

**Modified Express Terms
Title 13, Division 1, Chapter 1
Article 3.3 Special Plates**

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YEAR OF MANUFACTURE PROGRAM

§ 205.00 Definitions for Year of Manufacture Program.

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§ 206.00. Definitions for Environmental, Special Interest and Special Recognition License Plates.

(a) Environmental License Plates are license plates that allow a vehicle owner or lessee to display a personalized, requested configuration subject to prohibitions found in section 206.02 of this Article.

(b) Special Interest License Plates are specialized license plates developed by state agencies or created by the legislature that support programs specified in the Vehicle Code. By requesting these plates, vehicle owners can provide support to the special interest program of their choice. These plates include, but are not limited to, Breast Cancer Awareness, California Museums, and Pet Lovers. A complete list of the available plates can be found on form DMV REG 17 as incorporated by reference in section 206.02 of this Article.

(c) Special Recognition License Plates are specialized plates available to applicants who meet specified criteria in the Vehicle Code. These plates are not available to the general public and are only available to provide recognition for a qualifying event or characteristic of the applicant's vehicle or of the applicant requesting the plates. These plates include, but are not limited to, Legion of Valor, Purple Heart, California Firefighter, and Horseless Carriage. A complete list of the special recognition plates can be found on form DMV REG 17 A as incorporated by reference in section 206.16 of this Article.

Note: Authority cited: Section 1651, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 5008, 5060, and 5103, Vehicle Code.

§ 206.002. Information Required on a Special Interest/or Environmental License Plate Application.

(a) A registered owner or lessee of a vehicle may request a Special Interest or Environmental License Plate. An application for a special interest or environmental license plates, as defined in section 206.00 of this Article and Sections 5060 and 5103 of the Vehicle Code, shall be submitted in person or by mail to the department on a completed Special Interest or Environmental License Plate Application, Form REG 17 (Rev. 7/2000 ~~REV. 4/2020~~ Rev.

11/2023), which is hereby incorporated by reference, ~~provided by the department and available on the Internet at www.dmv.ca.gov, or completed and submitted through the department's online ordering system.~~

(1) If the application is ~~made~~submitted in person, it shall be ~~made~~submitted to any department ~~location which processes vehicle registrations~~ field office.

(2) If the application is ~~made~~submitted by mail, it shall be ~~sent~~mailed to the Department of Motor Vehicles, SPU, MS D238, P.O. Box 932345, Sacramento, CA 94232-3450, ~~or to any department location which processes vehicle registrations.~~

(3) ~~Another department approved version of this form with a different revision date shall be acceptable if the content of the form is in substantial compliance with the requirements of this section.~~ If the application is submitted online, it shall be completed through the department's online ordering system at www.dmv.ca.gov.

(b) The application shall be accompanied by the applicable fees specified in Sections 4850, 5106 and 5108 of the Vehicle Code; the fees may also be found on the DMV form REG 17 or by searching for "special plate fees" on the department website at www.dmv.ca.gov ~~schedule is on the back of the form.~~

~~(c) The application shall include the following information:~~

~~(1) An indication of whether the application is for original plates, for replacement plates or to reassign, hold or release current plates.~~

~~(2) The purchaser's or plate owner's true full name.~~

~~(3) The mailing address of the person who will be the plate owner.~~

~~(4) The name of the recipient, if the plates are a gift.~~

~~(5) An indication of whether the license plates will be assigned to an auto, truck, trailer, or motorcycle, and the type of plate ordered.~~

~~(6) The location of the department or auto club office where the special interest/environmental license plates will be picked up or exchanged for the current license plates and registration, if the license plates will not be mailed.~~

~~(7) The applicant's first, second, and third choices of the configuration of letters and numbers to appear on the license plates and the meaning of each.~~

(c) Environmental license plate configuration.

~~(A)~~(1) The configuration shall comply with the specifications of Section 5105 of the Vehicle Code.

~~(B)~~(2) When a ~~desired~~requested configuration is not available, a letter shall not be substituted for a number, nor shall a number be substituted for a letter, to create another configuration of a similar appearance.

~~(C)~~(3) The number zero shall not be used in the configuration.

~~(D)~~(4) The department shall refuse any configuration that ~~may carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency, or which~~ would be misleading, ~~based on criteria which includes, but is not limited to, or~~ the following:

~~1.(A)~~ The configuration has a sexual ~~connotation~~ or scatological meaning, ~~is a term of lust or depravity.~~

~~2.~~ The configuration is a vulgar term; a term of contempt, prejudice, or hostility; ~~an insulting or degrading term; a racially degrading term; or an ethnically degrading term.~~

~~3.(B)~~ The configuration is an swear word ~~expletive~~ or term considered profane; or ~~obscene, or repulsive.~~

~~4.(C)~~ The configuration ~~has conveys~~ a negative connotation to a specific group any kind of message related to the following characteristics of a group of people: race, ethnic or national origin, color, religion, heritage, disability, sexual orientation, or sexual gender identity.

~~(D)~~ The configuration contains fighting words, or refers to illegal or violent acts, including, but not limited to criminal gang affiliation or activity, weapons, genocide, or creates a risk of inciting violence.

~~5.(E)~~ The configuration misrepresents an association with government or law enforcement through any combination of letters or numbers which indicate an affiliation to an agency or to an office or position, including, but not limited to an elected office, employment as a police officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, paramedic or first responder entity.

~~6.~~ The configuration has been deleted from regular series license plates.

~~7.(F)~~ The configuration is a ~~foreign~~ non-English or slang word or term or is a phonetic spelling or mirror image of a word or term falling into the categories described in ~~subdivisions~~ sections 4. (A) through 6. (E) above.

~~(8) If the plate is reassigned, held for future use or relinquished, complete the appropriate information as required:~~

~~(A) The special interest license plate number.~~

~~(B) The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of the vehicle the plate was taken from.~~

~~(C) If reassigned, the current license plate number of the vehicle it will be on and that vehicle's VIN.~~

~~(D) An indication if the plate is being reserved for future use.~~

~~(E) An indication of release of interest in the plate.~~

~~(9) If the application is for replacement of lost, stolen or mutilated plates indicate whether one or two plates are needed.~~

~~(10) A statement signed by the purchaser certifying under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the purchaser has provided true and correct information.~~

~~(11) The date the application is signed.~~

~~(12) The purchaser's daytime telephone number.~~

~~(13) If the plate is being purchased as a gift, the plate owner specified in subdivision (c)(4), of this regulation, shall be the recipient, and the purchaser specified in subdivisions (c)(2), (10), and (12), of this regulation, shall be the applicant.~~

(d) The department shall not honor a request for a change of ~~either~~ license plate selection or spacing in the letter/number configuration, or a request for a refund, after the license plate reservation is made application is submitted, unless the request is due to departmental error.

(1) If the department erred when making the special interest/~~or~~ environmental license plate reservation, and the license plate owner requests a change, the license plate owner shall be permitted to submit a new special interest/environmental license plates application without payment of additional fees.

(2) If the department did not err when making the ~~reservation~~ special interest or environmental license plate, a new application and application fees shall be submitted for any change ~~in the configuration~~ requested.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651, 1652 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 4850, 5004.3, 5024, 5060, 5064, 5066, 5067, 5068, 5072, 5074, 5075, 5101, 5102, 5103, 5105, 5106,

5108, and 5109, 5156, 5156.7, ~~and 5157,~~ and 5158, Vehicle Code and *Ogilvie v. Gordon, No. 4:20-cv-01707-JST (N.D.Cal. 11/24/20)(EFC Nos.40,47)*.

§ 206.024. Assignment of Special Interest or Environmental License Plates to Leased or Company Vehicle.

(a) If the applicant is the lessee of the vehicle to which the special interest or environmental license plates ~~are~~ is to be assigned but the registration certificate does not show the applicant's name as the lessee, a statement of facts authorizing the use of the special interest or environmental license plates on the vehicle shall be required from the leasing company.

(b) If the special interest or environmental license plates ~~are~~ is to be assigned to a company vehicle, a statement ~~of facts~~ authorizing the use of the special interest or environmental license plates on the vehicle shall be required from the company.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 5101, 5104 and 5105, Vehicle Code.

§ 206.046. Receipt of Special Interest or Environmental License Plates as a Gift.

(a) A statement of facts shall be required when the license plates ~~were~~ was ~~ordered~~ purchased as a gift and the purchaser's name was incorrectly listed as the license plate owner.

(1) The statement of facts shall indicate that the license plates ~~are~~ is a gift to the registered owner or lessee of the vehicle to which the license plates will be assigned and that no money changed hands.

(2b) The statement of facts shall be completed either by the ~~original applicant~~ purchaser or the gift recipient.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 5101, 5104 and 5105, Vehicle Code.

§ 206.068. Surrender or Destruction of Current License Plates.

~~(a) When application for environmental license plates is made for a currently registered vehicle, and the vehicle to which the plates will be assigned is known, the current plates shall be surrendered to the department at the time of application, with the following exception:~~

~~(1) If the current plates are not available, the applicant shall complete a statement of facts.~~

~~(A) The statement of facts shall state that the applicant understands that the current plates are no longer valid and the applicant will destroy the plates.~~

~~1. The plates shall be considered destroyed when they are mutilated in a manner which renders them useless.~~

~~(b) When the vehicle to which the plates will be assigned is unknown at the time of application, the current plates and registration certificate shall be surrendered when the environmental license plates are picked up and assigned to the vehicle, with the following exception:~~

~~(1) If the current plates are not available, the applicant shall complete a statement of facts.~~

~~(A) The statement of facts shall state that the applicant understands that the current plates are no longer valid and the applicant will destroy the plates.~~

~~1. The plates shall be considered destroyed when they are mutilated in a manner which renders them useless.~~

(a) When any license plate requested pursuant to this Article is picked up at a department field office or at a DMV Business Partners' location and assigned to the applicant's currently registered vehicle, the vehicle's current license plate shall be surrendered to the department.

(b) If the applicant does not have the vehicle's current license plate to surrender, the applicant shall complete a Statement of Facts including the License Plate/CF Number, Vehicle/Vessel ID number and the Year/Make as well as sections G and H, form REG 256, Rev. 8/2008 which is hereby incorporated by reference. The Statement of Facts shall state that the applicant understands that the vehicle's current license plate is no longer valid, and the applicant will destroy that license plate within 5 business days.

(c) When a license plate is assigned to an applicant's currently registered vehicle and mailed to the applicant, the vehicle's current license plate shall be surrendered to the department or destroyed by the applicant within 5 business days of receipt of the new license plate.

(d) License plates are considered destroyed when they are mutilated in a manner which renders them useless.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 5101 and 5105, Vehicle Code.

§ 206.0810. Delivery of Environmental License Plates.

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NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 5104 and 5105, Vehicle Code.

§ 206.1012. Retention of Environmental License Plates.

(a) When payment of registration renewal fees is not required as specified in Vehicle Code Section 4000 for a vehicle to which the environmental license plate was last assigned, the environmental license plate owner shall be permitted to retain the license plate upon payment of an annual retention fee of \$2543, as specified in Vehicle Code Section 5106(c).

(4b) If the annual retention fee is not paid by the expiration of the registration year for which payment of registration renewal fees is not required, the license plate owner shall lose ownership and the letter/number configuration shall become available for reassignment.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 5105 and 5106, Vehicle Code.

§ 206.1214. Cancellation of Environmental License Plates.

(a) Pursuant to Vehicle Code Section 5105, the department ~~shall may shall~~ cancel and order the return of any environmental license plate previously issued which contains any configuration of letters and/or numbers which the department later determines ~~may carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency~~ does not comply with the requirements of Section 206.02(c)(4)(A) – (F).

(4) The department shall base this determination on the criteria specified in Section 206.002(c)(7)(D)(4).

(b) The department shall notify the license plate owner in writing of the cancellation and advise the license plate owner of the options available for further action, as specified in Vehicle Code Section 5105(b).

(4) Pursuant to Vehicle Code Section 5105(b), the license plate owner shall be entitled to a hearing by submitting a written request to the department no later than ten departmental business days after receiving the notification issued pursuant to this subsection.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Section 5105, Vehicle Code.

§ 206.16. Special License Plate or Special Recognition License Plate Application.

(a) Special recognition license plates are available to applicants who meet specific criteria provided in the Vehicle Code.

(b) An application for a special license plate or a special recognition license plate shall be submitted in person at a department field office or by mail to the department on a Special Recognition License Plate Application form REG 17A (NEW 5/2020)(Rev. 11/20230), which is hereby incorporated by reference. If the application is submitted by mail, it shall be mailed to the Department of Motor Vehicles, SPU, MS D238, P.O. Box 932345, Sacramento, CA 94232-3450.

(c) The application for special recognition license plates shall be accompanied by the applicable fee. The fee schedule is on the back of the form available on the department’s website at www.dmv.ca.gov and may also be found on the website by searching “special plate fees.”

(ed) The department shall not honor a request for a change of license plate selection or a request for a refund after the application is submitted, unless the request is due to department error.

(1) If the department erred when making the special recognition license plate, and the license plate owner requests a change, the license plate owner shall be permitted to submit a new application without payment of additional fees.

(2) If the department did not err when making the special recognition license plate, a new application and fees shall be submitted for any change requested.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 5004, 5004.5, 5005, 5006, 5008, 5101.2, 5101.4, 5101.5, 5101.6, 5101.8, and 5156, Vehicle Code.

§ 206.20. Requirements for Former Prisoner of War License Plates.

~~(a) To be eligible for former Prisoner of War license plates, the applicant for plate ownership must meet the definition of a former prisoner of war as described in Section 324.5 of the Vehicle Code.~~

~~(b) In addition to the requirements specified in Sections 206.00 through 206.08 for environmental license plates, the applicant shall present proof of the registered owner's or lessee's eligibility for a former Prisoner of War license plate by submitting to the department one of the following documents:~~

~~(1) A letter of verification from the National Personnel Records Center showing the registered owner's or lessee's name and establishing that the registered owner or lessee was held a prisoner of war by forces hostile to the United States during a period of armed conflict.~~

~~(2) An official document which substantiates that the registered owner or lessee was a prisoner of war, such as a Veterans Administration Hospital Card marked "POW" or military discharge papers which declare the bearer to be an ex-prisoner of war.~~

~~(c) The evidence submitted to the department shall be returned to the applicant.~~

~~(d) The configuration specified in Section 206.00(c)(3) shall meet the specifications of Vehicle Code Section 5101.5.~~

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 324.5, 5101.5, 5106 and 5108, Vehicle Code.

§ 206.22. Number of Prisoner of War License Plate Sets.

~~(a) Upon application, submission of eligibility proof, and payment of fees specified in Section 206.00(b), additional sets of Prisoner of War license plates, each set bearing a different configuration, shall be issued for each vehicle owned or leased by the former prisoner of war.~~

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Section 5101.5, Vehicle Code.

Article 3.3
Title 13, Division 1, Chapter 1
Article 3.3 Special Plates
~~Press Photographer License Plates~~

§ 206.30. Definitions.

~~(a) A press photographer is a person who is regularly employed or engaged as:~~

~~(1) A newspaper photographer or cameraman.~~

~~(2) A newsreel photographer or cameraman.~~

~~(3) A television photographer or cameraman.~~

~~(4) A newsmagazine photographer or cameraman.~~

~~(5) A news gathering company photographer or cameraman.~~

~~(b) Regularly employed means full time employment (with the principal assignment as a photographer or cameraman) by:~~

~~(1) A newspaper.~~

~~(2) A newsmagazine.~~

~~(3) A news gathering company.~~

~~(4) A newsreel company.~~

~~(5) A television station.~~

~~(6) A company taking pictures for newspapers, newsmagazines, news gathering companies, for newsreels, or for presentation on television.~~

~~(c) Regularly engaged means devoting more than 50 percent of employment time or deriving more than 50 percent of personal income from taking pictures for newspapers, newsmagazines, news gathering companies, for newsreels, or for television.~~

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 1651, Vehicle Code. Reference: Section 5008, Vehicle Code.

§ 206.35. Application.

~~(a) Application for press photographer license plates shall be completed upon an appropriate form provided by the department.~~

~~(b) Proof that an applicant is a press photographer as defined herein shall consist of:~~

~~(1) The applicant's certification to that effect.~~

~~(2) The name and address of the newspaper, newsmagazine, news gathering company, newsreel company, television station, or company taking pictures for presentation on television he is employed by or to which he sells pictures or his services.~~

Note: Authority cited: Section 1651, Vehicle Code. Reference: Section 5008, Vehicle Code.

§ 206.40. Plates.

~~(a) Press photographer license plates may be issued to not more than one motor vehicle registered (either solely or jointly with one or more owners) to a person who is a press photographer as defined herein.~~

~~(b) The press photographer license plates issued to a motor vehicle shall be surrendered to the Department of Motor Vehicles immediately when~~

~~(1) The press photographer owner ceases to be a press photographer as defined herein.~~

~~(2) The vehicle is transferred from the registered ownership of the press photographer.~~

~~(c) Press photographer license plates shall be used only on the motor vehicle to which they have been assigned by the Department of Motor Vehicles.~~

Note: Authority cited: Section 1651, Vehicle Code. Reference: Section 5008, Vehicle Code.

Article 3.3
Title 13, Division 1, Chapter 1
Article 3.3 Special Plates
Legion of Valor and Purple Heart License Plates

§ 206.50. Application Requirements for Legion of Valor License Plates or Purple Heart License Plates.

~~(a) An application for Legion of Valor license plates or Purple Heart license plates for a vehicle currently registered in California shall be submitted to the department on a Special License Plate Application, Form REG- 583 (12/91), provided by the department and shall include the following information:~~

~~(1) The vehicle identification number of the vehicle which will be assigned Legion of Valor or Purple Heart license plates.~~

~~(2) The make of the vehicle which will be assigned Legion of Valor or Purple Heart license plates.~~

~~(3) The current license plate number of the vehicle to which the Legion of Valor or Purple Heart license plates will be assigned.~~

~~(4) The true full name of the registered owner of the vehicle which will be assigned Legion of Valor or Purple Heart license plates.~~

~~(A) To be eligible for a Legion of Valor license plate, the registered owner must be the recipient of one or more of the following medals: Army Medal of Honor, Navy Medal of Honor, Air Force Medal of Honor, Army Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross or Air Force Cross.~~

~~(B) To be eligible for a Purple Heart license plate, the registered owner must be a recipient of a Purple Heart.~~

~~(5) The address of the registered owner.~~

~~(6) A statement signed and dated by the registered owner certifying under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that all the information entered on the application by the registered owner is true and correct.~~

~~(7) The registered owner's daytime telephone number.~~

~~(8) An indication of whether the vehicle to which the Legion of Valor license plates will be assigned is classified as auto/commercial or trailer.~~

~~(A) Legion of Valor license plates shall not be assigned to motorcycles.~~

~~(9) An indication of whether the vehicle to which the Purple Heart license plate will be assigned is classified as auto/commercial, motorcycle, or trailer.~~

~~(10) An indication that the type of plates requested are Legion of Valor or Purple Heart license plates.~~

~~(b) The application shall be submitted with:~~

~~(1) Proof of eligibility as specified in Section 206.52 for Legion of Valor license plates or Section 206.54 for Purple Heart license plates.~~

~~(2) The fee required by Section 5101.4 of the Vehicle Code for Legion of Valor license plates; or~~

~~(3) In addition to the regular fees for an original or renewal registration, a fee of \$36 for Purple Heart license plates, unless the recipient is exempt from the additional fees for one vehicle pursuant to Section 5101.8(d) of the Vehicle Code.~~

~~(4) The current registration certificate.~~

~~(c) The current plates shall be surrendered to the department at the time of application, with the following exception:~~

~~(1) If the current plates are not available, the applicant shall complete a statement of facts.~~

~~(A) The statement of facts shall state that the applicant understands that the current plates are no longer valid and the applicant will destroy the plates.~~

~~1. The plates shall be considered destroyed when they are mutilated in a manner which renders them useless.~~

Note: Authority cited: Section 1651, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 5101.4 and 5101.8, Vehicle Code.

§ 206.52. Additional Requirement for Legion of Valor License Plate Application.

~~(a) In addition to meeting the requirements specified in Section 206.50, the registered owner shall provide proof of eligibility by surrendering to the department a copy of one of the following documents, containing the medal recipient's name and type of medal awarded, which shall be retained by the department:~~

~~(1) Department of Defense form D.D. 214.~~

~~(2) A General Order issued by the Department of Defense.~~

~~(3) Correspondence with a letterhead from the Awards and Decorations Unit, Department of Defense, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.~~

Note: Authority cited: Section 1651, Vehicle Code. Reference: Section 5101.4, Vehicle Code.

§ 206.54. Additional Requirement for Purple Heart License Plate Application.

~~(a) In addition to meeting the requirements specified in Section 206.50, the registered owner shall provide proof of eligibility by surrendering to the department a copy of one of the following documents, containing the Purple Heart recipient's name, which shall be retained by the department.~~

~~(1) Orders awarding the Purple Heart.~~

~~(2) The applicant's service record or discharge papers showing receipt of the Purple Heart award.~~

~~(3) Certification from a Purple Heart organization.~~

Note: Authority cited: Section 1651, Vehicle Code. Reference: Section 5101.8, Vehicle Code.

§ 206.56. Number of Legion of Valor or Purple Heart License Plate Sets.

~~(a) Upon application, submission of eligibility proof, and payment of the applicable fee specified in Section 206.50(b)(2) and (3), additional sets of Legion of Valor or Purple Heart license plates, each set bearing a different configuration, shall be issued for each vehicle owned by the medal or Purple Heart recipient, respectively, regardless of the number of awards received.~~

Note: Authority cited: Section 1651, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 5101.4 and 5101.8, Vehicle Code.

§ 206.58. Surrender of Purple Heart License Plates upon Death.

~~(a) Purple Heart license plates shall be surrendered to the department within 60 days of the death of the Purple Heart recipient.~~

Note: Authority cited: Section 1651, Vehicle Code. Reference: Section 5101.8, Vehicle Code.

§ 206.60. Requirements for Fire Fighter License Plates.

~~(a) To be eligible for Fire Fighter license plates, the registered owner must be a fire fighter or retired fire fighter.~~

~~(b) In addition to the requirements specified in Sections 206.00 through 206.08 for environmental license plates, the applicant shall present proof of the registered owner's eligibility for Fire Fighter license plates by submitting to the department one of the following documents, containing the fire fighter's name:~~

- ~~(1) Applicant's fire department identification card; or~~
- ~~(2) Applicant's International Association of Fire Fighters membership card; or~~
- ~~(3) Applicant's California Professional Fire Fighters Callback Association membership card; or~~
- ~~(4) Written documentation from the California Professional Firefighters verifying the applicant's eligibility.~~

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 5110(a), Vehicle Code. Reference: Section 5101.2, Vehicle Code.