



July 27, 2017

Registration and Title Bulletin # 005-17 Policy and Procedure

TO: All County Tax Assessor-Collectors

SUBJECT: Former Military Vehicles

PURPOSE

To amend registration eligibility and clarify ownership evidence requirements to obtain Texas title for former military vehicles.

DETAILS

An increasing number of former military vehicles have recently been entering the state. Currently, former military vehicles are eligible for a Texas title, but may only receive registration as a former military vehicle. Former military registration restricts the use of these vehicles to exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest and does not allow these vehicles to be used for regular transportation.

As a result of the increase of these vehicles, the department has reviewed federal law and confirmed that former military vehicles are not required to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards or have a 17 digit vehicle identification number. Effective immediately, most former military vehicles are eligible for registration for on-road use and are no longer only limited to former military vehicle registration. Former military vehicles are eligible for any registration type the vehicle or the owner are eligible to receive. All applicable requirements for the registration type chosen apply, including safety and emissions inspections, insurance, and the required fees. If an owner chooses to obtain former military vehicle registration, the vehicle is restricted to use for exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest. No vehicle equipped with tracks may be registered for on-road use in Texas.

This policy does not apply to vehicles applying for a title with a *U.S. Government Certificate to Obtain Title to a Motor Vehicle* (Form 97), which has been stamped "Off-Highway Use Only." If a stamped Form 97 is submitted as the evidence of ownership, the vehicle may only be processed as off-highway or with former military plates. If an owner applies for a title through a court order, tax assessor-collector hearing, or bonded title procedure, the owner is responsible for indicating if the vehicle had been declared "Off-Highway Use Only" by the federal government.

An applicant must present a *U.S. Government Certificate to Obtain Title to a Motor Vehicle* (Form 97) assigned to them or other valid ownership evidence. Certain entities have contracts with the federal government to sell surplus military vehicles and may reassign ownership from a Form 97 using a bill of sale. A Texas resident who purchases a vehicle on a Form 97 must obtain a title and cannot make a subsequent transfer by a bill of sale regardless of whether the Form 97 is assigned directly to the purchaser or transferred by a bill of sale.

The entities contracted to sell former military vehicles are licensed dealers in some jurisdictions. However, these entities are not licensed dealers in all jurisdictions and cannot use a dealer reassignment form from any jurisdiction where they are not a licensed dealer. Any application supported by a dealer reassignment form that did not come from a licensed motor vehicle dealer should be rejected. The customer may acquire a bill of sale from the entity or pursue a bonded title, tax assessor-collector hearing, or court order.

COUNTY ACTION

Please accept applications for Texas title and registration for former military vehicles, and do not limit eligible registration to former military.

Ensure Form 97 shows the applicant as the transferee, or the application is supported by other valid ownership evidence or transfer document such as a bill of sale. If Form 97 or a bill of sale is not available, instruct the applicant to pursue a bonded title, tax assessor-collector hearing, or court order.

If a Form 97 indicates “Off-Highway Use Only,” then only process the application for off-highway or former military vehicle registration. If a customer wants to exchange former military vehicle registration for any other registration, please contact your Regional Service Center to ensure any previously surrendered ownership evidence was not stamped “Off-Highway Use Only.”

Reject any title application accompanied by a dealer reassignment form, from any jurisdiction, not completed by a licensed motor vehicle dealer.

CONTACT

If you have any questions, please contact your local TxDMV Regional Service Center.

Sincerely,



Jeremiah Kuntz, Director
Vehicle Titles and Registration Division

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