

## MICHIGAN

### **Definitions**

**Assembled Vehicle.** One or more of the following:

- (a) A vehicle that is built from new or used materials or parts by a person not recognized as a manufacturer.
- (b) A vehicle that has been altered or modified to the extent that it no longer reflects its original manufacturer configuration.
- (c) A vehicle that has had its body replaced with a different style of body unit from another vehicle.
- (d) A vehicle that has been assembled from a kit.
- (e) An off-road vehicle, regardless of whether the original manufacturer's certificate of origin specifies that the vehicle is an off-road vehicle.

**Complete Restoration.** (also called "ground up" restoration) involves the disassembly and reconditioning of the entire vehicle to like new or better condition.

**Historic Vehicle.** A vehicle that is over 25 years old, and that is owned solely as a collector's item and for participation in club activities, exhibitions, tours, parades, and similar uses, including mechanical testing, but is not used for general transportation. For purposes of this section, use of the vehicle during the month of August in each year is considered an exhibition.

**Older Model Vehicle.** A vehicle weighing 8,000 pounds or less, manufactured in the sixth model year immediately preceding the current model year, or manufactured in any model year before that model year; or, if more than 8,000 pounds, a vehicle manufactured in a model year preceding the fifteenth model year before the current model year.

**Reconditioning.** Involves improving certain portions of the vehicle. The work involved is usually more than paint work but less than restoration. Example: replacing quarter panels, door skins or floorboards without restoring the engine compartment or drive train.

## **Michigan DMV Guidance**

An assembled vehicle is defined as:

1. One built (assembled) from new or used materials and parts by someone not recognized as a manufacturer (usually an individual). Example: a homemade vehicle.
2. One altered or modified to the extent that it no longer reflects its original manufacturer configuration. Example: a Volkswagen made into a dune buggy.
3. One which has had its body unit (passenger body or pickup truck cab) replaced with a different style body unit from another vehicle, altering the vehicle's original configuration. Example: A Ford pickup truck has its cab replaced with a Chevrolet cab or with a different-style Ford cab, altering its original manufacturer configuration.  
A vehicle which has had its body unit (passenger body or pickup truck cab) replaced with an identical style body unit that doesn't alter the vehicle's original configuration is retitled as a reconstructed vehicle. Example: A 2014 Ford pickup truck has its cab replaced with an identical cab from a 2012 Ford pickup. A new state-assigned VIN is issued. The original year and make are retained.
4. One assembled from a kit designed for on-road use (often called "kit cars"), even if a Manufacturers Certificate of Origin is provided.

Note: Off-road vehicles (ORVs), all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off-road dune buggies can be titled as an assembled vehicle for on-road use.

Procedure to title an assembled vehicle:

1. You will need ownership documents for all vehicles or major component parts used in assembling the vehicle. This includes:
  - Titles
  - Assigned ownership documents (Example: Release of Abandoned Vehicle notice from police department)
  - Original bills of sale

The following parts must be accounted for in the ownership documents presented:

- Motor vehicles
  - Engine, transmission, body parts (doors, front and rear clips) and frame, including axles
- Motorcycles
  - Engine, frame, front end assembly including the fork, wheels and seat

- Titled trailers or trailer coaches
  - Running gear (frame, axle and wheels)
- 2. A certification statement summarizing the vehicle's assembly will be required. The statement should include:
  - A description of the vehicle and its parts
  - The name of the person who assembled the vehicle
  - When and where the vehicle was assembled or reconstructed
  - Any special information about the vehicle to assist the Michigan Department of State investigator
- 3. A Vehicle Number/On-Road Equipment Inspection (form TR-54) completed by a Michigan police officer must be submitted. The inspection will verify the vehicle has all equipment required for on-road registration. Note: Completion of the TR-54 form by law enforcement doesn't qualify the vehicle for a title or registration. Michigan Department of State regulation agents conduct a final inspection of the vehicle before placement of the assembled VIN sticker.
- 4. All assembled vehicles require a state-assigned Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). There is a \$10 fee for this.
- 5. When applying for your assembled vehicle title, tax is due on all parts, unless it was paid at time of purchase.
- 6. Assembled vehicles aren't eligible for temporary registrations. A Regulatory Monitoring Division agent will contact you to schedule the final inspection appointment and vehicle inspection location. Upon passing the final inspection, the agent will place the assigned VIN sticker on the vehicle. The new title will be mailed.
- 7. Before a utility vehicle or an all-terrain vehicle can be used on public roads, it must pass the full equipment and safety inspection as defined on the TR-54 form. Be aware that a receipt is required confirming that the installed windshield is U.S. Department of Transportation certified and is laminated glass. A polycarbonate or Plexi-glass windshield isn't acceptable. Also, the parking brake must be mechanical, and not hydraulic. Mechanical brake calipers activated by a hand lever and cable assembly can be bought from aftermarket vendors. The secretary of state doesn't provide lists of vendors.

## **Vehicle Restoration**

Does your heart beat faster when you see a restored or modified '34 Ford or '57 Chevy? Are you dreaming about restoring your own classic car? This information may be helpful if you decide to pay someone to improve or restore the condition of your older or classic vehicle.

The Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Information Security, Regulatory Monitoring Division, is responsible for administering the Motor Vehicle Service & Repair Act. This law regulates the diagnosis, service and repair of motor vehicles. The Regulatory Monitoring Division regulates motor vehicle repair shops, investigates complaints and informs consumers of their rights.

Complaints investigated by the division involving restoration work are usually complex. This makes them very difficult to resolve to the satisfaction of the customer or the restoration shop. Use this information to avoid many of the pitfalls that may occur when restoration work is being performed.

### **What You Should Know**

- Only repair facilities registered with the Michigan Department of State can perform restoration work for compensation. Ask to see the registration certificate before contracting for repairs.
- Complaints involving restoration work usually arise because there is not a clear understanding of the work desired and the costs involved.
- Restoration work typically falls into three categories: paint work, reconditioning, and complete restoration.

**Paint Work** includes the preparation of the surfaces to be painted and the application of paint to specific panels or to the entire vehicle. This may or may not include dent and rust removal and/or panel repair.

**Reconditioning** involves improving certain portions of the vehicle. The work involved is usually more than paint work but less than restoration. Example: replacing quarter panels, door skins or floorboards without restoring the engine compartment or drive train.

**Complete Restoration** (also called "ground up" restoration) involves the disassembly and reconditioning of the entire vehicle to like new or better condition.

### **Other Important Information**

- There are various levels of quality within the three restoration categories.
- The better the understanding regarding the quality of work desired, the greater the chance you will be satisfied with the work performed.
- Talking with others who have had restoration work done can help you identify a good restoration shop.

- Have the prospective restoration shop provide you with a list of customers who have had similar work performed. Check to see if they are satisfied with the work performed and the price agreed upon.
- Obtain a detailed written estimate before work is begun. (Because it can be difficult to accurately assess the cost of restoration work, it may be necessary for the repair facility to disassemble or remove paint from your vehicle to determine the extent of work needed. Obtain a written estimate for the cost of disassembly or paint removal).
- Discuss how long it will take to perform the work desired. Establish a project completion date.
- Find out if the shop encourages periodic visits to check on the progress of the work.
- Ask for a revised estimate each time significant changes are made to the original contract or if work is performed in stages.
- If the price quoted for the desired work is beyond your budget, it may be necessary to modify the amount of work you want done or remove the vehicle from the restoration shop.
- Obtain a final invoice that details the work performed. If, during the restoration process, you are periodically billed for time and materials, have the restoration shop explain the charges if they are unclear. Ask that photographs be provided.
- While the law does not prohibit a restoration shop from taking money in advance for work being performed, it is not a practice recommended by the Regulatory Monitoring Division. Advance payment can diminish your ability to work out a mutually agreeable resolution if a dispute arises.

### **If You Have a Dispute**

First, try to settle the dispute directly with the restoration shop. If you are unable to resolve the matter, you may file a complaint with the Regulatory Monitoring Division at 1-888-SOS-MICH (1-888-767-6424) or online.

## **Michigan Laws**

### **From Michigan Compiled Laws:**

#### **M.C.L.A. 257.218. Special or foreign vehicles; registration**

Sec. 218. (1) If a vehicle to be registered is a specially constructed, reconstructed, or foreign vehicle, that fact shall be stated in the application. With reference to each foreign vehicle which has been previously registered in another state, the owner shall surrender to the secretary of state all registration plates, registration certificates, and certificates of title or other evidence of foreign registration, as are in the owner's possession or under the owner's control, except as provided in subsections (2) and (3).

(2) If the owner in the course of interstate operation of a vehicle desires to retain registration of a vehicle in another state, the owner shall not be required to surrender, but shall submit for inspection, evidence of the foreign registration and the secretary of state, upon a proper showing and upon application and payment of the registration fee, shall register the vehicle in this state.

(3) If the owner of a vehicle previously registered in another state in which the certificate of title or other proof of ownership of a vehicle is in the possession of a holder of a security interest in the vehicle, the owner of the vehicle may apply to the secretary of state for registration of the vehicle for this state after payment of all fees required by this act and submission of proof of ownership of the vehicle to the secretary of state.

#### **M.C.L.A. 257.803a. Historic motor vehicle, use, fee, registration, expiration, revocation**

Sec. 803a. (1) The secretary of state may issue to the owner of an historic vehicle an historic vehicle registration plate which shall bear the inscription "historical vehicle--Michigan" and the registration number.

(2) The owner of an historic vehicle applying for an historic vehicle registration plate or a registration tab under this section shall pay a fee of \$30.00, shall certify that the vehicle for which the registration is requested is owned and operated solely as an historic vehicle, and shall certify that the vehicle has been inspected and found safe to operate on the highways of this state. The registration certificate need not specify the weight of the historic vehicle. The registration issued under this section is transferable to another historic vehicle upon completion of the application for transfer and payment of the fee in the manner described in section 809.1

(3) A registration issued under this section shall expire on April 15 in the tenth year following the date of issuance of the registration.

(4) The secretary of state may revoke a registration issued under this section, for cause shown and after a hearing, for failure of the applicant to comply with this section, for use of the

vehicle for which the registration was issued for purposes other than those enumerated in section 20a,2 or because the vehicle is not safe to operate on the highways of this state.

**M.C.L.A. 257.803p. Special registration plates; historic vehicles, authentic Michigan registration plates**

Sec. 803p. (1) The owner of an historic vehicle may use an authentic Michigan registration plate of the same year as the model year in which the vehicle was manufactured instead of an historic vehicle registration plate issued under section 803a1 by presenting the authentic plate number and year to the secretary of state at the time of registration. The owner of an historic vehicle may purchase an authentic Michigan registration plate from another person and restore the plate to its authentic condition for use pursuant to this section. An authentically restored plate shall be considered an authentic Michigan registration plate.

(2) The owner of an historic vehicle applying to use an authentic Michigan registration plate under this section shall pay a fee of \$35.00, shall certify that the vehicle for which the registration is requested is owned and operated solely as an historic vehicle, and shall certify that the vehicle has been inspected and found safe to operate on the highways of this state. The registration certificate need not specify the weight of the historic vehicle. The registration issued under this section is not transferable to another historic vehicle.

(3) A registration issued under this section shall remain valid until the registrant either sells, transfers, or scraps the vehicle or modifies the vehicle in a manner that requires the issuance of a new certificate of title for the vehicle under this act.

(4) After a hearing and for cause shown, the secretary of state may revoke a registration issued under this section for failure of the applicant to comply with this section, for use of the vehicle for which the registration was issued for purposes other than those enumerated in section 20a,2 or because the vehicle is not safe to operate on the highways of this state.

**M.C.L.A. 257.222. Registration certificate and certificate of title; issuance; flood, rebuilt, rebuilt salvage, salvage, or scrap certificate; contents; delivery; reproduction, alteration, counterfeiting, forging, duplication, or use of certificate of title or document releasing security interest; penalties; color of certificate of title**

Sec. 222. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this act, the secretary of state shall issue a registration certificate when registering a vehicle upon receipt of the required fees. Except as otherwise provided in this act, the secretary of state shall issue a certificate of title, unless a security interest is entered electronically under section 238,1 upon receipt of the required fees. The secretary of state shall issue a flood, rebuilt, rebuilt salvage, salvage, or scrap certificate of title for a vehicle brought into this state from another state or jurisdiction that has a flood, rebuilt, salvage, or scrap certificate of title issued by that other state or jurisdiction.

(2) The secretary of state shall deliver the registration certificate to the owner. The certificate shall contain on its face the date issued, the name and address of the owner, the registration

number assigned to the vehicle, and a description of the vehicle as determined by the secretary of state.

(3) The certificate of title shall be manufactured in a manner to prohibit as nearly as possible the ability to reproduce, alter, counterfeit, forge, or duplicate the certificate of title without ready detection. The certificate shall contain all of the following on its face:

(a) The identical information required on the face of the registration certificate.

(b) If the vehicle is a motor vehicle, the number of miles, not including the tenths of a mile, registered on the vehicle's odometer at the time of transfer.

(c) Whether the vehicle is to be used or has been used as a taxi, as a police vehicle, or by a political subdivision of this state, unless the vehicle is owned by a dealer and loaned or leased to a political subdivision of this state for use as a driver education vehicle.

(d) Whether the vehicle is a salvage vehicle.

(e) If the vehicle has previously been issued a rebuilt certificate of title from this state or a comparable certificate of title from any other state or jurisdiction.

(f) Whether the vehicle has been issued a scrap certificate of title from this state or a comparable certificate of title from any other state or jurisdiction.

(g) Whether the vehicle is a flood vehicle or has previously been issued a flood certificate of title from this state or any other state or jurisdiction.

(h) Whether the owner or co-owner or lessee or co-lessee of the vehicle is subject to registration denial under section 219(1)(d).2

(i) A statement of the owner's title and of all security interests in the vehicle or in an accessory on the vehicle as set forth in the application.

(j) The date that the application was filed.

(k) Any other information that the secretary of state may require.

(4) The certificate of title shall contain a form for assignment of title or interest and warranty of title by the owner with space for the notation of a security interest in the vehicle and in an accessory on the vehicle, which at the time of a transfer shall be certified and signed, and space for a written odometer mileage statement that is required upon transfer under section 233a.3 The certificate of title shall include a description of the proper procedure for transferring the title of a motor vehicle and for maintaining records of that transfer as provided under this act, including, but not limited to, the electronic lien title system established under section 241.4 The certificate of title may also contain other forms that the secretary of state considers necessary to facilitate the effective administration of this act. The certificate shall bear the coat of arms of this state.



(5) The secretary of state shall mail or deliver the certificate of title to the owner or other person as the owner may direct in a separate instrument, in a form prescribed by the secretary of state. However, as provided under section 238, the secretary of state is not required to issue a title to the owner of a vehicle if the title is subject to a security interest.

(6) A person who intentionally reproduces, alters, counterfeits, forges, or duplicates a certificate of title or a document releasing a security interest or who uses a reproduced, altered, counterfeited, forged, or duplicated certificate of title or document releasing a security interest shall be punished as follows:

(a) If the intent of reproduction, alteration, counterfeiting, forging, duplication, or use was to commit or aid in the commission of an offense punishable by imprisonment for 1 or more years, the person committing the reproduction, alteration, counterfeiting, forging, duplication, or use is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for a period equal to that which could be imposed for the commission of the offense the person had the intent to aid or commit. The court may also assess a fine of not more than \$10,000.00 against the person.

(b) If the intent of the reproduction, alteration, counterfeiting, forging, duplication, or use was to commit or aid in the commission of an offense punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year, the person committing the reproduction, alteration, counterfeiting, forging, duplication, or use is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

(7) The certificate of title for a police vehicle, a vehicle owned by a political subdivision of this state, a salvage vehicle, a rebuilt vehicle, a scrap vehicle, or a flood vehicle shall be different in color from the certificate of title for all other vehicles unless the vehicle is loaned or leased to a political subdivision of this state for use as a driver education vehicle.

(8) A scrap certificate of title shall contain a legend that the vehicle is not to be titled or registered and is to be used for parts or scrap metal only.

(9) A certificate of title shall not be issued for a vehicle that has had a salvage certificate of title unless the certificate of title contains the legend "rebuilt salvage".

**M.C.L.A. 500.2118. Underwriting rules for automobile insurance; basis**

Sec. 2118. (1) As a condition of maintaining its certificate of authority, an insurer shall not refuse to insure, refuse to continue to insure, or limit coverage available to an eligible person for automobile insurance, except in accordance with underwriting rules established as provided in this section and sections 2119 and 2120.1

(2) The underwriting rules that an insurer may establish for automobile insurance must be based only on the following:

(a) Criteria identical to the standards set forth in section 2103(1).2

(b) The insurance eligibility point accumulation in excess of the amounts established by section 2103(1) of a member of the household of the eligible person insured or to be insured, if the member of the household usually accounts for 10% or more of the use of a vehicle insured or to be insured. For purposes of this subdivision, a person who is the principal driver for 1 automobile insurance policy is rebuttably presumed not to usually account for more than 10% of the use of other vehicles of the household not insured under the policy of that person.

(c) With respect to a vehicle insured or to be insured, substantial modifications from the vehicle's original manufactured state for purposes of increasing the speed or acceleration capabilities of the vehicle.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in section 2116a or 2116b,3 failure by the person to provide proof that insurance required by section 31014 was maintained in force with respect to any vehicle that was both owned by the person and driven or moved by the person or by a member of the household of the person during the 6-month period immediately preceding application. The proof must take the form of a certification by the person on a form provided by the insurer that the vehicle was not driven or moved without maintaining the insurance required by section 3101 during the 6-month period immediately preceding application.

(e) Type of vehicle insured or to be insured, based on 1 of the following, without regard to the age of the vehicle:

(i) The vehicle is of limited production or of custom manufacture.

(ii) The insurer does not have a rate lawfully in effect for the type of vehicle.

(iii) The vehicle represents exposure to extraordinary expense for repair or replacement under comprehensive or collision coverage.

(f) Use of a vehicle insured or to be insured for transportation of passengers for hire, for rental purposes, or for commercial purposes. Rules under this subdivision must not be based on the use of a vehicle for volunteer or charitable purposes or for which reimbursement for normal operating expenses is received.

(g) Payment of a minimum deposit at the time of application or renewal, not to exceed the smallest deposit required under an extended payment or premium finance plan customarily used by the insurer.

(h) For purposes of requiring comprehensive deductibles of not more than \$150.00, or of refusing to insure if the person refuses to accept a required deductible, the claim experience of the person with respect to comprehensive coverage.

(i) Total abstinence from the consumption of alcoholic beverages except if such beverages are consumed as part of a religious ceremony. However, an insurer shall not use an underwriting rule based on this subdivision unless the insurer was authorized to transact automobile insurance in this state before January 1, 1981, and has consistently used such an underwriting

rule as part of the insurer's automobile insurance underwriting since being authorized to transact automobile insurance in this state.

(j) One or more incidents involving a threat, harassment, or physical assault by the insured or applicant for insurance on an insurer employee, agent, or agent employee while acting within the scope of his or her employment, if a report of the incident was filed with an appropriate law enforcement agency.

## **Michigan Equipment Exemptions**

### **M.C.L.A. 257.685. Head lamps; number, height; auxiliary or spot lamps**

Sec. 685. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), a motor vehicle shall be equipped with at least 2 head lamps with at least 1 head lamp on each side of the front of the motor vehicle, in compliance with this chapter. An implement of husbandry manufactured on or after January 1, 2007 shall comply with section 684a.1

(2) A motorcycle or moped shall be equipped with at least 1 and not more than 2 head lamps that comply with this chapter.

(3) A motorcycle or moped head lamp may be wired or equipped to allow either its upper beam or its lower beam, but not both, to modulate from a higher intensity to a lower intensity. A head lamp modulator installed on a motorcycle or moped with 2 head lamps shall be wired in a manner to prevent the head lamps from modulating at different rates or not in synchronization with each other. A head lamp modulator installed on a motorcycle or moped shall meet the standards prescribed in 49 CFR 571.108.

(4) Every head lamp upon a motor vehicle shall be located at a height measured from the center of the head lamp of not more than 54 inches nor less than 24 inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands.

(5) When a motor vehicle equipped with head lamps as required in this section is also equipped with auxiliary lamps or a spot lamp or any other lamp on the front of the motor vehicle projecting a beam of an intensity greater than 300 candlepower, not more than a total of 4 of those lamps on the front of a vehicle shall be lighted at a time when upon a highway.

(6) A motor vehicle licensed as an **historic vehicle** is exempt from the requirements of this section **if the vehicle as originally equipped failed to meet these requirements**. An historic vehicle shall not be operated in violation of section 684.2

### **M.C.L.A. 257.686. Rear lamps; visibility of registration plates**

Sec. 686. (1) A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or vehicle which is being drawn in a train of vehicles shall be equipped with at least 1 rear lamp mounted on the rear, which, when lighted as required by this act, shall emit a red light plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear.

(2) Either a tail lamp or a separate lamp shall be constructed and placed so as to illuminate with a white light the rear registration plate and render it clearly legible from a distance of 50 feet to the rear. A tail lamp or tail lamps, together with any separate lamp for illuminating the rear registration plate, shall be wired so as to be lighted whenever the head lamps or auxiliary driving lamps are lighted.

(3) A motor vehicle licensed as an **historic vehicle** is exempt from the requirements of this section **if the vehicle as originally equipped failed to meet these requirements.**

#### **M.C.L.A. 257.697. Signal lamps and devices**

Sec. 697. (a) A motor vehicle may be equipped and when required under this chapter shall be equipped with the following signal lamps or devices:

(1) A stop lamp on the rear which shall emit a red or amber light and which shall be actuated upon application of the service or foot brake and which may but need not be incorporated with a tail lamp.

(2) A lamp or lamps or mechanical signal device which conveys an intelligible signal or warning to another driver approaching from the rear.

(b) A stop lamp shall be capable of being seen and distinguished from a distance of 100 feet to the rear both during normal sunlight and at nighttime and a signal lamp or lamps indicating intention to turn shall be capable of being seen and distinguished during daytime and nighttime from a distance of 100 feet both to the front and rear. When a vehicle is equipped with a stop lamp or other signal lamps, the lamp or lamps shall at all times be maintained in good working condition. A stop lamp or signal lamp shall not project a glaring or dazzling light.

(c) All mechanical signal devices shall be self-illuminated when in use at the times mentioned in section 684.1

(d) A motor vehicle licensed as an **historic vehicle** is exempt from the requirements of this section **if the vehicle as originally equipped failed to meet these requirements.**

#### **M.C.L.A. 257.697a. Sale or operation of certain vehicles unlawful; exception**

Sec. 697a. No person shall sell or offer for sale or operate on the highways any vehicles **manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1955**, except those exempted from certificate of title requirements under the provisions of section 216 of chapter 2 of this act,<sup>1</sup> as amended, unless it is equipped with mechanical or electrical turn signals meeting the requirements of section 697.2 This section shall not apply to any motorcycle or motor-driven cycle.

#### **M.C.L.A. 257.697b. Rear stop lamps**

Sec. 697b. A person shall not sell or offer for sale or operate on the highways a vehicle **manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1965**, except those exempted from certificate of title requirements under the provisions of section 216,<sup>1</sup> unless the vehicle is equipped with 2 rear stop lamps except on a motorcycle or moped meeting the requirements of section 697.2 A motorcycle or moped shall be required to have 1 rear stop lamp.

#### **M.C.L.A. 257.706. Horns and other warning devices**

Sec. 706. (a) A motor vehicle, including a motorcycle or moped, when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 200 feet but a horn or other warning device shall not emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle. The driver of a motor vehicle shall when reasonably necessary to insure safe operation give audible warning with his horn but shall not otherwise use the horn when upon a highway.

(b) A vehicle shall not be equipped with nor shall a person use upon a vehicle a siren, whistle, or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section.

(c) A commercial vehicle may be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal.

(d) An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a siren, whistle, air horn, or bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 500 feet, but the siren shall not be used except when the vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law. In those cases the driver of the vehicle shall sound the siren when necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the approach of the vehicle.

(e) A motor vehicle licensed as **an historic vehicle may be equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell which may be used when participating in a parade, exhibition, tour, or similar event.**

#### **M.C.L.A. 257.708. View to rear, mirrors**

Sec. 708. A person shall not drive a motor vehicle on a highway which is so constructed or loaded as to prevent the driver from obtaining a view of the highway to the rear by looking backward from the driver's position, unless the vehicle is equipped with a mirror located so as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway to the rear of the vehicle. In addition all motor vehicles shall be equipped with an outside rearview mirror on the driver's side which shall be positioned to give the driver a rearviewing angle from the driver's side of the vehicle, except a motor vehicle licensed as an **historic vehicle if the vehicle was not originally equipped with an outside rearview mirror.** Rearview mirrors may be positioned on the helmet or visor worn by the operator of a motorcycle if the helmet is securely attached to the head of the operator. Every commercial vehicle of ½ ton capacity or more, operating upon the public highways of this state, shall be equipped with 2 mirrors, 1 on each side, adjusted so that the operator shall have a clear view of the highway behind the commercial vehicle. The outside mirrors shall not be considered to be a part of the vehicle for the purpose of determining the maximum width under section 717.1

#### **M.C.L.A. 257.708a. Windshields; exceptions; motorcycle**

Sec. 708a. A motor vehicle shall not be operated on the public highways of this state unless it is equipped with a windshield of sufficient dimensions to protect the driver and occupants from insects, other airborne objects, and highway surface water and debris, when the motor vehicle

is moving forward. A farm tractor, other implement of husbandry, and **historic vehicles as defined in section 803a1 are exempt from this section**. When a motorcycle operated on the public highways of this state in excess of 35 miles per hour is not equipped with a windshield, the operator shall wear goggles with transparent lenses or a transparent face shield or eyeglasses, which goggles, eyeglasses, or face shield shall be of shatter resistant material and of sufficient size to protect his eyes against insects, other airborne material, and highway surface water and debris.

**M.C.L.A. 257.709. Windshields; windows; wipers; obstruction of view**

Sec. 709. (1) A person shall not operate a motor vehicle with any of the following:

...

4) Except as provided in subsection (5), the windshield on each motor vehicle shall be equipped with a device for cleaning rain, snow, or other moisture from the windshield, which device shall be so constructed as to be controlled or operated by the driver of the vehicle. A vehicle licensed as **an historical vehicle is exempt from this subsection if the vehicle was not originally equipped with such a device**. Each windshield wiper upon a motor vehicle shall be maintained in good working order.

...

**M.C.L.A. 257.710. Metal or plastic tracks, tires equipped with metal or plastic; studded tires; pneumatic tires; rules; sale of unsafe tires; unsafe tires**

Sec. 710. (a) A person shall not operate on a public highway of this state a vehicle or special mobile equipment which has metal or plastic track or a tire which is equipped with metal that comes in contact with the surface of the road or which has a partial contact of metal or plastic with the surface of the road, except as provided in subsections (c), (d), and (e).

(b) A person shall not operate on a highway a vehicle which has a tire that has on its periphery a block, stud, flange, cleat, spike, or other protuberance of a material other than rubber which projects beyond the tread of the traction surface of the tire, except as provided in subsections (c), (d), and (e). A person may, however, use farm machinery with a tire having a protuberance which will not injure a highway. A person may also use a tire chain of reasonable proportion upon a vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice, or other condition tending to cause a vehicle to skid.

(c) A person may operate on a highway a vehicle which has a pneumatic tire in which wire of .075 inches in diameter or less is embedded if the tire is constructed so that the percent of metal in contact with the highway does not exceed 5% of the total tire area in contact with the roadway, except that during the first 1,000 miles of use or operation of the tire the metal in contact with the highway shall not exceed 20% of the area.

(d) The department of state highways and transportation shall promulgate rules establishing acceptable standards to permit the use of a tire with studs or other traction devices to be used on a street or highway after April 1, 1975. The rules shall make separate provision for the extreme winter snow and ice conditions of the Upper Peninsula and the northern Lower Peninsula. The rules shall include a restriction on the amount and dimension of protrusions that may be allowed on a tire, the type of material that may be used in a stud, traction device, or tire, and the amount of road wear that a tire with studs or other traction devices may cause on a street or highway.

(e) A person may operate on a highway a vehicle which has a pneumatic tire in which are inserted ice grips or tire studs if the person is a law enforcement officer operating a vehicle owned by a law enforcement agency, a person operating an ambulance, or a United States postal service rural carrier driving a vehicle the rural carrier owns and maintains as a prerequisite to employment in the postal service.

(f) A person shall not operate a vehicle on a highway when a tire in use on that vehicle is unsafe as provided in subsection (h).

(g) A person in the business of selling tires shall not sell or offer for sale for highway use a tire which is unsafe as provided in subsection (h).

(h) A tire is unsafe if it is in any of the following conditions:

(i) Has a part of the belting material, tire cords, or plies exposed.

(ii) Has evidence of cord or tread separations.

(iii) Is worn to or below the minimum tread level in 2 or more adjacent major grooves at 3 or more locations spaced around the circumference of the tire. Minimum allowable tread levels are as follows:

motorcycles and moped

1/32 inch front and rear

passenger cars and vehicles weighing less than 10,000 pounds

2/32 inch front and rear

vehicles weighing 10,000 pounds or more

4/32 inch front and 2/32 rear

Measurements shall not be made at locations of tread wear indicators or tie bars. A motor vehicle **licensed as an historic vehicle under section 803a is exempt from the tread depth requirements of this subsection.**



(iv) Has a marking “not for highway use”, “for racing purposes only”, “for farm use only”, or “unsafe for highway use”.

(v) Has been regrooved or recut below the original tread design depth except in the case of special purpose designed tires having extra undertread rubber provided for this purpose and identified as those tires.

**M.C.L.A. 257.233a. Odometer mileage statement; tampering with odometer; records; penalties**

Sec. 233a. (1) When the owner of a registered motor vehicle transfers his or her title or interest in that vehicle, the transferor shall present to the transferee before delivery of the vehicle, written disclosure of odometer mileage by means of the certificate of title or a written statement signed by the transferor including the transferor's printed name, containing all of the following:

(a) The odometer reading at the time of transfer not to include the tenths of a mile or kilometer.

(b) The date of transfer.

(c) The transferor's name and current address.

(d) The transferee's name and current address.

(e) The identity of the vehicle, including its make, model, body type, year, and vehicle identification number.

(f) A reference to this section and comparable federal law, and a statement that failing to complete the title or form or providing false information may result in civil liability and civil or criminal penalties being imposed on the transferor.

(g) One of the following:

(i) A statement by the transferor certifying that to the best of his or her knowledge the odometer reading reflects the actual mileage of the vehicle.

(ii) If the transferor knows that the odometer reading reflects the amount of mileage in excess of the designed mechanical odometer limit, a statement to that effect.

(iii) If the transferor knows that the odometer reading differs from the mileage and the difference is greater than that caused by odometer calibration error, a statement that the odometer reading does not reflect the actual mileage and should not be relied upon. This notice shall include a warning notice to alert the transferee that a discrepancy exists between the odometer and the actual mileage.

(h) Space for the signature and printed name of the transferee, and the date of presentation to the transferee.

...

(5) The odometer information described in subsection (1) shall not be required for any of the following:

...

**(c) A vehicle that is 10 years old, or older.**

...

**M.C.L.A. 257.701. Single-beam road-lighting equipment, intensity**

Sec. 701. Head lamps arranged to provide a single distribution of light not supplemented by auxiliary driving lamps shall be permitted on **motor vehicles manufactured and sold prior to the effective date of this act** in lieu of multiple-beam road-lighting equipment herein specified if the single distribution of light complies with the following requirements and limitations:

1. The head lamps shall be so aimed that when the vehicle is not loaded none of the high-intensity portion of the light shall at a distance of 25 feet ahead project higher than a level of 5 inches below the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes, and in no case higher than 42 inches above the level on which the vehicle stands at a distance of 75 feet ahead.
2. The intensity shall be sufficient to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 200 feet.

**M.C.L.A. 257.697a. Sale or operation of certain vehicles unlawful; exception**

Sec. 697a. No person shall sell or offer for sale or operate on the highways any vehicles **manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1955**, except those exempted from certificate of title requirements under the provisions of section 216 of chapter 2 of this act,<sup>1</sup> as amended, unless it is equipped with mechanical or electrical turn signals meeting the requirements of section 697.2 This section shall not apply to any motorcycle or motor-driven cycle.

**M.C.L.A. 257.710e. Safety belt requirements; applicability; enforcement**

Sec. 710e. (1) This section does not apply to an operator or passenger of any of the following:

- (a) A motor vehicle manufactured before January 1, 1965.

...

(3) Each operator and front seat passenger of a motor vehicle operated on a street or highway in this state shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt except as follows:

- (a) A child who is less than 4 years of age shall be protected as required in section 710d.1

(b) A child who is 4 years of age or older but less than 8 years of age and who is less than 4 feet 9 inches in height shall be properly secured in a child restraint system in accordance with the child restraint manufacturer's and vehicle manufacturer's instructions and the standards prescribed in 49 CFR 571.213.

(4) If there are more passengers than safety belts available for use, and all safety belts in the motor vehicle are being utilized in compliance with this section, the operator of the motor vehicle is in compliance with this section.

(5) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3)(b), each operator of a motor vehicle transporting a child 4 years of age or older but less than 16 years of age in a motor vehicle shall secure the child in a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt and seated as required under this section. If the motor vehicle is transporting more children than there are safety belts available for use, all safety belts available in the motor vehicle are being utilized in compliance with this section, and the operator and all front seat passengers comply with subsection (3), the operator of a motor vehicle transporting a child 8 years of age or older but less than 16 years of age for which there is not an available safety belt is in compliance with this subsection if that child is seated in other than the front seat of the motor vehicle. However, if that motor vehicle is a pickup truck without an extended cab or jump seats, and all safety belts in the front seat are being used, the operator may transport the child in the front seat without a safety belt.

(6) The operator of a motor vehicle shall wear a lap belt, but is not required to wear a shoulder harness, if the operator is operating the vehicle for the purpose of performing road construction or maintenance in a work zone.

(7) If after December 31, 2005 the office of highway safety planning certifies that there has been less than 80% compliance with the safety belt requirements of this section during the preceding year, enforcement of this section by state or local law enforcement agencies shall be accomplished only as a secondary action when an operator of a motor vehicle has been detained for a suspected violation of another section of this act.

(8) Failure to wear a safety belt in violation of this section may be considered evidence of negligence and may reduce the recovery for damages arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or operation of a motor vehicle. However, that negligence shall not reduce the recovery for damages by more than 5%.

(9) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

(10) A law enforcement agency shall conduct an investigation for all reports of police harassment that result from the enforcement of this section.

(11) The secretary of state shall engage an independent organization to conduct a 3-year study to determine the effect that the primary enforcement of this section has on the number of incidents of police harassment of motor vehicle operators. The organization that conducts the

study shall submit a report to the legislature not later than June 30, 2001 and an annual report not later than June 30 each year thereafter.

(12) The secretary of state shall promote compliance with the safety belt requirements of this section at the branch offices and through any print or visual media determined appropriate by the secretary of state.

(13) It is the intent of the legislature that the enforcement of this section be conducted in a manner calculated to save lives and not in a manner that results in the harassment of the citizens of this state.

(14) Points shall not be assessed under section 320a2 for a violation of this section.

# Michigan Department of State

## Instructions for Titling an Assembled Vehicle

The Michigan Department of State has special procedures for titling an assembled vehicle. An assembled vehicle is:

- One built from new or used materials and parts by someone not recognized as a manufacturer (usually an individual). Example: homemade vehicle.
- One altered or modified to the extent that it no longer reflects its original manufacturer configuration. Example: a Volkswagen made into a dune buggy.
- One which has had its body replaced with a different style body unit from another vehicle. Example: a Ford pickup truck has its cab replaced with a Chevrolet cab.
- One assembled from a kit designed for on-road use (often called "kit cars").

NOTE: Vehicles manufactured as an off-road vehicle (ORV), all-terrain vehicle (ATV), off-road dune buggy, or golf cart cannot be titled as an assembled vehicle for on-road use.

When all documents are in order and the title application is processed, allow 8 to 10 weeks for processing the new title and the special vehicle identification number. **During this time, a license plate or temporary permit is not allowed.**

### Submitting Proof of Ownership

All ownership documents, including titles, a Manufacturer Certificate of Origin, and bills of sale for parts or materials used in assembling the vehicle must be turned in to the Michigan Department of State when filing the title application.

The following vehicle parts must be accounted for with an ownership document:

#### Motor Vehicle

- Engine
- Transmission
- Body parts (doors, front and rear clips)
- Frame including axles
- Wheels

#### Motorcycle

- Engine
- Transmission
- Frame
- Front end assembly, including the fork
- Wheels
- Seat

#### Titled Trailer

- Frame and axle
- Wheels
- Box, if any
- Body unit (if trailer is a camping trailer or trailer coach)

The ownership document or bill of sale must include:

1. The owner's name and address, or the name and address of the person who assembled the vehicle for the owner.
2. The date of purchase.
3. A description of the parts and the price paid for them. If there are any serial numbers on the parts, they must be shown. Engines, transmissions, and frames have serial numbers. These numbers must be shown on the bill of sale.
4. The name, address, and telephone number of the parts dealer or person who sold the parts.

### **Scrap Titled Vehicles**

Each scrap titled vehicle must be completely dismantled, with all major component parts removed from the frame or unitized body supporting structure, before the frame or unitized body structure may be used as part of an assembled vehicle. To qualify for an assembled vehicle title, a vehicle assembled from scrap vehicle parts must be made up of major component parts from two or more vehicles. An assembled vehicle may not include both the frame (or unitized body supporting structure) and any other major component part from the same scrap titled vehicle.

### **Equipment Inspection**

With this instruction sheet, the owner is given a TR-54 Vehicle Number/On-Road Equipment Inspection form. Parts 1 and 2 must be completed by a Michigan police officer, who will examine the vehicle for serial numbers and certify that it has all the required on-road equipment. If the police officer finds no serial numbers on the assembled vehicle, the officer should enter "None" on the form.

The completed inspection form must be returned with the proof of ownership when filing the title application.

### **Weight Slip for Trailers**

If the assembled vehicle is a trailer or trailer coach, you will need to get it weighed at a local scale. Lumber yards and scrap yards usually have scales. By law, you do not need a license plate to pull an empty trailer to or from the scales. Submit the weight slip when processing the title application.

### **At the Branch Office**

At the Secretary of State branch office, the owner will be asked to complete a certification statement which describes the building of the assembled vehicle.

When the title application is processed, the branch office will compute a new vehicle identification number (VIN) for the vehicle. There is a \$10 fee for the new VIN sticker. The new VIN sticker will be prepared in Lansing.

On the title application, the branch office employee will ask for a telephone number where the owner can be contacted during business hours. After the application is researched and the new title printed, the owner will be contacted to make arrangements for installation of the special VIN.

The vehicle must be taken to a prearranged location at the appointed time. There the vehicle will be re-inspected and the special VIN sticker affixed. At that time, the owner will receive the new assembled vehicle title and will be able to purchase or transfer a license plate. Proof of Michigan no-fault insurance is required.

If you have any other questions, please contact the Department of State Information Center at 888-SOS-MICH (767-6424).



## Application and Certification

Owner's Name			Owner's Driver's License or State ID Card Number		
Co-Owner's Name (if any)			Co-Owner's Driver's License or State ID Card Number		
Street Address			City		
State	ZIP Code	County	Vehicle Year	Make	Body Style
Vehicle Identification Number		Choose plate type: <input type="checkbox"/> Historical <input type="checkbox"/> Authentic			
Authentic License Plate Number and Year (if applicable):		<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to cancel the current license plate on my vehicle as I am applying for an Authentic Historic Registration. Plate Number: _____                      Expiration Date: _____			

I certify this historical vehicle is owned solely as a collector's item and is used only for historical club activities, parades, car shows, etc. and not for routine transportation and has been inspected and found safe to operate on public roads of the State of Michigan.		
Signature	Date	Daytime Phone Number
Co-Owner's Signature (if any)	Date	Daytime Phone Number

To renew or obtain a Historical Vehicle Plate by mail, follow directions on the reverse side and mail this application\* with appropriate enclosures to:

**Bureau of Branch Office Services • Michigan Department of State  
7064 Crowner Drive • Lansing, MI 48918-1530  
(517) 322-1473**

\*Note: Mail this entire page. Do not tear off the Application and Certification.



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*1961 Oldsmobile and 1904 Oldsmobile  
Photo courtesy of Michigan Historical Museum, State Archives*

## Application for the Michigan Historical License Plate



## License Plates for Michigan's Historical Vehicles

Michigan, the automobile capital of the world, has many residents who collect and restore antique vehicles. Since 1956, the state has offered a special, inexpensive vehicle registration for older vehicles that are operated on the road only occasionally.

Many antique cars, trucks, and motorcycles qualify for special registration as Michigan historical vehicles. A qualifying vehicle may be registered with the Michigan Secretary of State either with a Michigan historical vehicle plate, or an actual Michigan license plate the same year as the historic vehicle's model year.

To qualify for a historical or authentic license plate, vehicle must be:

- 26 or more years old – based on vehicle model year subtracted from current calendar year
- Owned solely as a collector's item
- Used only for events such as historical club activities, parades, and car shows.

**Note: A vehicle registered with a historical plate or authentic historic plate cannot be used for routine transportation, except during the month of August when it may be driven anywhere in the state without restrictions.**

### Historical Vehicle Plate

The Michigan historical vehicle plate is white with six blue numbers (four if a motorcycle plate). Historical vehicle plates are \$30 and valid for 10 years. To obtain one, present the following items at any Secretary of State office:

- (a) Proof of ownership, preferably a copy of the title.
- (b) Proof of Michigan no-fault insurance.
- (c) \$30 fee (*make checks or money orders payable to "State of Michigan"*).
- (d) The completed application on the reverse side.

If you do not have the original title or a copy of it, present a previous registration document as proof of ownership. Your historical vehicle plate will be mailed from Lansing to the address on the registration within 21-30 days.

### Authentic License Plate

Michigan also allows residents to register their antique vehicle with a same-year general use Michigan license plate. Reproduction or remanufactured plates are not allowed. The plate must display the correct colors for the plate year.

For 1984 and later model year vehicles, blue plates with white letters were issued from 1984 through 2006. These plates may be used to apply for an authentic license plate registration if the plate displays an authentic Michigan year tab corresponding to the model year of the antique vehicle. The only exception is for the 1984 blue plate because tabs were not issued until 1985.

The authentic plate registration fee is \$35. Authentic plate registrations are valid until the vehicle is sold, transferred, scrapped, or modified. Authentic license plates must be registered by mail and are not handled by Secretary of State offices. To obtain a registration, provide all the following documents with your application:

- (a) A color photograph, a color scan, or a color photocopy of the license plate (passenger, commercial, trailer, or motorcycle). Do not mail the original plate. Personalized, government, law enforcement, manufacturer, dealer, intransit repair, disability, and special purpose license plates cannot be used as authentic license plates. **If in doubt, check with the department before purchasing a license plate.**
- (b) Proof of ownership, preferably a copy of the Michigan title.
- (c) Proof of Michigan no-fault insurance.
- (d) \$35 fee (*make checks or money orders payable to "State of Michigan"*).
- (e) The completed application on the reverse side.

You will receive a new registration within two weeks.