



## 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.

Jurisdictions currently using this secure paper will have to obtain it from a mill in Europe, which may result in delays in receiving the stock and potentially increased cost or consider transitioning to an equally secure or superior alternative. This may require jurisdictions to modify their specification requirements for procurement. Replenishing title and other secure paper stock may need additional lead time. For example, a custom watermark mould could require an investment estimated around \$20,000 and a lead time of several months.

Based on the information AAMVA has received, there are mills in North America that are able to provide a two-dimensional fourdrinier watermark combined with other security features such as hot-stamped holograms and an anti-copy serial number. An additional serial number, invisible or other, is an additional option to add. Jurisdictions may want to seek information from these mills or the vendor providing secure paper products.

Jurisdictions also may want to consider reviewing current contract and procurement requirements as well as contact current vendors to ask for alternate or additional security features and pricing to determine the alternatives offered. This allows the jurisdiction the opportunity to obtain samples and test them to ensure it passes jurisdictional tests for security features as well as determine if the security features are propriety which could be a challenge.

Agencies are encouraged to communicate changes to the paper titles with AAMVA and other jurisdictions to minimize the questioning by those involved in transactions as to whether those new secure papers with changed security features are valid. For example, NADA books provide a copy of jurisdiction titles and border states are often familiar with the look and feel of titles and other secure documents and it could create confusion without communication of changes. These updates can be sent to AAMVA at: [cgarber@aamva.org](mailto:cgarber@aamva.org).

### AAMVA Policy

The [AAMVA Policy Positions](#) include Appendix A: "AAMVA Recommended Universal Certificate of Title Specifications" and minimum-security features to provide jurisdictions guidance on recommended specifications for titles and a combination of security features to deter and inhibit fraud. The current policy states: all title documents should contain a *combination of at least ten overt and covert security features*. The policy position further provides a list of security feature options and recommendations. Each jurisdiction is recommended to include either additional features or methods in addition to the options listed to ensure document integrity. Its recommended jurisdictions consider listing minimum security features in the procurement documents and ask for alternate or additional security features and pricing to avoid disclosure of all security features in public documents.

Currently, included in the list of security features the watermark recommendation reads:

*A three dimensional cylinder mould or two dimensional fourdrinier watermark that is formed as part of the paper manufacturing process. Watermarks can be custom made, but the standard is the Motor Vehicle Screaming Eagle.*

**Alternative to the Screaming Eagle Watermark with Thread:** The Vehicle Standing Committee (VSC) is currently reviewing the recommendation in the policy and gathering additional information from suppliers for available options. Appendix A currently states “The additional security features or methods may be those available from security printers and/or suppliers or a method(s) of printing data on the document for the purpose of electronic validation of the database record and/or data retrieval. Additional features to consider include a hot-stamped hologram, security laminate, etc.”

The VSC will be meeting with secure paper suppliers to gather as much information about current and available options and will update the policy position for both titles and manufactures certificate of origin document security features.

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