

BULLETIN

28-2020

December 7, 2020

To all Authorized Employers of Community Peace Officer Level 1s and Alberta Peace Officer Level 2s Employed by the Ministry of Environment and Parks, Environmental Enforcement Services:

Re: Elimination of Licence Plate Validation Tabs

To reduce red tape for Albertans, realize cost savings and modernize the delivery of registry services, the Alberta government will be moving forward with terminating the issuance of validation tabs as of **January 1, 2021**.

This change aligns Alberta with Quebec, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories and Manitoba who have all eliminated use of validation tabs on licence plates. This change will impact the permanent fleet, trailer, year, and month tabs that are placed on licence plates when a vehicle is registered or registration is renewed. Farm and prorated tabs are not being considered at this time, as there are logistical factors still under consideration.

Stakeholder engagement has been ongoing since fall 2019 and the response has been generally positive. No longer requiring validation tabs on licence plates is modernizing and simplifying processes for Albertans/registry agents/new vehicle purchases and vehicle registration renewals, and will save approximately \$1.2 million per year.

Alberta will begin issuing licence plates made from high-definition reflective material, to make it easier for law enforcement to scan plates and validate registration status at roadside.

The reflective plates will be issued on a go-forward basis, after our current stock of painted licence plates runs out. We estimate the new plates will be issued starting in fall 2021. The Alberta government is also working collaboratively with law enforcement agencies to increase education and awareness of solutions already in place to validate a vehicle's registration status at roadside.

Attached is a Frequently Asked Questions document that provides more specifics around the elimination of validation tabs and impacts.

Should you require additional information or clarification about this change, please contact Darcy Bly, Assistant Director of Motor Vehicles, at darcy.bly@gov.ab.ca or 780-643-9177.

Sincerely,

Sean Bonneteau, CD
Director
Law Enforcement Standards and Audits

Attachment

Questions & Answers:

Elimination of Validation Tabs (Licence Plate Sticker)

- 1) When will validation tabs be eliminated?

Validation tabs will no longer be issued with a certificate of vehicle registration effective January 1, 2021. Alberta drivers will still require a valid certificate of vehicle registration, with regular renewal.
- 2) Which validation tabs will be eliminated?

All year, month, quarterly, permanent (fleet) and continuous (trailer) tabs will be eliminated as of January 1, 2021. PRP stickers for vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan (Prorate) and stickers for vehicles participating in the Alberta Farm Fuel Benefit (AFFB) Program will continue to be issued.
- 3) Why are validation tabs being eliminated now?

The elimination of validation tabs will save taxpayers between \$1-1.2 million annually, reduce red tape for Albertans, improve and modernize the delivery of registry services, and bring Alberta in line with several Canadian provinces (Quebec, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories and Manitoba).
- 4) How will I know when my registration expires without a validation tab to remind me?

Vehicle owners are responsible for knowing when their vehicle insurance and registration expires, and ensuring these documents are current. Your vehicle registration expiry date can be found on certificate of registration. Vehicle registrations expire at midnight on the last day of an assigned month, based on surname or company name. Albertans who are unsure which month their vehicle registration expires can check the vehicle registration expiry chart available on alberta.ca. In addition, vehicle owners can sign up to receive an email or a text message reminder for their vehicle registration from a registry agent or the Government of Alberta by visiting our eServices webpage at <https://eservices.alberta.ca/notify/>. Otherwise, vehicle owners should mark their calendars with reminders to renew their registrations.
- 5) Do I need to remove or cover my current validation tabs after January 1, 2021?

A validation tab is just a visual indication of an active registration. Albertans are not required to remove or cover previous validation tabs after January 1, 2021.

- 6) Will I receive a fine for having expired validation tabs after January 1, 2021? After January 1, 2021, it will no longer be an offence to not affix a current validation tab to a licence plate. All vehicles are still required to maintain an active registration. Law enforcement agencies in Alberta as well as policing agencies across Canada and North America have been notified of this change.
- 7) Could I receive a fine for not maintaining active registration after January 1, 2021? Yes, the fine for operating an unregistered motor vehicle is \$324. This will continue to apply even after validation tabs have been terminated.
- 8) How will law enforcement continue to be able to monitor unregistered vehicles on Alberta roadways? Law enforcement systems do not require a validation tab to determine the validity of a licence plate. Alberta licence plates are transitioning from current painted licence plates to plates made from reflective material, which are easier for police to scan using Automated Licence Plate Reader Technology. Reflective plates will be issued on a go-forward bases when the current stock of painted licence plates run out (approximately October 2021). Service Alberta will also continue working with police agencies to find additional ways to identify and validate a vehicle's registration status at roadside.
- 9) Was law enforcement consulted before this change was made? Yes, discussions with the law enforcement community through the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police Traffic Committee commenced in September 2019 and concluded in May 2020.