized;~~
- ~~(e) Ride share;~~
- ~~(f) Disabled person;~~
- ~~(g) Disabled veterans;~~
- ~~(h) Pearl Harbor survivors;~~
- ~~(i) Purple heart;~~
- ~~(j) Stadium;~~
- ~~(k) Square dancer;~~
- ~~(l) Honorary Consular;~~
- ~~(m) Former prisoner of war;~~

~~(n) Commercial plates issued to vehicles with a declared gross weight 26,000 pounds or under;~~

~~(o) Special plate series created after January 1, 2003.~~

(9) What license plates are exempt from the replacement requirements?

~~(a) Prorated vehicles over 16,000 pounds licensed under chapter 46.87 RCW;~~

~~(b) Commercial vehicles with declared gross weight over 26,000 pounds under RCW 46.16.233;~~

~~(c) Collector vehicle, horseless carriage vehicle and restored plates;~~

~~(d) Plates issued to government agencies with exempt use class; and~~

~~(e) Medal of Honor license plates.)~~

Note: If the license plate has been reported as stolen or if the department record indicates the vehicle has been stolen, the same ((number/letter)) number and letter combination will not be issued.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 05-13-118, filed 6/20/05, effective 7/21/05)

WAC 308-96A-026 Vehicle transit permit. (1) What is a vehicle transit permit?

A vehicle transit permit is a document that authorizes an individual to operate a vehicle on a public highway of this state solely for the purpose of obtaining necessary documentation to complete an application for a Washington certificate of (~~ownership~~) title or registration. Use of the vehicle is restricted to the reason(s) indicated on the permit.

(2) How may a vehicle transit permit be used?

A vehicle transit permit may be used to obtain:

- (a) A Washington state patrol inspection;
- (b) A scale weight slip;
- (c) An emission test; or
- (d) Any other purpose that the department deems necessary.

(3) Where do I obtain a vehicle transit permit?

You may obtain a vehicle transit permit from Washington vehicle licensing offices.

(4) How long is the vehicle transit permit valid?

The permit is valid only for the days shown on the permit and may not exceed two days. The two days do not need to be consecutive.

(5) What information is required to issue the vehicle transit permit?

(a) Description of the vehicle for which the permit is issued, which may include make, model, model year, and vehicle identification number;

(b) Name and address of person obtaining the permit;

(c) Specific purpose for which the permit is issued;

(d) The date or dates on which the permit is valid, for a maximum of two days;

(e) Applicant's signature; and

(f) Signature of vehicle licensing agent or issuing authority.

(6) How much does a vehicle transit permit cost?

There is (~~no fee for the vehicle transit permit, however vehicle licensing subagents charge~~) a five dollar service fee to issue a vehicle transit permit.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 02-16-071, filed 8/6/02, effective 9/6/02)

WAC 308-96A-056 Pearl Harbor survivor license plates. (1) Who is eligible to receive Pearl Harbor survivor license plates? Pearl Harbor survivor license plates may be issued to qualified applicants as authorized in RCW (~~(46.16.305(4))~~) 46.18.270.

(2) What documentation does a Pearl Harbor survivor or surviving spouse need to submit to obtain Pearl Harbor survivor license plates?

(a) The Pearl Harbor survivor association certification required by RCW (~~(46.16.305(4)(e))~~) 46.18.270 (1)(e).

(b) Surviving spouses must also submit a copy of the death certificate and an affidavit that the spouse is not remarried.

(3) **May the spouse of a deceased Pearl Harbor survivor keep the Pearl Harbor survivor license plates?** Yes. To keep the Pearl Harbor survivor license plates, the surviving spouse must provide a copy of the Pearl Harbor survivor's death certificate and an affidavit that the spouse is not remarried in addition to the requirements of RCW ((46.16.305)) 46.18.270(4).

(4) ~~((When I am required to))~~ **If I replace my Pearl Harbor survivor license plate, will I receive the same license plate ((number/letter)) number and letter combination?** Yes. Upon request, you will receive replacement Pearl Harbor survivor license plates with the same ((number/letter)) number and letter combination as shown on the vehicle computer record.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 07-21-119, filed 10/23/07, effective 11/23/07)

WAC 308-96A-057 Purple Heart license plates. (1) **Under what authority does the department issue Purple Heart license plates?** ((The department issues Purple Heart license plates, under the authority of RCW 46.16.305 as written prior to 1990. Washington state law allowed the department to issue special license plate series denoting the age or type of vehicle or denoting special activities or interest, status, or contribution or sacrifice for the United States, the state of Washington, or citizens of the state of Washington, of a registered owner of that vehicle. The Washington legislature amended the law in 1990 allowing the department to continue issuing special license plates authorized under the law as it was before it was amended.)) RCW 46.18.280 authorizes the department to issue Purple Heart license plates.

(2) **Who may receive Purple Heart license plates?** Any Washington resident who:

(a) Has been awarded a Purple Heart medal by any branch of the United States Armed Forces, including the Merchant Marines and the Women's Air Forces Service Pilots or spouse if the recipient is deceased;

(b) Was wounded or is the spouse of a person who was wounded during one of this nation's wars or conflicts identified in RCW 41.04.005; and

(c) Is an owner, co-owner, lessee, or co-lessee of a vehicle requiring two license plates; or

(d) The spouse of a deceased recipient of a Purple Heart medal.

(3) **What documentation does a Purple Heart recipient or spouse of a deceased recipient need to submit to obtain Purple Heart license plates?** Purple Heart recipients or spouse of a deceased recipient applying for these license plates must submit:

(a) An application for Purple Heart license plates; and

(b) A copy of the armed forces document showing the recipient was awarded the Purple Heart medal.

(c) The surviving spouse of a deceased Purple Heart medal recipient may be issued a special Purple Heart license plate. In addition to confirm eligibility, the surviving spouse must submit the following:

(i) A copy of the death certificate of the deceased Purple Heart medal recipient; and

(ii) An affidavit that the applicant is not currently married.

(4) **May the spouse of a deceased Purple Heart recipient keep the Purple Heart license plates?** Yes. To keep the Purple Heart license plates the surviving spouse must provide:

- (a) A copy of the Purple Heart recipient's death certificate; and
- (b) An affidavit that the spouse has not remarried; and
- (c) If the surviving spouse remarries, the Purple Heart special license plate is invalid and must be removed from the vehicle.

(5) ~~((When I am required to))~~ **If I replace my Purple Heart license plate, will I receive the same license plate number and letter combination?** Yes. If the vehicle owner requests and pays the fees in RCW ~~((46.16.233))~~ 46.16A.200, the Purple Heart license plates will be replaced with the same ~~((number/letter))~~ number and letter combination as shown on the vehicle computer record.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 02-17-024, filed 8/12/02, effective 9/12/02)

WAC 308-96A-064 Transfer or loss/destruction of foreign organization special license plates. (1) **Are foreign organization special license plates transferable?** Yes, they are transferable to another motor vehicle owned or leased by the representative of the foreign organization; however, the special license plates may not be transferred to anyone else.

(2) **How are foreign organization special license plates transferred to another vehicle?** Submit a request to the department to transfer the plates to another vehicle and pay a transfer fee as provided in RCW ~~((46.16.316))~~ 46.17.200 in addition to all other applicable fees and taxes.

(3) **How are foreign organization special license plates replaced if they become lost, destroyed, mutilated, or stolen?** The representative of the foreign organization must submit a request to the department for replacement license plates and pay a replacement plate fee as provided in ~~((chapter 46.16))~~ RCW 46.17.200 in addition to all other applicable fees and taxes.

(4) ~~((When I am required to))~~ **If I replace my foreign organization special license plates, will I receive the same license plate ~~((number/letter))~~ number and letter combination?** Yes. Upon request, you will receive replacement foreign organization special license plates with the same ~~((number/letter))~~ number and letter combination as shown on the vehicle computer record.

(5) **What do I do with the foreign organization special license plates if I sell or otherwise dispose of the vehicle?** The plates must be removed and either ~~((+~~

~~+))~~ transferred to another vehicle owned or leased by the plate holder of the foreign organization ~~((and/or))~~ or immediately forwarded to the department ~~((+ or~~

~~+))~~ ~~Transferred to another vehicle as provided in subsection (1) of this section).~~

(6) **How are foreign organization special license plates disposed of?** The plates must be removed by the representative of the foreign organization and immediately forwarded to the department.

WAC 308-96A-065 Personalized license plates. (1) **What is a personalized license plate?** Personalized license plates are plates reflecting the registered owner's chosen format or designation and are limited to those described in RCW ((~~46.16.560~~, ~~46.16.570~~ and ~~46.16.580~~)) 46.04.385 and 46.18.275.

(2) **Are there any restrictions on the use of letters and numbers on personalized license plates?** Personalized license plates may be issued with one to seven characters. Motorcycles and motorcycle trailers can have up to six characters. The letters "I" and "O" and the numbers "1" (one) and "0" (zero) may not be issued as single-digit plates.

(3) **When may the department deny an application for or cancel personalized plates?**

(a) The department may deny an application for personalized license plates or cancel personalized license plates previously issued if it determines the plate configuration to be:

- (i) Offensive to good taste and decency;
- (ii) Potentially misleading;
- (iii) Vulgar, profane, or sexually suggestive in nature;
- (iv) A racial, ethnic, lifestyle, or gender slur;
- (v) Related to alcohol or to illegal activities or substances;
- (vi) Blasphemous;
- (vii) Derogatory;
- (viii) Slanderous;

(ix) A duplication of license plate or decal numbers provided in chapter 46.09, 46.10 or 46.16^A RCW; or

(x) The personalized message appears to replicate the standard configuration for a special license plate; or

(xi) Contrary to the department's mission to promote highway safety.

(b) If the personalized license plates are canceled due to one or more reasons specified in subsection (3) of this section, the vehicle owner may:

(i) Apply for a refund for the fee paid under RCW ((~~46.16.585~~ and ~~46.16.606~~)) 46.17.210 and 46.68.435 for such license plates; or

(ii) Instead of a refund, apply for and upon approval be issued personalized license plates with a different configuration without payment of additional personalized license plate fees.

(c) The department may cancel personalized license plates if they are:

(i) Not renewed by the owner within forty-five days of the vehicle expiration; or

(ii) Removed from a vehicle and not transferred to a replacement vehicle within thirty days; or

(iii) Transferred to a new owner who does not make proper application for the plates within twenty-five days.

(4) **What special plates cannot be personalized?**

- (a) Medal of honor;
- (b) Horseless carriage;
- (c) Restored;
- (d) Collector vehicle;
- (e) Ham and Mars license plates;
- (f) Former prisoner of war;
- (g) Pearl Harbor survivor;

- (h) Disabled veteran;
- (i) Exempt license plates.

(5) If my registration for personalized license plates has elapsed, how do I get them reinstated or reissued?

(a) If you are an owner of a personalized license plate and do not renew it within forty-five days, you must reapply and pay the original personalized license plate fee in order to reinstate the plate.

(b) If you purchase a vehicle with a personalized plate and do not transfer the ownership of the personalized plate within twenty-five days, you forfeit ownership of the plate. The department will make that personalized plate available to the first applicant for that plate configuration.

(c) If you are the owner of a personalized license plate who does not transfer the plate as described in (b) of this subsection, you must reapply and pay the original personalized license plate fee in order to reinstate the plate.

(6) Can I transfer my personalized license plate? Yes, if you are the owner(s) of a vehicle with personalized license plates and sell, trade, or otherwise transfer ownership of the vehicle, you may transfer the plates to another vehicle within thirty days; (the personalized license plates may be transferred at any vehicle licensing office or through a vehicle dealer if the owner wishes to transfer a plate to a dealer-purchased vehicle) or transfer the plates to a new owner. If the plates are transferred to a new owner, the current owner must provide the new owner with a ((notarized/certified)) notarized or certified release of interest for the plates. The new owner must make application to the department within twenty-five days, including payment of the original personalized license plate fee.

(7) How do I dispose of my personalized vehicle license plates?

(a) You may turn the plates in to the department with a notarized release of interest from the owner(s) relinquishing the right to that personalized license plate configuration; or

(b) If your vehicle has personalized license plates and is sold to a wrecker or you accept a total loss claim from your insurance company and you choose not to retain the salvage, you must either transfer the plates to another vehicle within thirty days or turn the plates in to the department with a notarized release of interest from all registered owner(s) relinquishing the right to that personalized license plate.

~~((8) Will I ever have to replace my personalized vehicle license plate? Yes, the personalized license plates are subject to the seven-year vehicle license plate replacement schedule.))~~

Note: If the license plate has been reported as stolen or if the department record indicates the vehicle has been stolen, the same number and letter combination will not be issued.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 07-20-112, filed 10/3/07, effective 11/3/07)

WAC 308-96A-070 Amateur radio operator special license plates.

(1) Who may apply for amateur radio operator vehicle special license plate(s)? Any person having a valid amateur radio operator's license may apply to the department for license plates bearing the official amateur radio call letters assigned by the Federal Communications Com-

mission (FCC). These plates are in lieu of regular issue license plates. The department will issue only one set of plates at any one time carrying these call letters.

(2) **What documents are required to receive an amateur radio operator vehicle special license plate?** In addition to all other license fees required by law, the amateur radio operator must attach a copy of the current FCC license to the application. The operator must notify the department when the FCC license is canceled or expires and whether or not the operator has renewed the license. If the license has been renewed, the operator must send a copy of the new FCC license to the department.

(3) **How will the amateur radio operator license plates be displayed?** The amateur radio operator license plates must be displayed on a motor vehicle owned by the amateur radio operator unless the plates were issued and assigned to a vehicle prior to January 1, 1991. Prior to the January 1, 1991, date, the amateur radio operator license plates are allowed to be installed on any motor vehicle qualified under RCW ((46.16.305)) 46.18.205.

(4) **Are there any special fees required to obtain the amateur radio operator license plates?** In addition to all other license fees required by law, each applicant for amateur radio operator license plates must pay an additional license plate fee of five dollars for the plate and applicable fees as stated in RCW ((46.16.316)) 46.17.200 any time the plates are transferred to another vehicle.

(5) **When are the amateur radio operator special license plates canceled?** The effective date of the plate cancellation is the date the FCC license becomes invalid. Reinstatement of the plates requires the amateur radio operator to reapply for the plates, providing a copy of the valid FCC license and paying the five-dollar fee for a new plate and applicable fees as stated in RCW ((46.16.316)) 46.17.200.

(6) **Are there any FCC operator special license plates that will not be issued?** Yes, if the call sign has WSP as part of the number letter combination.

~~((7) **Will I ever have to exchange my amateur radio operator special license plates?** Yes, the department has determined that all license plates be replaced on a seven year vehicle license rotation schedule; however, your amateur radio operator special license plates will be issued with your official call letters and numbers assigned to you by the F.C.C.))~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 04-18-023, filed 8/24/04, effective 9/24/04)

WAC 308-96A-071 Military affiliate radio system special license plates. (1) **Who may apply for the military affiliate radio system station special license plates?** Any person having a valid military affiliate radio system (MARS) station license may apply to the department for license plates bearing the official MARS call letters assigned by the Department of Defense. These plates are in lieu of regular issue license plates. The department will issue only one set of plates at any one time carrying these call letters and can only be displayed on a motor vehicle registered to the MARS station license holder.

(2) **Can a MARS special license plate be issued for my motorcycle?** No. Motorcycle license plates accommodate a maximum of six characters. MARS call letters consist of seven characters.

(3) **What documents are required to receive MARS special license plates?** In addition to all other license fees required by law, an applicant for MARS license plates must attach a copy of the current official MARS station license authorized by the Department of Defense and issued by the United States Army, Air Force, or Navy/Marine Corps. The recipient of these plates must notify the department when the MARS station license has been canceled.

(4) **Are there any special fees required to obtain the MARS license plates?** In addition to all other license fees required by law, each applicant for MARS license plates must pay an additional license plate fee of five dollars for the plate and applicable fees as stated in RCW (~~(46.16.316)~~) 46.17.200 any time the plates are transferred to another vehicle.

(5) **When are the MARS license plates canceled?** The effective date of a plate cancellation is the date the MARS station license becomes invalid. Reinstatement of the plates requires the MARS station license holder to reapply for the plates, providing a copy of the valid MARS license and paying the five-dollar fee for a new plate and applicable fees as stated in RCW (~~(46.16.316)~~).

~~(6) **Will I ever have to exchange my MARS license plates?** Yes, the department has determined that all license plates be replaced on a seven year vehicle license rotation schedule; however, your MARS license plates will be issued with your official call letters and numbers assigned to you by the F.C.C.) 46.17.200.~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 04-08-079, filed 4/6/04, effective 5/7/04)

WAC 308-96A-072 Square dancer license plates. (1) **Who may apply for square dancer license plates?** A registered owner of a vehicle may apply to the department and receive, in lieu of regular vehicle license plates, special square dancer license plates bearing a symbol of square dancers.

(2) **What vehicles may display square dancer license plates?** Square dancer license plates may be issued for vehicles required to display two license plates, except those vehicles licensed under the provisions of chapter 46.87 RCW.

(3) **Are special license fees required for square dancer license plates?** A special license plate fee of forty dollars, in addition to all other appropriate fees and taxes, is collected for each set of square dancer license plates issued.

(4) **How does the department define "current license plate registration"?** For the purposes of this section, a current license plate registration is defined as: A registration that has not expired or a registration where it is less than one year past the expiration date.

~~((5) **Will I ever have to replace my square dancer license plates?** Yes, the department has determined that all license plates be replaced on a seven year replacement schedule. In addition to the license plate replacement fee, you may pay an additional plate retention fee to retain the same number/letter combination as shown on the cur-~~

~~rent vehicle computer record as long as the plate meets a current approved license plate configuration and background.)~~)

Note: If the license plate has been reported as stolen or if the department record indicates the vehicle has been stolen, the same ((number/letter) number and letter combination will not be issued.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 09-06-030, filed 2/24/09, effective 3/27/09)

WAC 308-96A-073 Antique vehicle—Horseless carriage license plate. (1) **What is a horseless carriage license plate?** A horseless carriage license plate is a single license plate issued to a qualified motor vehicle owned by a collector as defined in RCW 46.04.125. It must be displayed on the rear of the vehicle for which it was issued.

(2) **What vehicles qualify for a horseless carriage license plate?** Any motor vehicle which is:

- (a) At least forty years old; and
- (b) Capable of being operated upon the highway; and
- (c) Currently registered in Washington; and
- (d) Operated primarily as a collector vehicle under RCW

((46.16.307)) 46.18.220.

(3) **May I transfer my horseless carriage license plate to another antique vehicle?** No. Horseless carriage license plates are not ((transferrable)) transferable to any other motor vehicle.

(4) **What additional fees are required to obtain a horseless carriage license plate?** In addition to all other license fees required by law, the applicant must pay a fee of thirty-five dollars for a horseless carriage license plate.

((5) **Are horseless carriage license plates subject to periodic replacement?** No, the horseless carriage license plates are exempt from the vehicle license plate replacement schedule and are valid for the life of the vehicle.))

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 04-08-079, filed 4/6/04, effective 5/7/04)

WAC 308-96A-074 Collector vehicle and restored license plates.

(1) **What is a collector vehicle license plate?** For the purposes of this section, a collector vehicle license plate is a special license plate indicating "Collector Vehicle." The smaller size collector vehicle license plate is available for motorcycles. Collector vehicle owners must conform to the rules under RCW ((46.16.307)) 46.18.220.

(2) **What vehicles qualify for a collector vehicle license plate?** Any motor vehicle which is:

- (a) ((More than)) At least thirty years old; and
- (b) Capable of being operated upon the highway; and
- (c) Currently registered in Washington; and
- (d) Operated primarily as a collector vehicle.

(3) **How is a collector vehicle license plate to be displayed?** The collector vehicle license plate must be displayed on the rear of the vehicle for which it was issued. The collector vehicle license plate

is not transferable to any other motor vehicle, but may stay with that vehicle upon transfer of ownership.

(4) **What additional fees are required to obtain a collector vehicle license plate?** In addition to all other license fees required by law, the applicant must pay an additional license fee of thirty-five dollars for this collector vehicle license plate.

~~(5) ((Are collector vehicle license plate(s) required to be replaced under RCW 46.16.233? No, the collector vehicle license plates are exempt from the periodic vehicle license plate replacement schedule.~~

~~(6))~~ **What is a "restored license plate"?** A restored license plate is a Washington state issued license plate designated for general use in the year of the vehicle's manufacture. The restored license plate may not be a specialized license plate. The restored license plate may be used instead of a collector vehicle license plate or horseless carriage license plate. The license plate must be restored to such a condition that it may be identified with its year of issue. Reproductions of the original are not acceptable for use as a restored license plate.

~~((7))~~ **(6) How is a restored license plate to be displayed?** The owner must display a single plate on the rear of the vehicle. If the vehicle owner has two identical license plates, the second license plate may be displayed on the front of the vehicle or on another vehicle.

~~((8))~~ **(7) If I sell my vehicle may I keep my restored license plate?** Yes. The restored plate(s) may be reassigned to another qualifying vehicle.

~~((9))~~ **(8) May I replace my restored license plate with another restored license plate?** Yes, however, your vehicle record must be updated to reflect the new plate number before it is displayed on the vehicle.

~~((10))~~ **(9) What additional fees are required to have a restored license plate assigned to my vehicle?** In addition to all other title and license fees required by law, you must pay an additional license fee of thirty-five dollars for the restored plate to be assigned to your vehicle. At the time a restored plate is assigned to a vehicle, the department will require the certificate of ownership be submitted if that vehicle does not already have a "title purpose only" number.

~~((11))~~ **(10) Will I be able to apply for a refund of fees I have paid if I decide to change my restored use plate to a regular issue plate?** No. There is no provision in the law to issue a refund should you decide to change to a regular issue plate.

~~((12))~~ **(11) May I apply the fees I paid for my restored plate towards the purchase of regular issued plates?** No. Full fees must be paid for the new plates.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 05-01-003, filed 12/1/04, effective 1/3/05)

WAC 308-96A-076 Law enforcement memorial special vehicle license plate series. (1) **When ownership of a vehicle issued a law enforcement memorial license plate(s) changes, what happens to the plate(s)?** The special license plate owner may relinquish the plate(s) to the new

vehicle owner or remove the plate(s) from the vehicle for transfer to a replacement vehicle. License plate transfer fees apply.

(2) **Will any new fees be charged when the law enforcement memorial license plate(s) are transferred?** If the registration expiration date for the new vehicle is later than registration expiration date of the previous vehicle, an additional fee for the law enforcement memorial license plate will be charged at the rate of one-twelfth of the annual law enforcement memorial license plate(s) fee for each additional month and partial month beyond the registration expiration date of the previous vehicle. If the new registration expiration date is sooner than the previous registration expiration date, a refund will not be made for the remaining registration period.

(3) **May law enforcement memorial license number plates be replaced with the same number if they become lost, defaced, or destroyed?** Yes. Upon the loss, defacement, or destruction of one or both plate(s), the owner must make application for new law enforcement memorial or other license plate(s) and pay the fees described in RCW ((46.16.270)) 46.17.200. See subsection ((+5+)) (4) of this section.

(4) ~~((Are law enforcement memorial license plate(s) subject to the vehicle license plate replacement schedule? Yes, the law enforcement memorial license plate(s) are subject to the mandatory vehicle license plate replacement schedule in WAC 308-96A-021(8).~~

(+5+)) **When replacing law enforcement memorial license plate(s), is same license plate ((number/letter)) number and letter combination issued?** Yes. If the vehicle owner requests and pays the fees in RCW ((46.16.233)) 46.16A.200, the law enforcement memorial license plate(s) will be replaced with the same ((number/letter)) number and letter combination as shown on the vehicle computer record.

((+6+)) (5) **Will my license plates that have been reported stolen be replaced with new license plates with the same ((number/letter)) number and letter combination?** If the license plate(s) have been reported as stolen or if the department record indicates the plate has been stolen, the same ((number/letter)) number and letter combination will not be issued. This is a law enforcement issue for the protection of the public.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 11-24-088, filed 12/7/11, effective 1/7/12)

WAC 308-96A-077 Volunteer firefighter special vehicle license plate series. (1) **Who may apply for the volunteer firefighters license plate(s)?** Any person that:

- Meets the requirements and has proven eligibility as per RCW 46.18.210;
- Is not requesting issue for a vehicle registered under chapter 46.87 RCW;
- Has paid all applicable fees and taxes.

The volunteer firefighters special license plate(s) will be issued upon proof of eligibility and receipt of all applicable fees.

(2) **What must be provided as proof that the applicant qualifies?** The applicant must provide documentation of service from the fire district(s) where they serve or have served.

(3) **When is proof required?** Upon initial application.

(4) Can the volunteer firefighters special license plate(s) be retained if the applicant is no longer a volunteer firefighter? Yes, if the license plate owner has at least ten years of service, the license plate can be retained and renewed.

(5) If I have less than ten years of service, can I retain the plates if I am no longer a volunteer firefighter? No, They must be surrendered at the next registration renewal date.

(6) Is there a limit to the number of sets of license plates that a volunteer firefighter can have? Yes, there is a maximum of two sets per applicant.

(7) Are there any other circumstances when the volunteer firefighter plates must be surrendered? Yes, if the volunteer firefighter is convicted of a violation of RCW 46.61.502 or a felony. It is the responsibility of the license plate owner to notify the department and surrender the plates. However, if the department is notified of the conviction, the department has authority to cancel the plates under RCW ((46.12.160)) 46.12.550.

(8) When ownership of a vehicle issued volunteer firefighters license plate(s) is transferred, what happens to the plate(s)? The special license plate owner must remove the plate(s) from the vehicle. The plate owner may transfer the special plate(s) to a replacement vehicle by visiting a vehicle licensing office. License plate transfer and other applicable fees apply.

(9) What fees are charged when the volunteer firefighters license plate(s) are transferred to a replacement vehicle? If the registration expiration date for the replacement vehicle is later than the registration expiration date of the current vehicle, an abated fee for the volunteer firefighters license plate will be charged. It is charged at the rate of one-twelfth of the annual volunteer firefighters license plate(s) fee for each month and partial month. If the new registration expiration date is sooner than the previous registration expiration date, a refund will not be made for the remaining registration period.

(10) ~~((Will volunteer firefighters license plate(s) ever need replacing? Yes, the volunteer firefighters license plate(s) are subject to the mandatory vehicle license plate replacement schedule.~~

~~(11))~~ When replacing volunteer firefighters license plate(s), is the same license plate ((number/letter)) number and letter combination issued? No, unless the owner chooses to pay an additional fee to keep the same number. If the vehicle owner requests and pays the fees described in RCW ((46.16.233)) 46.16A.200, the volunteer firefighters license plate(s) may be replaced with the same ((number/letter)) number and letter combination as shown on the vehicle computer record.

~~((12))~~ (11) Will my license plates that have been reported stolen be replaced with new license plates with the same ((number/letter)) number and letter combination? If the license plate(s) has been reported as stolen or if the department record indicates the plate has been stolen, the same ((number/letter)) number and letter combination will not be issued. This is a law enforcement issue for the protection of the public.

WAC 308-96A-078 Professional firefighters and paramedics special vehicle license plate series. (1) **Who may apply for the professional firefighters and paramedics (PFFP) license plate(s)?** Only members of the Washington state council of firefighters who are indicated on the vehicle record as a registered or coregistered owner of a vehicle may apply. The professional firefighters and paramedics license plate(s) will be issued upon proof of eligibility and receipt of all applicable fees.

(2) **What must be provided as proof that the applicant is a current member to the Washington state council of firefighters (WSCFF)?** A member of the Washington state council of firefighters must provide a current letter from the WSCFF and either a valid Washington state drivers license or identification card, or International Federation of Firefighters identification showing current membership.

(3) **When is proof of WSCFF membership required?** Upon initial application or vehicle registration renewal.

(4) **When ownership of a vehicle issued professional firefighters and paramedics license plate(s) is transferred, what happens to the plate(s)?** The special license plate owner must remove the plate(s) from the vehicle. The plate owner may transfer the special plate(s) to a replacement vehicle. License plate transfer fees apply.

(5) **Will any new fees be charged when the professional firefighters and paramedics license plate(s) are sold, traded, or otherwise transferred?** If the registration expiration date for the new vehicle is later than registration expiration date of the previous vehicle, an abated fee for the professional firefighters and paramedics license plate will be charged at the rate of one-twelfth of the annual professional firefighters and paramedics license plate(s) fee for each succeeding month and partial month. If the new registration expiration date is sooner than the previous registration expiration date, a refund will not be made for the remaining registration period.

~~(6) ((Will professional firefighters and paramedics license plate(s) ever need replacing? Yes, the professional firefighters and paramedics license plate(s) are subject to the mandatory vehicle license plate replacement schedule.~~

~~(7))~~ **When replacing professional firefighters and paramedics license plate(s), is same license plate ((number/letter)) number and letter combination issued?** Yes. If the vehicle owner requests and pays the fees described in RCW ~~((46.16.233))~~ 46.16A.200, the professional firefighters and paramedics license plate(s) may be replaced with the same ~~((number/letter))~~ number and letter combination as shown on the vehicle computer record.

~~((8))~~ **(7) Will my license plates that have been reported stolen be replaced with new license plates with the same ((number/letter)) number and letter combination?** If the license plate(s) has been reported as stolen or if the department record indicates the plate has been stolen, the same ~~((number/letter))~~ number and letter combination will not be issued. This is a law enforcement issue and is for the protection of the public.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 05-01-210, filed 12/21/04, effective 1/21/05)

WAC 308-96A-079 Helping Kids Speak special vehicle license plate series. (1) **When ownership of a vehicle issued "Helping Kids Speak license plate(s)" is sold, traded, or otherwise transferred, what happens to the plate(s)?** The special license plate owner may relinquish the plate(s) to the new vehicle owner or remove the plate(s) from the vehicle for transfer to a replacement vehicle. License plate transfer fees apply.

(2) **Will any new fees be charged when the Helping Kids Speak license plate(s) are transferred?** If the registration expiration date for the new vehicle is later than registration expiration date of the previous vehicle the fee for the Helping Kids Speak plate will be charged at the rate of one-twelfth of the annual Helping Kids Speak plate(s) fee for each exceeding month and partial month. If the new registration expiration date is sooner than the previous registration expiration date, a refund will not be made for the remaining registration period.

(3) **May Helping Kids Speak license number plates be replaced with the same number if they become lost, defaced, or destroyed?** Yes. Upon the loss, defacement, or destruction of one or both Helping Kids Speak license plate(s), the owner must make application for new Helping Kids Speak or other license plate(s) and pay the fees described in RCW ((46.16.270)) 46.16A.200. See note following subsection ((+5)) (4) of this section.

(4) ~~((Will Helping Kids Speak license plate(s) ever need replacing? Yes, the Helping Kids Speak license plate(s) are subject to the mandatory vehicle license plate replacement schedule.~~

~~(+5))~~ **When replacing Helping Kids Speak license plate(s), is the same license plate ((number/letter)) number and letter combination issued?** Yes. If the vehicle owner requests and pays the fees described in RCW ((46.16.233)) 46.16A.200, the Helping Kids Speak license plate(s) may be replaced with the same ((number/letter)) number and letter combination as shown on the vehicle computer record.

Note: If the license plate(s) have been reported as stolen or if the department record indicates the plate has been stolen, the same ((number/letter)) number and letter combination will not be issued. This is a law enforcement issue and is for the protection of the public.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 08-20-035, filed 9/23/08, effective 10/24/08)

WAC 308-96A-175 Ride-sharing vehicles. (1) **When may the department issue a ride share special license plate?** Ride share special license plates may be issued when:

The passenger motor vehicle is primarily used as a commute ride-sharing motor vehicle defined in RCW 46.74.010(1). The vehicle owner may be issued special ride-share license plates by satisfying the provisions of RCW ((46.16.023)) 46.18.285. Any person desiring the special ride-share license plates must make application on a form approved by the department and pay all fees required by chapter 46.12 RCW and the special ride-share license plate fee required by RCW ((46.16.023)) 46.18.285. The owner must then provide:

(a) For privately owned vehicles, a statement that the vehicle is being used as a ride-sharing vehicle; or

(b) For motor vehicles operated by public transportation agencies or by major employers defined in RCW 70.94.524 in commute trip reduction programs, a written statement that the motor vehicle is used as a commuter ride-sharing motor vehicle.

(c) A written statement that the motor vehicle is used for commuter ride-sharing if the passenger motor vehicle is owned, rented or leased by a government agency.

(2) Can the ride-share license plate be transferred to another motor vehicle? To transfer license plates to another motor vehicle, the owner must:

(a) Make application to and receive approval by the department for the replacement passenger motor vehicle; and

(b) Pay applicable fees stated in RCW (~~(46.16.316)~~) 46.17.200.

(3) What happens when I remove or transfer special ride-share plates from my vehicle? When you remove or transfer special ride-share license plates from one motor vehicle to another, you must:

(a) Purchase replacement license plates if the motor vehicle will be operated on public highways; and

(b) Pay applicable tax for the remaining license registration period for the vehicle.

(c) If use/sales tax was exempted but the vehicle was used less than thirty-six consecutive months as a ride-share motor vehicle, use tax is due and payable to the department of revenue.

(4) What happens when the ride-share motor vehicle is sold or transferred to another person?

(a) When a ride-share motor vehicle is sold or transferred to another person who will continue to use the passenger motor vehicle as a commuter ride-share vehicle, the new owner must:

(i) Apply for a certificate of (~~ownership~~) title under chapter 46.12 RCW;

(ii) Apply for commuter ride-share exemption; and

(iii) Pay all required fees and taxes including the special license plate fee.

(b) Upon application for registration renewal, the owners of non-government ride-share plated vehicles must:

(i) Provide a statement that the motor vehicle is used as a commuter ride-share motor vehicle to continue to be exempt from chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.44 RCW; and

(ii) Submit a completed statement approved by the department that the motor vehicle qualifies as a commuter ride-sharing motor vehicle. If the registered owner fails to file a completed recertification form, the department will cancel the special ride-share license plates and the registered owner will need to purchase replacement plates and pay applicable fees and taxes to complete registration renewal.

~~((5) Will I ever have to replace my ride-share vehicle license plate? Yes, the ride share vehicle license plates are subject to the seven-year vehicle license plate replacement schedule.))~~

WAC 308-96A-176 Special transportation needs for ride-share vehicles. (1) **Who may request application for special transportation needs for ride-share vehicles?** Private, nonprofit transportation providers furnishing ride share for persons with special transportation needs under chapter 81.66 RCW may be issued special ride-share license plates under RCW (~~(46.16.023)~~) 46.18.285 for passenger motor vehicles. The transportation provider must make application for special ride-share license plates on a form approved by the department. The application must include:

(a) A copy of the utilities and transportation commission's operating certificate authorizing the organization to operate in this state;

(b) Payment of all fees required under chapter 46.12 RCW; and

(c) Payment for the special ride-share license plate fee as provided in RCW (~~(46.16.023)~~) 46.18.285.

(2) **What is a passenger motor vehicle?** For purposes of this section, a passenger motor vehicle is defined as:

(a) A motor vehicle titled with a use class of PAS, but does not include a motor home;

(b) A bus with a seating capacity of fifteen or less including the driver;

(c) A cutaway, defined as a van or light truck cut off behind the cab, a bus-type body permanently affixed to the frame behind the cab, and a seating capacity of fifteen or less including the driver. A cutaway does not include a motor home; and

(d) A modified van, not more than twenty-eight feet in overall length, and a seating capacity of fifteen or less including the driver. A modified van does not include a motor home.

(3) **What happens when a transportation provider removes the special ride-share license plate or transfers the plate to another vehicle?**

(a) When the transportation provider removes the special ride-share license plates or transfers the plates to another vehicle owned by the transportation provider, replacement license plate fee, vehicle registration fee and abated RTA vehicle excise tax if necessary must be collected if the vehicle will continue to be operated on public highways. If the exemption is being removed within thirty-six consecutive months from obtaining the exemption, the full use or sales tax amount originally exempted will be due and payable to the department of revenue.

(b) If the special license plates are to be transferred to another vehicle, a new application for exemption must be filed as required under subsection (1) of this section with payment of the license plate transfer fee provided in RCW (~~(46.16.023(2))~~) 46.16A.200.

(4) **What is required to retain my ride-share exemption when I renew my registration?** When applying for registration renewal, the transportation provider must recertify that the vehicle is being used to provide transportation for persons with special transportation needs to be exempt from chapters 82.08 and 82.44 RCW. The department will provide recertification forms to registered owners of ride-share vehicles for filing with registration renewal applications.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 01-12-099, filed 6/6/01, effective 7/7/01)

WAC 308-96A-202 Power units towing trailers with permanent registrations. (1) What determines if I pay the higher gross weight fees?

If the declared gross weight of the power unit exceeds forty thousand pounds AND the power unit will be towing a trailer, the power unit must be licensed with a combination (CMB) or farm combination (FCB) use class. This results in higher gross weight fees.

(2) How do I change to a CMB or FCB use class during the registration year?

If you choose to change the use class of your power unit during the registration year, you will need to:

(a) Pay the additional gross weight fees for the remaining months of the gross weight license period currently in effect; and

(b) Immediately attach the combination decals between the lower ((~~bolt holes~~)) bolt holes on the front and rear license plates.

If the license plates were issued prior to January 1, 1987, new plates are required.

(3) What if I change to a CMB or FCB use class at renewal time?

If you change use class at renewal time, you will pay the gross weight fees for the new registration year. Fees are not due for the remainder of the current registration year. If the plates were issued prior to January 1, 1987, new plates are required. The combination decals assigned may not be attached to the license plates until the first day of the new registration year, when the new use class is effective.

(4) What if I change from CMB or FCB to COM or FAR?

If you change from CMB or FCB to COM or FAR, you will need to purchase new plates. Excess gross weight fees may be used to purchase additional months of gross weight to the end of the current registration year.

(5) If I sell the power unit with a CMB or FCB use class, will the new owner need to purchase new plates?

If the new owner retains the CMB or FCB use class, new plates are not required. If the use class is changed to commercial (COM) or farm (FAR), new plates are required.

(6) If new plates are required because of the change of use class or because they were issued prior to January 1, 1987, am I required to pay replacement plate fees?

~~((No, you would only pay the reflectorization fee in RCW 46.16.237 and plate fee in RCW 46.16.650))~~ Yes, under RCW 46.17.200.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 01-12-099, filed 6/6/01, effective 7/7/01)

WAC 308-96A-203 Permanent trailer registrations. (1) Do I have an option of purchasing a permanent registration for my trailer to offset the higher fees on my power unit?

Yes, if the power unit towing the trailer is properly licensed to tow a trailer with a permanent registration.

(2) How does the power unit need to be licensed to tow a trailer with a permanent registration?

The power unit must have a combination (CMB) or farm combination (FCB) use class.

(3) How does the power unit qualify for the CMB or FCB use class?

The declared gross weight of the power unit must exceed forty thousand pounds. The CMB and FCB use classes require a higher gross weight fees to offset the annual revenue loss of the permanently licensed trailer(s) the power unit is towing.

(4) If I am not required to renew the permanent trailer registration each year, how is my registration kept updated?

Your registration will show an expiration date of "PERM." Your vehicle record will show a current expiration date, which is updated annually((-)), and your trailer plate will have a permanent trailer validation tab assigned to it.

(5) Are there any restrictions on the use of the trailer with permanent plates?

Yes, there is a restriction printed on the registration stating that the vehicle must be towed by a power unit with a CMB or FCB use class and gross weight in excess of forty thousand pounds.

(6) How long is the permanent registration valid?

The permanent registration is valid until ownership in the trailer changes. For purposes of this section, the following are not considered changes of ownership:

(a) Addition or deletion of spouse or co-owner; or

(b) Change of lessee with the same lessor.

(7) What do I do if I want to cancel the permanent registration and register the trailer as commercial?

You may change from CMB to COM use class at any time. You will need to pay all fees and taxes from the date of application to the expiration date shown on the vehicle record. A partial month requires a full month's fees. The license plates must be replaced when ownership changes on a trailer with CMB use class.

(8) What type of plates do I display on a trailer with a permanent registration?

A regular trailer plate, including a permanent trailer tab and combination decal, must be displayed on the trailer. The trailer may not display personalized or other special plates in this case.

(9) How is the expiration date established for a permanent trailer registration?

If the vehicle is unlicensed at the time of application, an expiration date is established based on the date of application as defined in WAC 308-96A-260. The permanent trailer plate fee is charged. If the vehicle is currently registered, either as COM or CMB, the permanent trailer plate fee is charged and the expiration date remains the same.

(10) Do I need to get a new plate when I get a permanent trailer registration?

If the vehicle is new, is currently registered to another owner with CMB use class, or the plate was issued prior to January 1, 1987, a new plate must be issued. If the vehicle is currently registered with a COM use class, and the plate has been issued since January 1, 1987, the permanent trailer tab and combination decal may be attached to the existing plate.

(11) If the trailer has a permanent registration and I no longer wish to use the trailer, or I sell the trailer and the new owner does not wish to license the trailer, may a title purpose only title be issued?

Yes, however, a title purpose only title will not eliminate the requirement for license fees to be paid. As soon as the vehicle is no longer used as a CMB trailer, license fees are due. The owner has the choice of:

(a) Paying to change the use class to COM, in which case the registration would not need to be renewed the following year if it is not being used; or

(b) Paying the permanent trailer registration fee one time and having the vehicle be licensed.

(12) If I need to purchase new plates because of changing the use class or because the plates were issued prior to January 1, 1987, do I need to pay replacement plate fees?

~~((No. You would only pay the reflectorization fee in RCW 46.16.237 and the plate fee in RCW 46.16.650))~~ Yes, under RCW 46.17.200.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 06-21-027, filed 10/9/06, effective 11/9/06)

WAC 308-96A-210 Gross weight—Transfer of gross weight license to new owner. (1) Is a gross weight license transferable to a new owner at the time of transfer of ownership?

~~((Yes. A gross weight license of twelve thousand pounds or less is transferred to a new owner at the time of transfer of ownership of the vehicle.))~~ Only for a gross weight license of fourteen thousand pounds or more. If the seller has signed off the gross weight license, the gross weight license of fourteen thousand pounds or more may be transferred to the new owner at the time of transfer of ownership of the vehicle. The seller also has the option of retaining the gross weight license to transfer to a replacement vehicle as provided in WAC 308-96A-220.

(2) What happens if the gross weight license is neither transferred to the new owner or a replacement vehicle?

Any gross weight credit not transferred to the new owner or to a replacement vehicle is forfeit and is not refunded.

(3) What will be the start date of the gross weight license when transferred to the new owner?

~~((a) The new gross weight license start date for twelve thousand pounds or less is the first day of current registration year; or~~

~~(b))~~ The new gross weight license start date for fourteen thousand pounds or more is the first day of the registration month in which application for transfer of ownership is made. A gross weight license cannot be purchased for a partial registration month. For example: If the current gross weight license start date was the 24th, the expiration is on the 23rd, and an application for transfer of ownership is made on the 17th, then the effective date of the new gross weight license is the 24th of the current registration month.

(4) What would the new gross weight expiration date be?

~~((a) If the current declared gross weight is twelve thousand pounds or less, the new gross weight expiration date is the same as the vehicle registration expiration date; or~~

~~(b))~~ If the current declared gross weight is fourteen thousand pounds or more, the gross weight expiration date will remain the same

as is currently in effect. You may choose to purchase additional months of gross weight not to exceed the vehicle registration expiration date.

(5) How many months' gross weight fees will I be charged when I apply for transfer of ownership?

You will be charged for the number of months from the start date of the new gross weight license to the expiration of the new gross weight license at the rate of the declared gross weight amount. Credit will be given as provided in subsection (6) of this section. You will also be charged for the permit fees as defined in RCW ((~~46.16.135~~)) 46.16A.455, when applicable, in addition to all other fees required to license the vehicle.

(6) Will I receive credit for gross weight fees that have already been paid?

If the previous owner has provided you with the signed off gross weight license, and the gross weight credit is fifteen dollars or more, you will receive dollar value credit for the number of months from the start date of the new gross weight license to the expiration of the current gross weight license and at the rate of the declared gross weight of the current gross weight license. However, you must surrender the current gross weight license in order to receive credit. If the gross weight license is lost, stolen, or destroyed, you must provide an affidavit of loss and a statement from the seller that the gross weight license has not been, or will not be, transferred to another vehicle. You will not receive credit for the monthly gross weight permit fees as defined in RCW ((~~46.16.135~~)) 46.16A.455.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 01-17-017, filed 8/3/01, effective 9/3/01)

WAC 308-96A-260 Assignment of original registration year. How are registration years assigned?

Vehicles licensed for the first time in this state will have expiration dates assigned under RCW ((~~46.16.006~~)) 46.16A.020 except as follows:

(1) Fleet vehicles will have a registration year ending December 31. A full month's fees are charged for any partial month.

(2) City, state, and county exempt vehicles using propane, butane, or natural gas will have a June 30th expiration date for special fuel billing purposes. This does not apply to federal exempt vehicles, which are required to be registered annually and pay the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) fee at the time of registration renewal.

(3) Vehicles delivered on dealer temporary permits must be assigned expiration dates based on date of delivery as documented by the dealer.

(4) A February 29th expiration date will be reassigned to March 1st.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 09-20-078, filed 10/6/09, effective 11/6/09)

WAC 308-96A-300 Changing assigned registration year. When will the assigned registration year of a vehicle be changed?

(1) The department will change the registration year of a vehicle if the vehicle remains unlicensed for more than the entire assigned registration year.

(2) The registered owner may request a change of registration expiration month. This can only be done at the time of renewal and requires the registered owner to purchase more than twelve months of registration, limited to the vehicle field system constraints and license tab availability.

(3) When the vehicle is being added to a fleet.

(4) When ~~((a vehicle has been sold and the registration is no longer valid. (Example: When a vehicle has been sold with expired tabs, a new expiration date will be assigned at the time of registration renewal.))~~ you took ownership of a vehicle that is being transferred, unless it met one of the exemptions in RCW 46.16A.200, or the vehicle is registered as a title purpose only or has one of the following nonstandard plates on it at the time of transfer:

- (a) Horseless carriage plates;
- (b) Collector vehicle plates; or
- (c) Restored plates.

(5) When the registered owner is a member of the armed forces returning to Washington state after being stationed outside of Washington in accordance with RCW ~~((46.16.006))~~ 46.16A.020.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 13-04-007, filed 1/24/13, effective 2/24/13)

WAC 308-96A-530 Veterans remembrance and military service award license plate emblems. (1) What license plate emblems are available?

The following license plate emblems are available:

- (a) Veteran's remembrance emblems with the words "U.S. veteran";
- (b) Military service award emblems in RCW 46.18.295;
- (c) Distinguished Flying Cross.

(2) **Who may purchase license plate emblems?** Only persons qualified under RCW 46.18.295 may purchase license plate emblems.

(3) **What will I receive when I purchase license plate emblems?** In addition to a receipt, you will receive an emblem package including: One U.S. veteran emblem, military service award emblem, or Distinguished Flying Cross emblem; and any two of the following:

- (a) Campaign ribbon remembrance emblem.
- (b) U.S. flag emblem.

(4) **What campaign ribbon remembrance emblems or military service award emblems are available?** In addition to those in RCW 46.18.295, the following emblems are available:

- (a) Afghanistan Campaign Medal.
- (b) Armed Forces Services Medal.
- (c) Iraq Campaign Medal.
- (d) Korean Defense Medal.
- (e) Kosovo Campaign Medal.

- (f) Merchant Marines Atlantic War Zone Medal.
- (g) Merchant Marines Middle East War Zone Medal.
- (h) Merchant Marines Pacific War Zone Medal.
- (i) National Defense Medal.
- (j) War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.
- (k) War on Terrorism Service Medal.

(5) **How much do license plate emblem packages cost?** License plate emblem packages cost ten dollars per package, in addition to fees authorized in RCW 46.17.040(2).

(6) **How do I display my license plate emblems?** In addition to the requirements and limitations in RCW 46.16A.210:

(a) When the veteran emblem, military service award emblem, or Distinguished Flying Cross emblem is displayed on a license plate, it must be displayed between the bottom license plate bolt holes;

(b) U.S. flags and emblems described in subsection (4) of this section must be displayed on the outside of each bottom license plate bolt hole. No more than two flags or small emblems may be affixed to any one license plate;

(c) For two-plated vehicles, you may display the emblems on either the front or rear license plate. You may buy a second package if you want to display emblems on both license plates.

Note: When a license plate displaying veteran's remembrance emblems is transferred to a new owner, the emblems must be removed.

(7) **Do the license plate emblems on my front license plate have to match the emblems on the rear license plate?** No, emblems displayed on the front license plate do not need to match emblems displayed on the rear license plate.

(8) **May I obtain a replacement or additional license plate emblem package?** Yes:

(a) If you choose to purchase an additional set, you will be charged the fee in subsection (5) of this section; or

(b) When the original emblems become faded or unrecognizable, you may obtain a replacement set at no fee(~~;~~ or

~~(c) When the license plates are replaced as required by the mandatory plate replacement law, you may obtain a replacement set at no fee)).~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 13-23-056, filed 11/15/13, effective 12/16/13)

WAC 308-96A-545 Gold Star license plate. (1) **What is a Gold Star license plate?** The Gold Star license plate recognizes the eligible family members of United States armed forces members who have died while in service to their country or as a result of such service.

(2) **Who qualifies as an eligible family member of a member of the United States armed forces?** Eligible family members are listed in RCW 46.18.245. For purposes of this section, a widow or widower includes the surviving member of a registered domestic partnership.

(3) **What is required to purchase a Gold Star plate?** A copy of the certification letter to a qualifying widow, widower, parent, or child provided by the Washington state department of veterans affairs (WDVA) is required. The letter will be used in addition to a special plate application to purchase the plate. No other documentation is required.

(4) **Can a Gold Star plate be transferred to a new owner?** No. The plate may only be transferred to a vehicle owned by the same registered owner who was certified as a qualifying widow, widower, parent, or child by WDVA. The plate cannot be transferred to a different registered owner. If the widow, widower, parent, or child transfers the plate to a new car registered to them, they are required to pay the plate transfer fee.

(5) **What fees are required to purchase the plate?** There is no special plate fee or special plate renewal fee for the Gold Star plate. The registered owner must pay all licensing and filing fees.

(6) ~~((Is the plate subject to the mandatory plate replacement? Yes, the plate must be replaced every seven years due to mandatory plate replacement requirements. Customers will not be charged the plate replacement fees, or the fee to keep their same number.~~

~~(7))~~ **Can a Gold Star plate background be personalized?** Yes. A Gold Star plate background can be personalized; however, the customer is required to pay all fees associated with a personalized plate original purchase or renewal.

~~((8))~~ **(7) Is a commercial vehicle eligible for a Gold Star plate as long as it is in the name of the qualifying widow, widower, parent, or child and not a business name?** Yes.

~~((9))~~ **(8) Can a prorated vehicle display a Gold Star plate if the vehicle is under the name of the widow, widower, parent, or child that is eligible for this plate?** No per chapter 46.87 RCW.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 11-01-118, filed 12/20/10, effective 1/20/11)

WAC 308-96A-550 Vehicle special collegiate license plates. (1) **What are the criteria for establishing collegiate license plates?** Application for license plate series from an institution of higher education under RCW ~~((46.16.324))~~ 46.18.225 may be submitted to the department through the process established in RCW ~~((46.16.735 and 46.16.745))~~ 46.18.100 and 46.18.110. In addition the following criteria must be satisfied:

(a) The plates will consist of numbers, letters, colors, and a symbol or artwork approved by the department.

(b) The numbers and letters combination may not exceed seven positions.

(c) The plate series will not conflict with existing license plates.

(d) The plate design must provide at least four positions to accommodate serial numbering.

(e) The plate must not carry connotations which are offensive to good taste or decency, which may be misleading or vulgar in nature, a racial, ethnic, lifestyle, or gender slur, related to illegal activities or substances, blasphemous, contrary to the department's mission to promote highway safety, or a duplication of other license plates provided in chapter 46.16A RCW.

(f) The plate must be designed so that it is legible and clearly identifiable by law enforcement personnel as an official Washington state issued license plate. A collegiate license plate design may not be issued in combination with any other license plate configuration including special, personalized, or exempt license plate(s). A colle-

giate license plate design may be issued in combination with a personalized plate as described in RCW (~~(46.16.601)~~) 46.18.277.

(2) **How is the design for a collegiate plate determined?** The institution of higher education must provide a design, including color and dimension specifications of the logo requested on the special collegiate license plate series, with their application. Design services may be purchased through the department. The design must be legible and clearly identifiable as a Washington state plate to be approved by the department, Washington state patrol, and the legislature.

(3) **Who may apply for the special collegiate license plate?** Upon receipt of all applicable fees, the special collegiate license plate will be issued to a registered owner of the vehicle.

(4) **When ownership of a vehicle issued collegiate license plates is sold, traded, or otherwise transferred, what happens to the plates?** The owner may relinquish the plates to the new vehicle owner or remove the plates from the vehicle for transfer to a replacement vehicle. If the plates are removed from the vehicle, a transfer fee to another vehicle shall be charged as provided in RCW (~~(46.16.316)~~) 46.17.200(1).

(5) **Will any new fees be charged when the collegiate license plates are sold, traded, or otherwise transferred?** If the registration expiration date for the new vehicle exceeds the old vehicle registration expiration date, an abated fee for the collegiate plate will be charged at the rate of one-twelfth of the annual collegiate plate fee for each exceeding month and partial month. If the new registration expiration date is sooner than the old expiration date, a refund will not be made for the remaining registration period.

(6) **Will I be able to retain my current collegiate license plate ((number/letter)) number and letter combination if my plate is lost, defaced, or destroyed?** Yes. Upon the loss, defacement, or destruction of one or both collegiate license plates, the owner will make application for new collegiate plates or other license plates and pay the fees described in RCW (~~(46.16.270 and 46.16.233)~~) 46.17.200 as applicable. See note following subsection (~~(+9)~~) (8) of this section.

(7) (~~Will I ever have to replace my collegiate license plate?~~ Yes, the collegiate license plates are subject to the seven-year vehicle license plate replacement schedule.

~~(+8)~~) **How does the department define "current license plate registration"?** For the purposes of this section, a current license plate registration is defined as: A registration that has not expired or a registration where it is less than one year past the expiration date.

~~(+9)~~) (8) **When I am required to replace my collegiate license plate, will I receive the same license plate ((number/letter)) number and letter combination?** Yes. In addition to the license plate replacement fee, you may pay an additional plate retention fee to retain the same ((number/letter)) number and letter combination as shown on the current vehicle computer record as long as the plate meets a current approved license plate configuration and background.