License Plate Standard

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License Plate Resources:


- License Plate Standard. Developed by a Task Force of jurisdictional members and industry advisors. Published August 2016
AAMVA License Plate Standard

3 Chapters:

1. **Administrative** – display, items applied to plate, replacement cycle

2. **Design** – plate characteristics

3. **Manufacture** – dimensions, retro-reflectivity, security features
Addresses administrative and policy aspects of license plates.

- All license plates should be required to be displayed horizontally.

- License plate numbers should be unique to each vehicle within a jurisdiction and not repeated unless first invalidated or purged from the jurisdiction’s vehicle registration database.
• If decals are used to add a graphic to a license plate the life expectancy of the decal is to be considered.

• Adopt a license plate replacement cycle. Because license plates commonly lose significant reflectivity, a required rolling or full replacement cycle not to exceed 10 years is recommended.

• Jurisdictions, contractors, and vendors should follow established accountability and audit standards.
• Provides specifications intended to optimize readability by the human eye and ALPR and connection to the correct vehicle record.

• These specifications also provide flexibility for the innovation and allowing for multiple plate designs.
Chapter 2 - Design

- Issuing Jurisdiction
- Unique Numbers
- Character Sizing and Placement
- Fonts
- Stacked Characters
- Plate Type Indicator or Messaging
- Special Characters
- Spaces and Dashes
- Graphics
- Background
Graphics on license plates should not distort or interfere with the readability of the alphanumerical characters or with any other identifying information.
• To the left or right of the plate number
• .25 inch from edge of plate number (sides, top, bottom)
• Mottos, slogans, messages – place .25 inches below plate number
Examples of graphics that may interfere with the ability to identify the plate number.
Where stacked and half-height characters are used, it is recommended they be part of the official plate number.

• Where one character appears above another, the top character should be entered first, immediately followed by the bottom character, in sequence, with the other characters on the plate.

The plate number would be PH2979
(today the class code is PH and the plate number is 2979)

The plate number would be CRSAMP
(today the class code is CR and the plate number is SAMP)
Stacked characters should be vertical – not staggered or slanted – and no less than half size of regular plate characters to ensure readability.

- No more than two (2) characters should be stacked
Plate type identifiers displayed on license plates should be standardized and placed on the bottom of the plate, between the bolt holes.
The character and font should present each alphanumerical as a distinct and identifiable character.

- Characters at least 2.5 inches in height and proportionally wide, spaced .25 inches apart, positioned no less than 1.25 inches away from top and bottom of plate.

- Standardized fonts and font sizes that clearly distinguish alphas and numerics should be used. For example, similar characters like A and R, 8 and B, and 0 (zero), O and Q should be easily distinguishable from each other.

  Example: LOOB plate L008
• Provides key specifications in the manufacturing process necessary to produce license plates in a consistent manner.

• Optimizes the readability, security, appearance, and performance of the license plate.

• This includes flat and embossed plates.
• License Plate Dimensions and Bolt Holes
  Comply with the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE)–Motor Vehicle License Plates Standard J686

• Printing Process
  Allow for high contrast recognition for infrared (IR) and visible light illumination in daylight and nighttime conditions.
Retro-reflectivity

- Contain a retro-reflective surface
- License plate number is readable in both daylight and nighttime from distances of at least 75 feet
- Consistent with International Organization for Standardization ISO 7591, clause 3.

Security Features

- At the discretion of the issuing jurisdiction
- Should be difficult to duplicate, an integral part of the license plate
- Does not interfere with license plate character legibility
Many benefits to plates designed to the standard:

✓ Consistent and predictable plate design across jurisdictions

✓ Common understanding of information and features on the plate

✓ Accurate plate and registration identification

✓ Reduces misidentification
✓ Improves efficiency in plate data retrieval

✓ Increases toll and parking revenue

✓ Increases identification of vehicles/people involved in crimes

✓ Help LE locate people that need assistance

✓ Recover stolen vehicles
As jurisdictions issue new plate or replace plates, task force encourages you to consult these resources.

Discuss standard with your jurisdictional policy makers.

As you work with specialty plate advocates, explain the standards to them; help them understand the importance of plate identification.

The Task Force recommends that jurisdictions develop, adopt and implement a plan to satisfy this standard.
For More Information
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