

§ 305. Registration periods

(a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall issue registration certificates and number plates for the succeeding period of registration. Except as otherwise provided, number plates so issued will become void one year from the first day of the month following the month of issue. Registrations issued for motor trucks shall become void one year from the first day of the month following the month of issue. The fees for annual special excess weight permits issued to these vehicles pursuant to section 1392 of this title shall be prorated so as to coincide with registration expiration dates.

(b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall issue a registration certificate and number plates for each motor vehicle owned by the State for a period of five years. Such motor vehicle shall be considered as properly registered while the plates so issued are attached thereto. The Commissioner may replace such number plates when in his or her discretion their condition requires.

(c) The Commissioner may issue number plates to be used for a period of two or more years. One validating sticker shall be issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles upon payment of the registration fee for the second and each succeeding year the plate is used. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d) of this section, **no plate is valid for the second and succeeding years unless the sticker is affixed to the rear plate in the manner prescribed by the Commissioner.**

(d) When a registration for a motor vehicle, snowmobile, motorboat, or all-terrain vehicle is processed electronically, a receipt shall be available for printing. The receipt shall serve as a temporary registration. To be valid, the temporary registration shall be in the possession of the operator at all times, and it shall expire ten days after the date of the transaction.

§ 511. Manner of display

A motor vehicle operated on any highway shall have displayed in a conspicuous place either one or two number plates as the commissioner of motor vehicles may require. Such number plates shall be furnished by the commissioner of motor vehicles, showing the number assigned to such vehicle by the commissioner. If only one number plate is furnished, the same shall be securely attached to the rear of the vehicle. If two are furnished, one shall be securely attached to the rear and one to the front of the vehicle. The number plates shall be kept entirely unobscured, the numerals and the letters thereon shall be plainly legible at all times. They shall be kept horizontal, shall be so fastened as not to swing, excepting however, there may be installed on a motor truck or truck tractor a device which would, upon contact with a substantial object, permit the rear number plate to swing toward the front of the vehicle, provided such device automatically returns the number plate to its original rigid position after contact is released, and the ground clearance of the lower edges thereof shall be established by the commissioner pursuant to the provisions of chapter 25 of Title 3. **A person shall not operate a motor vehicle unless number plates are displayed as provided in this section.**