

1 Department of Public Safety

2

3 Adopted Permanent Rules Relating to Fees for License Plates,  
4 Validation Stickers, and International Fuel Tax Agreement Decals  
5 and Issuance and Transfer of License Plates

6

7 Rules as Adopted

8 7403.0100 DEFINITIONS.

9 Subpart 1. **Scope.** For the purpose of this chapter, the  
10 following terms have the meanings given them.

11 [For text of subps 2 and 3, see M.R.]

12 Subp. 3a. **Plates.** "Plates" means either regular plates or  
13 special plates unless otherwise specified.

14 [For text of subp 4, see M.R.]

15 Subp. 5. [See repealer.]

16 Subp. 6. **Regular plates.** "Regular plates" means  
17 sequentially numbered and lettered plates that are issued by the  
18 division to an applicant's vehicle.

19 Subp. 7. **Special plates.** "Special plates" means plates  
20 that are issued by the division to an owner for the exclusive  
21 use on the vehicle described in the application. Special plates  
22 include personalized plates.

23 Subp. 8. **Validation sticker.** "Validation sticker" means a  
24 license plate sticker, with a control number, which designates  
25 weight or expiration date.

26 7403.0200 PURPOSE.

27 The purpose of this chapter is to implement and provide  
28 effective administration for issuing and transferring plates as  
29 provided by Minnesota Statutes, chapter 168.

30 7403.0300 SCOPE.

31 The scope of this chapter is intended to be consistent with  
32 the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 168.

33 7403.0400 PLATES; FORMAT AND CONTENT.

34 Subpart 1. **Characters.** The characters displayed upon a

1 plate may be only:

2 A. the following uppercase letters: A, B, C, D, E,  
3 F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, and  
4 Z; and

5 B. the following numbers: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8,  
6 and 9.

7 Subp. 2. **Statutory specifications.** The plates must be  
8 manufactured with the paint color, character size, character  
9 type style, reflective material, and other specifications used  
10 by the division for vehicles registered under Minnesota  
11 Statutes, section 168.017, for the appropriate plate year.

12 Subp. 3. [See repealer.]

13 Subp. 4. **Characters limited.** Plates must have all of the  
14 following character limitations:

15 A. Plates must have at least one full-size letter or  
16 number.

17 B. Stacked characters must count as one full-size  
18 character. Stacked characters are two letters or numbers that  
19 occupy one space in which one letter or number is placed  
20 directly above the second letter or number.

21 C. No characters other than those specified in  
22 subpart 1, items A and B, will be permitted on a personalized  
23 plate. Stacked characters are not permitted on a personalized  
24 plate.

25 Subp. 5. **Duplication.** No plate may be a duplicate of any  
26 current plate or a duplicate of any plate in a numbering system  
27 used by the division.

28 Subp. 6. **Division plate combinations.** No plate used or  
29 reserved by the division for a specific type of vehicle may be  
30 recalled from storage and destroyed in order that the  
31 combination may be issued again as a plate for another type of  
32 vehicle.

33 Subp. 7. **Spacing and hyphenation.** An applicant may elect  
34 to group characters by spacing or hyphenation on a personalized  
35 plate. Hyphens must not be used consecutively. A space or  
36 hyphen is not a character. Hyphens and spaces must count toward

1 the total number of characters allowed on a plate. Combinations  
2 of characters, spaces, or hyphens totaling more than seven will  
3 be rejected. If the total of characters, spaces, or hyphens is  
4 less than seven, the division shall have the right to center the  
5 characters, spaces, or hyphens on the plate.

6 Subp. 8. **Unique symbols and weight designation stickers.**

7 Unique symbols, determined by the department, and weight  
8 designation stickers may be required on a plate. A unique  
9 symbol or weight designation sticker is not a character. Unique  
10 symbols or weight designation stickers, when required, must  
11 count toward the total number of characters.

12 Subp. 9. **Multiple owners; special plates.** If the original  
13 application for a special plate is for a vehicle owned or leased  
14 by more than one person, ~~all-owners~~ at least one owner or ~~all~~  
15 ~~lessees~~ lessee must sign the application.

16 7403.0500 PERSONALIZED PLATE APPLICATION; CONTENTS AND REVIEW.

17 [For text of subpart 1, see M.R.]

18 Subp. 2. [See repealer.]

19 [For text of subp 3, see M.R.]

20 7403.0600 REPLACEMENT OF PERSONALIZED PLATES.

21 Subpart 1. **Loss, theft, ~~or~~ destruction, or scheduled**  
22 **replacement.** In the event of the loss, theft, ~~or~~ destruction,  
23 or scheduled replacement of the personalized plate issued, the  
24 registrar, upon receiving a written statement from the owner  
25 setting forth the circumstances, may issue a new set of  
26 personalized plates with the same combination of characters.  
27 The written statement must be on a form prescribed by the  
28 division.

29 Subp. 2. [See repealer.]

30 7403.0800 REFUNDS FOR SPECIAL PLATES.

31 Subpart 1. **Conditions.** Prorated refunds of the  
32 application fee for special plates may be made if the owner  
33 returns the unused special plates to the department, within 45  
34 days of original issuance as indicated on department records.

1 [For text of subp 2, see M.R.]

2 Subp. 3. [See repealer.]

3 7403.0850 RECALL OF PERSONALIZED PLATES.

4 If, as a result of a written complaint, the division  
5 considers a personalized character combination currently in use  
6 to be obscene, indecent, or immoral, the owner of the character  
7 combination must be notified, in writing, of the following:

8 A. that a complaint has been received regarding the  
9 character combination;

10 B. the nature of the complaint;

11 C. that the division finds the complaint to be valid;

12 D. the reason the division finds the complaint to be  
13 valid;

14 E. that the character combination is no longer valid  
15 after 30 days from the date the notice was mailed; and

16 F. that the owner of the plate is entitled to:

17 (1) a different personalized character  
18 combination for no additional fee; or

19 (2) a replacement regular plate for no additional  
20 fee and a prorated refund of the application fee if the  
21 personalized plate is returned within the first five years of  
22 original issuance, as follows:

23 (a) first year, 100 percent;

24 (b) second year, 80 percent;

25 (c) third year, 60 percent;

26 (d) fourth year, 40 percent;

27 (e) fifth year, 20 percent; or

28 (f) sixth and seventh years, zero percent.

29 7403.0900 ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSFER OF SPECIAL PLATES.

30 Subpart 1. In general. Special plates, as specified in  
31 Minnesota Statutes, chapter 168, are assigned by the division to  
32 an owner for the exclusive use on the vehicle described in the  
33 application.

34 Subp. 2. Transfer. Special plates may be transferred to  
35 another vehicle owned by the applicant upon:

1           A. written notification, on a form prescribed by the  
2 registrar, to the registrar;

3           B. payment of the prescribed transfer fee as provided  
4 by Minnesota Statutes, chapter 168; and

5           C. registration of the vehicle in Minnesota.

6           Subp. 3. Election to transfer plates. If an owner sells a  
7 vehicle to which special plates have been issued, the owner may  
8 elect to transfer the special plates with the vehicle to an  
9 eligible buyer or vehicle. Eligibility is determined by the  
10 particular provision in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 168,  
11 governing the issuance of the particular special plate. The  
12 buyer of the special plates shall submit the necessary  
13 information, on a form prescribed by the registrar, to verify  
14 eligibility for the special plates.

15           Upon transferring the special plates to an eligible buyer,  
16 the owner automatically assigns to the buyer the right to  
17 reserve that combination of characters and the right to any  
18 refund of the personalized plate fees.

19           Special plates are considered assigned to the buyer of the  
20 vehicle unless the owner elects to retain the plates according  
21 to the procedures in subpart 4.

22           Subp. 4. Election to retain plates. If an owner sells a  
23 vehicle to which special plates have been issued and elects to  
24 retain the special plates, it is the responsibility of the owner  
25 or the owner's agent to apply for regular plates before the  
26 vehicle is sold. However, the owner is not required to obtain  
27 regular plates before the vehicle is sold if:

28           ~~A.~~ the owner notifies the department, in writing:

29                   ~~(1)~~ A. of the disposition of the special plates;

30 and

31                   ~~(2)~~ B. whether the owner will retain the rights  
32 to the plate combination; and

33           ~~B.~~ C. if the vehicle will be sold to:

34                   (1) a junk yard, scrap yard, insurance company,  
35 or salvage pool because the vehicle was severely damaged or  
36 because the vehicle will be dismantled or destroyed;

1 (2) an out-of-state buyer and plates will be  
2 secured in the buyer's home state; or

3 (3) a buyer who holds special plates for the  
4 buyer's own use.

5 Subp. 5. [See repealer.]

6 7403.1200 DAILY SEQUENCING OF PERSONALIZED PLATE APPLICATIONS.

7 Each application for personalized plates will be  
8 date-stamped by the receiving office. In the central office,  
9 applications bearing the same stamped date will be selected at  
10 random and numbered in ascending order. Applications with the  
11 same date will then be reviewed and character combinations  
12 approved for manufacture pursuant to parts 7403.0400 and  
13 7403.0500 in ascending numerical sequence.

14 7403.1300 PLATE AND VALIDATION STICKER FEES.

15 Subpart 1. General information. The plate fees contained  
16 in this part include only the costs of manufacturing and issuing  
17 plates and validation stickers. The fees in this part do not  
18 include:

- 19 A. titling, transfer, or filing fees;
- 20 B. registration tax;
- 21 C. fees required to transfer the plate to another  
22 vehicle; or
- 23 D. yearly display fees or contributions.

24 Subp. 2. Original issuance. Unless otherwise specified or  
25 exempted by statute, the following plate and validation sticker  
26 fees apply for the first issuance of a plate in a plate year:

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| 27 A. Sequential Double Plate                          | \$2.50 |
| 28 Sequential Special Plate-Double                     | 3.50   |
| 29   |        |
| 30 Sequential Single Plate                             | 1.50   |
| 31 Sequential Special Plate-Single                     | 2.75   |
| 32   |        |
| 33 B. Nonsequential Double and Collegiate Double Plate | 9.75   |
| 34 Nonsequential Single Plate                          | 9.00   |
| 35   |        |

36 Subp. 3. Duplicate plates. Duplicate plate fees apply for  
37 plates that are issued when the original plates are scheduled  
38 for replacement, lost, stolen, destroyed, or otherwise become  
39 unserviceable and no new plate is issued. The duplicate plate

1 fees are the same as for original issuance in subpart 2.

2 Subp. 4. Duplicate validation sticker fees. Duplicate  
3 validation sticker fees apply to validation stickers that are  
4 issued when the original validation stickers are lost, stolen,  
5 destroyed, or otherwise become unserviceable and no new plate is  
6 issued. The duplicate sticker fee is 50 cents per sticker.

7 7403.1400 INTERNATIONAL FUEL TAX AGREEMENT DECAL FEE.

8 The fee for original and duplicate International Fuel Tax  
9 Agreement decals is 50 cents per decal.

10 REPEALER. Minnesota Rules, parts 7403.0100, subpart 5;  
11 7403.0400, subpart 3; 7403.0500, subpart 2; 7403.0600, subpart  
12 2; 7403.0700; 7403.0800, subpart 3; 7403.0900, subpart 5;  
13 7403.1000; and 7403.1100, are repealed.