



LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION MEMO19-06
SUBJECT: Temporary License Plate Inquiry
Memo Date: March 4, 2019

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Purpose

To provide information to law enforcement agencies regarding Electronic Report of Sale (ROS)/Temporary License Plate (TLP) database message: "RECORD NOT ON FILE".

Background

Effective January 1, 2019, Assembly Bill 516 (Chapter 90, Statutes of 2016) required the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), to develop a system that requires a dealer or lessor-retailer, wholesale dealers, and auto auctions to electronically submit the ROS of a vehicle and produce and attach a TLP at the time of sale to a vehicle sold without permanent license plates.

When consumers purchase a vehicle from a dealership, the dealer is required to generate the ROS form and attach the temporary identification portion of the ROS form to the windshield of the vehicle. If the vehicle does not already display the required number of California issued permanent license plates, the dealer is also required to print and attach TLPs to the vehicle before leaving the dealership. TLPs are valid for 90 days after the date of sale and permanent plates are typically issued within 30 days from the date of sale. ROS and TLP information is required to be electronically transmitted to DMV nightly.

New Information

If an inquiry into the DMV ROS/TLP database returns the message "RECORD NOT ON FILE," verify the date of sale of the vehicle is 90 days prior to the expiration date of the TLP. Be advised there could be a delay of up to two days between the date the vehicle is sold and when the record becomes available for inquiry. It could also mean that a sale has been voided or rolled back after TLPs are issued, or a possible fraudulent TLP.

Previously owned vehicles sold by licensed dealers that already have permanent plates will not get TLPs, even if the permanent license plates have expired tags.

Contact

Questions regarding the information contained in this memo or changes to the email distribution list may be directed to the Justice and Government Liaison Branch at (916) 657-7732 or via email at jaqlaw@dmv.ca.gov.



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