Screaming Eagle Watermark with Thread No Longer Being Produced in North America

It has recently been brought to AAMVA’s attention that the one paper mill in North America supplying the secure papers used by many jurisdictions and manufacturers with the ‘Motor Vehicle Screaming Eagle’ watermark as a security feature has been acquired by a company who will no longer be offering this polyester thread or the private watermarks. The paper, used for titles as well as other secure documents such as power of attorney documents, RIDERS, etc. has a thread embedded during the milling process. The division of the company providing this security feature has been acquired by a company who will no longer be offering this polyester thread or the private watermarks. Read more here.

Jurisdiction Response to COVID-19

Click here to view consolidated information and see how motor vehicle administrations are handling driver licensing and vehicle registration. This document will be updated with the most current information on our homepage.

Motor Vehicle Industry Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Below is a selection of news articles regarding the effects of coronavirus on the motor vehicle community.

**COVID-19 | NATIONAL NEWS COVERAGE**

- Beware of the Zoom Zombie: 54% of Americans Who Drive After Video Chatting Report Trouble Concentrating

**COVID-19 | REGION 1 NEWS COVERAGE**

- Maine State Police: More Strict Enforcements Coming Amid Surge in Dangerous Driving
- As Niagara County Resumes DMV Walk-Ins, Kearns Says Erie County Won’t (New York)

**COVID-19 | REGION 2 NEWS COVERAGE**

- Next Week Is Deadline To Renew Expired Vehicle Titles, Registrations (Texas)
- DMV Officials Urge Drivers To Cancel Unwanted Appointments as ‘No-Shows’ Add To Wait Times (Virginia)
COVID-19 | REGION 3 NEWS COVERAGE

- How To Take Kansas' New Written Driver's License Exam Online
- Michigan Residents Can Now Renew Their Driver's Licenses, Access Other Secretary of State Services Online

COVID-19 | REGION 4 NEWS COVERAGE

- California DMV Now Accepting Digital Signatures for Car Sales
- As More and More Students Return To in-Person Learning, Go Safely (California)
- Pueblo DMV Backlogs Impacting People's Summer Travel (Colorado)
- DMV Hopes To Catch Up on Pandemic Backlog Sometime This Year (Oregon)
- SDOT To Limit Vehicle Traffic Around Seattle Schools as in-Person Learning Returns Monday (Washington)

Visit cdc.gov for more information on COVID-19, guidance, press releases, press kits, and more.

REGION 1 NEWS

Cyberattack Disables CT DMV Emissions Testing. When Will Services Return? (Connecticut)
It remains unknown when the state Department of Motor Vehicles can resume emissions testing after a cyberattack knocked the system offline last week...Officials said law enforcement agencies have been told not to ticket drivers with expired emissions while testing is down. Read more at ctpost.com.

Maine Gov. Mills' Executive Order Aims To Accelerate Vehicle Electrification
Maine Gov. Janet Mills signed an executive order to accelerate “clean transportation solutions” through measures such as increased charging infrastructure and more electric vehicles. Specifically, the executive order called for the development of the “Clean Transportation Roadmap to 2030” to identify policies, programs and regulatory changes needed to meet Maine’s electric vehicles (EV) and emissions reduction goals. Read more at ttnews.com.

Harwood Woman Federally Charged With Creating Over 250 Fraudulent Driver's Licenses While Working at Largo MVA (Maryland)
A Harwood woman that worked for a Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration in Prince George’s County faces federal charges for illegally producing around 267 fraudulent driver’s licenses, identity theft and bribery, federal officials announced Monday. Read more at baltimoresun.com.

Massachusetts Vehicle Inspection System Outage at Registry of Motor Vehicles
The vehicle inspection outage in Massachusetts is expected to continue through Friday after a malware attack targeted a vendor used by the Massachusetts RMV last week...The vendor confirmed that this is a nationwide system issue and said that stations should not expect to perform inspections until April 9, at the earliest. Read more at wwdj.com.
Springfield Celebrates Donate Life Month (Massachusetts)
Springfield is celebrating April as Donate Life Month by educating residents about being an organ donor and asking people to register as a donor at the RMV when getting or renewing a license, Real ID, or ID. Read more at wwl fp.com.

Driver's Licenses for Unauthorized Immigrants Start May 1 in NJ (New Jersey)
Starting May 1, unauthorized immigrants living in the Garden State may begin to apply for the documentation they will need to legally operate a motor vehicle. The unauthorized immigrant driver's license law, which was passed in 2019, had originally be scheduled to take effect at the start of this year but the process was delayed by the COVID pandemic. Read more at nj1015.com.

Police Partner With Center for Traffic Safety To Promote Changes To Move Over Law (Pennsylvania)
"Being a mom, I should've been there to save him and I couldn't," said Karen Reever. Wounds still remain fresh for David and Karen Reever. Their son, Officer David Tome was killed by a distracted driver 13 years ago. He was 31 years old. Read more at fox43.com.

REAL ID Deadline Approaches, PennDOT Officials Say Now Is a Good Time To Start the Process (Pennsylvania)
The deadline to get a REAL ID in Pennsylvania is October 1, 2021, but PennDOT officials say now is a good time to start the process. "Right now is good for customers to take the time to first make that decision if they will need it and if so, to gather those documents they'll need to present," said Diego Sandino, Community Relations Coordinator for PennDOT. Read more at abc27.com.

Transportation Leaders: Pedestrian Safety Bills Could Have Unintended Consequences (Florida)
Florida is one of the most dangerous places in the nation for pedestrians. Two companion bills in the House and Senate are making their way through the statehouse to keep you safe when you cross the street. Yet, some local transportation leaders worry the bills could have unintended consequences and could actually put all of us in more danger. Read more at abcactionnews.com.

GOHS: Park That Phone When Behind the Wheel (Georgia)
The Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS), Georgia State Patrol and local law enforcement agencies are asking drivers to go "hands free for safety" or risk being handed a ticket for violating Georgia's hands-free law...GOHS and its 16 regional traffic enforcement networks will be conducting distracted driving enforcement operations throughout Georgia during the entire month, with the goal to save lives and reduce crashes. Read more at wctv.tv.

The REAL ID Deal: State's Circuit Court Clerks Will No Longer Issue Driver's Licenses After June 30, 2022 (Kentucky)
With the Owensboro Real ID Regional Office up and running, the next step will be to transition all driver’s license duties out of the hands of circuit court clerks...Sarah Jackson, Real ID project manager for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, said June 30, 2022, has been set as the deadline for the permanent switchover. Read more at messenger-inquirer.com.

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**Guns Stolen From Vehicles Prompt Warning From Shelby County Sheriff’s Office (Tennessee)**

About half a dozen firearms were among the items stolen from vehicles in unincorporated Shelby County in the past two weeks, leading county authorities to issue a warning about storing guns in cars. The county has seen 35 vehicle break-ins in areas outside Memphis and its suburbs in just two weeks. Read more at wreg.com.

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**85% of Texans Have a REAL ID Ahead of October Deadline, DPS Says (Texas)**

The REAL ID deadline is six months away and the Texas Department of Public Safety said it is getting closer to full compliance. The Texas DPS said as of March 1, it is 85% compliant, with more than 20.3 million compliant cards issued. Read more at kens5.com.

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**DMV Reminds Customers About REAL ID and Driver’s License Differences (West Virginia)**

DMV Commissioner Everett Frazier would like to remind customers about the upcoming federal enforcement of REAL ID, and about the differences between the two types of valid driver’s licenses and identification cards that DMV currently issues. Read more at wtv.com.

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**REGION 3 NEWS**

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**Variable Speed Limits May Come to I-465. Here’s What Happened When St. Louis Tried Them. (Indiana, Missouri)**

A state transportation department wants to introduce dynamic speed limits to a city’s beltway, and drivers are unsure about how effective they’ll be. This could describe Indianapolis in 2021 or St. Louis in 2008. Read more at indystar.com.

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**LaSpata’s Ordinance Would Remove References to Traffic “Accidents” From Municipal Code (Illinois)**

Words matter. In the mainstream media, it’s common to refer to crashes where drivers injure or kill people as “accidents,” implying that these are unfortunate, but unavoidable incidents, when the reality is that it’s possible to dramatically reduce serious collisions through better roadway design and public policy. Read more at chi.streetsblog.org.

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**Minnesota Adds Extra Distracted Driving Enforcement in April**

To increase awareness and change dangerous behaviors, law enforcement agencies across Minnesota will begin a monthlong extra distracted driving enforcement campaign starting Monday, April 5, and running through April 30. Read more at inforum.com.
House Democrats Seek Tax Hikes on Gas, Vehicle Purchases (Minnesota)
Minnesota House Democrats will push for tax increases on gas, vehicle purchases and registration tabs before the end of the 2021 session. The Democrats' proposal unveiled Tuesday would raise $627 million for transportation. Republicans who control the Senate have vowed to block any tax increases this year. Read more at fox9.com.

Nebraska DMV Launches American Sign Language Test
The Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is now offering an American Sign Language (ASL) version of the Operator’s License Knowledge Test statewide. According to a release, the ASL version of the written test was launched at several pilot locations in November 2020 and made available in December. Read more at siouxlandproud.com.

Gov. Ducey Signs Bill That Prevents Suspension of Driver’s License for People Who Did Not Pay Traffic Fine (Arizona)
Gov. Doug Ducey signed legislation into law Wednesday that ensures Arizonans will not have their driver’s license suspended if they cannot afford to pay for a traffic fine. Senate Bill 1551, which was passed in the Arizona House and Senate, will affect approximately 31,000 Arizonans whose driver's licenses were suspended for failure to pay the traffic fees or fines. Read more at kvoa.com.

Franchise Tax Board Updating Vehicle Debt System (California)
The California Franchise Tax Board, which is perhaps best known as the entity that collects state income tax, is contracting with BM Associates and HHS Technology Group (HTG) to modernize its Delinquent Vehicle Registration (DVR) system, which collects vehicle registration debts on behalf of the California Department of Motor Vehicles. Read more at techwire.net.

Traffic Safety Partners Stress Dangers of Distracted Driving (California)
The California Highway Patrol, California Office of Traffic Safety and Impact Teen Drivers are working together this April to remind Californians of the dangers of not giving the road their full attention when behind the wheel as part of Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Read more at lakeconews.com.

Rideshare Companies To Face Electric Vehicle Mandates Under New CARB Regulations (California)
A regulation that would have nearly all rideshare vehicles be electric by 2030 was proposed by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) on Wednesday. Known as the Clean Miles Standard, the proposed regulation would cover all services under the transportation network companies (TNC) banner, which includes rideshare juggernauts Uber and Lyft. Read more at californiaglobe.com.

Legislation Would Double Electric Vehicle Registration Fees (Idaho)
An Idaho House committee on Tuesday introduced legislation that would more than double what it costs to register electric vehicles. The House Ways and Means Committee voted 4-3 along party lines with no Democratic support to clear the way for a potential public hearing for the bill. Read more at martinsvillebulletin.com.

Distracted Driving: April 10-19 Campaign Puts Law Into Spotlight (Nevada)
Nevada law enforcement agencies will be teaming up from April 10-19 to spot distracted drivers and get the message out: In Nevada, it’s illegal to use any handheld electronic device while you are driving. The law has been in effect for more than nine years, but distracted drivers continue to plague the roads. Read more at 8newsnow.com.

Las Vegas Law Enforcement, Traffic Safety Experts Issue Warning About Wrong-Way Drivers (Nevada)
Drive sober and slow down! That’s the message law enforcement is sharing with Las Vegas valley drivers after a deadly head-on crash killed both drivers over the weekend...these wrong way crashes happen way too much and they're often the result of an impaired driver. Read more at ktvn.com.

NMDOT’s New ‘Just Drive’ Campaign Targets Distracted Driving (New Mexico)
The New Mexico Department of Transportation’s Traffic Safety Division announced the launch of a new ad campaign for spring 2021. The “JUST DRIVE” spots aim to bring awareness to distracted driving and its consequences. Read more at kroe.com.

Saskatchewan’s New EV Tax Ruffles Industry Feathers
The Saskatchewan government will implement a $150 annual tax for passenger electric vehicles, effective Oct. 1, 2021. The announcement was made Tuesday alongside the province’s 2021-22 budget. Government officials said the reason for the tax is that electric vehicles do not contribute to highway maintenance through the provincial fuel tax. Read more at collisionrepairmag.com.

Your iPhone Could Soon Be Your Driver’s License (in Utah)
Apple’s iPhone has already replaced your wallet, keys, and flight tickets. Now in Utah, it is beginning to replace your driving license in a new pilot project...The Utah license complies with an ISO mobile ID standard. It has also been developed within guidelines developed by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. Read more at computerworld.com.

Activists Want Change To Debt-Based Washington State License Suspension Bill
Lawmakers in Washington state are moving ahead with a bill that aims to end the suspension of driver’s licenses for failure to pay traffic tickets — despite opposition from some of the activists who pushed for the change in the first place. Read more at king5.com.

OTHER NEWS

NTSB Adopts New Most Wanted List of Safety Concerns
The National Transportation Safety Board’s new Most Wanted List of safety concerns contains several recommendations from 2019, including calling on automobile and truck manufacturers to develop a standard practice of installing collision-avoidance and connected-vehicle technologies in all vehicles. Read more at ttnews.com.

**NSC Calls on White House To Commit to Zero Traffic Deaths as Infrastructure Plan Takes Shape**

Upon the heels of President Biden’s, Jobs for American Plan, which outlines his infrastructure plan, as well as workforce strategies to implement the plan, the National Safety Council is calling on the administration to “do even more to protect roadway users by publicly committing to the goal of zero traffic deaths by 2050.” Read more at ehstoday.com.

**CVSA Schedules Operation Safe Driver Week for July 11-17**

This year’s Operation Safe Driver Week is scheduled for July 11-17, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance has announced. During the event, law enforcement officers will patrol the nation’s highways, especially looking for speeders. Read more at ttnews.com.

**Fiat’s New Google-Branded Cars Let You Talk to Your Car Remotely With ‘Hey Google’ — Take a Look**

Tech companies like Google have been putting their technology in cars for years, but a new collaboration marks the first time drivers will be able to motor around in an actual Google-branded car. Fiat recently unveiled the new special edition Fiat 500 “Hey Google” family of vehicles, which have Google Assistant technology that lets owners communicate with their cars remotely... Read more at cnbc.com.

**Self-Driving Cars Grappling With Human Drivers That Blow Through Stop Signs**

That driver must have been as blind as a bat. Those are the first thoughts that you might have upon witnessing a driver that blows through a stop sign. In that same instant, you probably are also thankful that no one got hurt. Whenever a driver opts to ignore or omit stopping at a stop sign, the chances of a calamity are pretty high. Read more at forbes.com.

**TWITTER NEWS**

Stay on top of the chatter in the MVA and LE community on social media. You may be surprised at what you’re missing! Here are a few highlights of last weeks’ activity.

**Massachusetts RMV @MassRMV | View the Tweet**

#SpringfieldRMV proud to attend and support @NEDS_LIFE and @DLNewEngland all month long in support of organ donor awareness. #NationalDonateLifeMonth
NH Department of Safety @NH_DeptSafety | View the Tweet

Busy day at the Manchester @NH_DMV processing transactions, road tests and fingerprints. One customer told me it was "the best DMV of any state they ever interacted with." Keep up the great work, #TeamSafety! -Commissioner Quinn #ThankYou

New Jersey MVC @NJ_MVC | View the Tweet

Thank you @FirstLadyNJ for stopping by!

Tammy Murphy 🧑🏼‍♂️@FirstLadyNJ · Apr 5
Today, I visited our @NJ MVC Mobile Unit in @CityofCamdenGov - 44 new and expecting mothers connected with MVC resources while also receiving diapers, wipes, baby wash, baby lotion, and more.

We're putting New Jersey's moms and babies first! 🎀
FLHSMV @FLHSMV | View the Tweet

Lombardi Trophy meets @FLHSMV! Thanks, @Buccaneers, for stopping by our Tallahassee Headquarters today! #GoBucs

Georgia DDS @GeorgiaDDS | View the Tweet

GMSP attended the Falcons Fury Harley Davidson spring event, and our very own DP of Field Operations, Pierre, literally rode up to our tent!

We wonder how many other DDS employees love to ride??

KY State Police @kystatepolice | View the Tweet

KSP’s April Fools joke turns into raffle. In a effort to spur Trooper Teddy Bear sales, KSP teased a Trooper Easter Rabbit. While it was a joke - the one and only rabbit is now up for auction - for a good cause!
SCDMV @SC_DMV | View the Tweet

#SCDMV Greenville - Edgeworth branch office grand opening. Special thanks to Sen Allen, Rep Burns, Rep Robinson, County Auditor Case, and County Councilman Dill for being in attendance.

Tennessee Highway Safety Office @TNHSO | View the Tweet

Using your phone while cycling is dangerous enough. It's much, MUCH more dangerous when you're driving a vehicle. Drive without distractions! #HandsFreeTN

Utah Highway Patrol @UHHighwayPatrol | View the Tweet

We want to thank each department that assisted in the Distracted Driving Blitz today.
This enforcement project has been going all week long and will continue into the weekend, numbers will be posted Monday!