



Plate Manufacturing Information

The national aluminum shortage is affecting numerous states across the nation, including Montana. Montana Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) and counties are required by law to utilize Montana Correctional Enterprises (MCE) to produce license plates. MCE, in consultation with MVD, has proposed a solution to continue serving customers with vehicle transactions.

Simplicity for customers and users processing transactions is the goal of Montana's solution. The following solution is being implemented until the aluminum supply is received and aluminum plates can be produced.

Effective immediately:

- MCE will produce alternative plates. This alternative plate will consist of vinyl sheeting with the normal plate number sequence and place the sheeting into a clear plastic sleeve (TRP sleeve). This sheeting is the reflective sheet normally pressed onto the aluminum, so that it will look like a regular plate without the aluminum attached. This process will maintain the state's plate numbering system and preserve the reflectivity for efficient law enforcement practices.
- Customers will receive two alternative plates for vehicles and one alternative plate for trailers and motorcycles, with their assigned expiration tab attached.
- Customers will attach the alternative plate, as usual, to the front and back of their vehicle. The alternative plate, with the expiration tab, must be placed on the back of the vehicle.
- Customers are required to pay normal title and registration fees based on their choice for plate expiration, plate style, and corresponding titling requirements.
- When the aluminum supply is restored, MCE, in consultation with MVD and the counties, will determine the most efficient and cost-effective method to replace alternative plates at no cost to the citizen. Alternative plates may remain on vehicles throughout the current vehicle renewal cycle.
- The customer will renew their vehicle as they normally would when the vehicle is due to renew. If aluminum is available at the renewal point, an aluminum plate will be issued.

Customers may direct specific questions not covered by this information page to mvdtitleinfo@mt.gov

Comments regarding this information may be directed to MCE at scott.griner@mt.gov