



South Carolina Department of Public Safety  
Division of Motor Vehicles

---

MEMORANDUM

TO: Division of Motor Vehicle Employees

FROM: J. Glenn Beckham *JW*  
DMV Deputy Director

DATE: September 15, 1998

SUBJECT: Procedural Memorandum No. 97-404

Procedural Memorandum No. 97-404 has been canceled and superseded by the attached procedural memorandum. Changes were made to modify dates on license plates for Charter Limousine and Regular Plates.

JSY/th



# South Carolina Department of Public Safety

## Division of Motor Vehicles

DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES PROCEDURAL MEMORANDUM NO. 97-404

Subject: Special License Plates

Attached is a list of the license plates issued by the Department. Listed for each special plate is the statute number authorizing the license plate, the fees and the special requirements, if any, to obtain each different type plate.

The following are requirements which must be met for a special license plate to be issued for the first time regardless of the type.

1. A completed and signed insurance certification form.
2. Paid property tax receipt or MCTG record reflecting personal property taxes paid through the expiration date of the decal on the license plate being issued. If there is no change in the expiration dates, a property tax receipt is not required.
3. If the statute authorizes a special plate fee, no credit or refund is available for this fee. Portions of the special plate fees are disbursed into accounts for distribution to other entities.

J. Glenn Beckham, Deputy Director  
Division of Motor Vehicles

Attachment

Prepared by Registration & Reciprocity

NAME OF PLATE	CODE OF LAW	PLATE CLASS	VEHICLE TYPE	REGULAR FEE	SPECIAL FEE	LIMIT PER PERSON	EXPIRATION	OFFICES ISSUING	SPECIAL NOTES OR REQUIREMENTS
AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR	56-3-1510	AR	1,5	24.00 (Trucks by gvwt)	+ \$2.00	Limit 1	Staggered	1st time by Personalized Renewals by any office	Must hold a valid Amateur Radio License issued by Federal Communications Commission.
ANTIQUE VEHICLE	56-3-2220	AV	1,5,7	\$15.00 (Including a \$5.00 title fee)	N/A	No limit	Permanent	ALL	Motorcycle must be 25 years old or older. Passenger vehicles 30 years old or older. Not to be used for general transportation.
APPORTIONED BUS	56-3-660	AB	2	See note		No limit	March 31	52	Fees are determined by the registered weight of the vehicle and the number of miles traveled in each state.
APPORTIONED TRUCK	56-3-660	AP	5	See note		No limit	March 31	52	Fees are determined by the registered weight of the vehicle and the number of miles traveled in each state.
APPORTIONED TRAILER	56-3-660	AT	6	See note		No limit	March 31	52	Fees are determined by the percentage of miles traveled in each state.
BUS, PRIVATE	56-3-630	BU	1	24.00	N/A	No limit	Staggered	ALL	Buses that do not charge a fee to passengers. Example: church buses.

NAME OF PLATE	CODE OF LAW	PLATE CLASS	VEHICLE TYPE	REGULAR FEE	SPECIAL FEE	LIMIT PER PERSON	EXPIRATION	OFFICES ISSUING	SPECIAL NOTES OR REQUIREMENTS
BUS, COMMON CARRIER	56-3-640	BC	2	Determined by weight of vehicle	N/A	No limit	Staggered	ALL	Buses that charge a fee to passengers in order to ride. 16 passenger buses must show FEIN or SS number of owner or lessee.
CAMPER TRAILER	56-3-720	KT	6	10.00	N/A	No limit	Staggered	ALL	Campers cannot be more than 35 feet long and 8 feet wide.
COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY	56-3-3710	CU	1,5	24.00 (trucks by gvwt)	+\$70.00	No limit	Staggered	ALL	\$40.00 of special fee goes to College or University.
COUNTY COUNCIL	56-3-2150	CC	1,5	24.00 (trucks by gvwt)	+\$30.00	Limit 1	Staggered	1st time by Personalized Renewals by any office.	Must be a member of a county council. Application must be certified by a county administrator.
COUNTY GOVERNMENT ( Wheelchair plate also available)	56-3-780	CG	1,3,5,6,7	2.00	N/A	No limit	Permanent	ALL Wheelchair at Offices 51 & 57	Must be registered "County of _____" in care of the particular agency or leased company in care of county.
DEALER, ANTIQUE	56-3-2345	XA	4	\$20.00	N/A	No limit for dealers selling qualified vehicles.	Staggered	57	Must be a licensed dealer and have sold 5 antique vehicles in the past year.

NAME OF PLATE	CODE OF LAW	PLATE CLASS	VEHICLE TYPE	REGULAR FEE	SPECIAL FEE	LIMIT PER PERSON	EXPIRATION	OFFICES ISSUING	SPECIAL NOTES OR REQUIREMENTS
DEALER, AUTOMOBILE	56-3-2320	XX	4	20.00	N/A	Determined by number of vehicles sold.	Staggered beginning in 1997	ALL	Must also have a valid dealer or wholesaler license in order to qualify for license plates.
DEALER, MOTORCYCLE	56-3-2320	XZ	4	20.00	N/A	Determined by number of vehicles sold.	Staggered beginning in 1997.	ALL	Must also have a valid dealer or wholesaler license in order to qualify for license plates.
DEALER, TRUCK	56-3-2320	XP	4	20.00	N/A	No limited for dealers selling qualified vehicles	Staggered beginning in 1997.	ALL	Dealer or wholesaler must sell heavy duty trucks. Heavy duty is classified as 26,000 pounds and over.
DISABLED VETERANS	56-3-1110	DV	1,5	No charge	N/A	Limit 2	Permanent	ALL	Must have a letter from the U. S. Veterans Affairs Office. Letters from the County Veterans Affairs are not acceptable. Surviving spouse can retain plate until she/he remarries.

NAME OF PLATE	CODE OF LAW	PLATE CLASS	VEHICLE TYPE	REGULAR FEE	SPECIAL FEE	LIMIT PER PERSON	EXPIRATION	OFFICES ISSUING	SPECIAL NOTES OR REQUIREMENTS
EDUCATION (APPLE)	56-3-7980	EU	1,5 (gvw 5,000 lbs and under)	No charge	\$54.00	No limit	Staggered	ALL	Funds collected from the sale of this license plate are used to purchase computers for schools.
EDUCATION	56-3-2320	ED	4	200.00	N/A	No limit	Staggered	Personalized plate office	Issued to public, private, colleges or universities to be used on vehicles loaned or rented to them by a licensed dealer. The license plate can be moved from one vehicle to another like a dealer plate. Part of the fee collected goes to the county treasurer's office.
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN	56-3-1610	EM	1,5	24.00 (Trucks by gvw)	+\$30.00	Limit 1	Staggered	1st time Personalized Renewed at any office.	Must hold a valid EMT Certificate issued by the SC Dept. of Health & Environmental Control, Division of Emergency Services.
ENDANGERED SPECIES	56-3-4510	ES	1,5	24.00 (Trucks by gvw)	+\$24.00 for 1st biennial period. + \$10.00 biennially for renewals	No limit	Staggered	ALL	A portion of fees are deposited into a "Nongame Wildlife and Natural Areas Fund"

NAME OF PLATE	CODE OF LAW	PLATE CLASS	VEHICLE TYPE	REGULAR FEE	SPECIAL FEE	LIMIT PER PERSON	EXPIRATION	OFFICES ISSUING	SPECIAL NOTES OR REQUIREMENTS
FARM VEHICLE	56-3-670	FM	5	determined by weight	N/A	No limit	Annual/Staggered	ALL	Farm trucks with an empty weight of less than 7,500 may be used for general transportation and domestic purpose. Not for hire.
FIREFIGHTER	56-3-4910	FF	1,5	24.00 (Trucks by gvw)	+\$70.00	No limit	Staggered	1st time Personalized Renewals at any office.	Available to volunteer and paid firefighters. Must be certified by the Chief Officer of the Fire Unit. A portion of the fees go to the S. C. Fire Academy.
HOUSE TRAILER	56-3-710	HT	6	\$12.00	N/A	No limit	Staggered	ALL	Used on house trailers or trailers used for advertising, sales, display or promotion of merchandise.
HOUSE TRAILER TRANSPORTER	56-3-2120	T1 for first plate. T2 for rest of group.	4	\$25.00 for 1st plate. \$12.00 each for other plates in the group.	N/A	No limit	Staggered	23, 46.51 & 57	This license plate is used like a dealer plate for people who transport house trailers. Not assigned to a certain trailer. Used primarily when trailers are transported out of state. The tag is displayed on the rear of the trailer being towed.

NAME OF PLATE	CODE OF LAW	PLATE CLASS	VEHICLE TYPE	REGULAR FEE	SPECIAL FEE	LIMIT PER PERSON	EXPIRATION	OFFICES ISSUING	SPECIAL NOTES OR REQUIREMENTS
KEEP S. C. BEAUTIFUL	56-3-3950	KB	1,5	24.00 (trucks by gvw)	+\$54.00	No limit	Staggered	ALL	A portion of the funds collected go to a special fund for the beautification of S. C. Highways.
LIMOUSINE SERVICE	56-3-5300	LS	2	\$24.00	\$25.00	No limit	Staggered	57	Must have a Class C Charter Limousine Certificate from the Public Service Commission.
MANUFACTURER	56-3-2330	MA	4	\$200.00	N/A	200	Staggered	57, 49	Issued to companies in the business of manufacturing new and unused vehicles in this state. Used like a dealer plate. Can be moved from one vehicle to another.
MANUFACTURER /REPOSSESSION (also known as a Transporter tag)	56-3-2350	MR MZ for motorcycles	4	\$10.00	N/A	No limit	Annual, December	ALL	Issued to companies in the business of manufacturing or repossessing vehicles.

NAME OF PLATE	CODE OF LAW	PLATE CLASS	VEHICLE TYPE	REGULAR FEE	SPECIAL FEE	LIMIT PER PERSON	EXPIRATION	OFFICES ISSUING	SPECIAL NOTES OR REQUIREMENTS
MEDAL OF HONOR	56-3-1850	MH	1,5	No charge	N/A	Limit 2	Permanent	Personalized Plate Office Only	Must have official documentation which verifies that applicant is a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. DD-214, Letter from Veterans Administrations and other documents accepted.
MOTORCYCLE	56-3-760	ZZ	7	\$10.00	N/A	No limit	Staggered	ALL	Motorcycle is defined in 56-3-20 as a vehicle having two wheels. 3 wheel vehicles should be registered as an automobile. Refer to memo dated 9/1/92.
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL	56-3-2150	MC	1,5	\$24.00 (Trucks by gvwm)	+\$30.00	Limit 1	Staggered	1st time Personalized Plate Office. Renewals all offices	Must be a member of a municipal council. Application must be certified by the city administrator.
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT (Wheelchair plate also available)	56-3-780	MG	1,3,5,6,7	\$2.00	N/A	No limit	Permanent	ALL (Wheelchair at Office 51 & 57)	Must be owned or leased by a municipal government. Must be registered as "City of _____" or ABC Lease % City of _____)

NAME OF PLATE	CODE OF LAW	PLATE CLASS	VEHICLE TYPE	REGULAR FEE	SPECIAL FEE	LIMIT PER PERSON	EXPIRATION	OFFICES ISSUING	SPECIAL NOTES OR REQUIREMENTS
NATIONAL GUARD	56-3-1810	NG	1,5	\$24.00 (Trucks by gvwm)	N/A	Limit 3	Staggered	ALL Air NG officers at 51 & 57 Air NG 55	Must be an active member of the South Carolina National Guard. Application must be certified by Company Commander.
NATIONAL GUARD RETIRED	56-3-1815	NR	1,5	\$24.00 (Trucks by gvwm)	N/A (effective 7/1996)	No limit	Staggered	1st time by Personalized Renewals any office.	Must be a retired member of the S. C. National Guard. Application must be certified by Adjutant General of S. C. National Guard.
OFFICIAL (State Boards and Commissions)	56-3-2010	OF	1,5	\$12.00 (Trucks by gvwm)	+\$15.00	No limit	January 31	Personalized Plate Office only.	Application must be verified by the contact person from each commission. Commission is responsible for assigning license plate numbers. Each commission is identified by a code number in the space where the license plate number is located on the registration. Numbers start with C and a series of numbers.

NAME OF PLATE	CODE OF LAW	PLATE CLASS	VEHICLE TYPE	REGULAR FEE	SPECIAL FEE	LIMIT PER PERSON	EXPIRATION	OFFICES ISSUING	SPECIAL NOTES OR REQUIREMENTS
PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR	56-3-5910	HS	1,5	\$24.00 (Trucks by GVW)	\$30.00 for 1st time issuance only. Regular fee for renewals.	Limit 1	Staggered	1st time Personalized Renewals any office.	All applications must be verified by the S. C. State Chairman of the Pearl Harbor Survivors.
PERSONALIZED PLATES, (Private Passenger)	56-3-2010	PR	1,5	\$24.00 (Trucks by GVW)	\$30.00	No limit	Staggered	1st time Personalized Renewals any office.	Can have up to seven (7) letters and spaces per plate. \$30.00 deposit must be paid in advance on first time applications and are not refundable.
PERSONALIZED PLATES, (Motorcycles)	56-3-2010	PZ	7	\$10.00	\$30.00	No limit	Staggered	1st time Personalized Renewals any office.	Can have up to six (6) letters and spaces per plate. \$30.00 deposit must be paid in advance on the first time application and is no refundable.
PRISONER OF WAR	56-3-1150	PW	1,5	No charge	N/A	Limit 2	Permanent	ALL	Must be a former prisoner of war certified by U. S. Dept. of Veterans affairs, DD-214 or other acceptable proof. Surviving spouse can retain license plate until remarriage.

NAME OF PLATE	CODE OF LAW	PLATE CLASS	VEHICLE TYPE	REGULAR FEE	SPECIAL FEE	LIMIT PER PERSON	EXPIRATION	OFFICES ISSUING	SPECIAL NOTES OR REQUIREMENTS
PRIVATE PASSENGER VEHICLE (Regular plate)	56-3-620	RP	1,5	\$24.00 (trucks by gvw)	N/A	No limit	Staggered	1st time at any Full Service office. Renewals fee paid to county or any office.	Available for private passenger vehicles. Trucks must be less than 5,000 pounds empty weight and 8,000 pounds gvwt in order to be eligible for this type tag.
PRIVATE PASSENGER PLATE FOR RECREATIONAL VEHICLES	56-3-620	RV	1	\$24.00	N/A	No limit	Staggered	1st time at any full service office. Renewal fee paid to county office.	Available for private passenger closed utility vehicles.
PRIVATE PASSENGER PLATE FOR MANUFACTURERS	56-3-2332	BM	4	\$697.46	N/A	No limit	Staggered	57	Issued to companies in the business of manufacturing new vehicles in this state. Used like a dealer plate.

NAME OF PLATE	CODE OF LAW	PLATE CLASS	VEHICLE TYPE	REGULAR FEE	SPECIAL FEE	LIMIT PER PERSON	EXPIRATION	OFFICES ISSUING	SPECIAL NOTES OR REQUIREMENTS
PURPLE HEART	56-3-3310	PH	1,5	\$24.00 (trucks by gvw)	N/A	Limit 1	Staggered	ALL	Must submit DD-214, Purple Heart Citation, letter from Veterans Administration or other acceptable document certifying that applicant was awarded a Purple Heart.
REGIONAL GOVERNMENT (Wheelchair plates also available.)	56-3-780	RG	1,3,5,6,7	\$2.00	N/A	No limit	Permanent	51 & 57 Wheelchair plates also issued at these offices.	Application for RG plates must be supported by a copy of the legislation creating that agency or organization as a political subdivision. Vehicles must be owned or leased by the Regional Governmental Agency.
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT	56-3-2335	RD	4	\$200.00	N/A	Limit 30	Staggered	57 & 32	Issued to companies who evaluate the performance of tires manufactured in South Carolina. A portion of the fees paid go to the county treasurer's office.

NAME OF PLATE	CODE OF LAW	PLATE CLASS	VEHICLE TYPE	REGULAR FEE	SPECIAL FEE	LIMIT PER PERSON	EXPIRATION	OFFICES ISSUING	SPECIAL NOTES OR REQUIREMENTS
RESCUE VEHICLE	56-3-790	RC	1,5	\$10.00	N/A	No limit	Staggered	ALL	Issued to volunteer Rescue Leagues for any motor vehicles owned and operated solely for rescue work without charge.
SAMPLE	56-3-2250	N/A	N/A	\$10.00	N/A	No limit	No expiration	Personalized Plate Office	This plate is a replica of the South Carolina regular series plate issued with the word "Sample" or "SAM000". This license plate is for display purposes only and cannot be used to operate a motor vehicle.
SHAG	56-3-3910	SH	1,5	24.00 (Trucks by gvw)	+\$50.00	No limit	Staggered	1st time Personalized Renewals any office	No special requirements. Plates issued to commemorate SHAG as being state dance.
SHRINERS	56-3-7100	SR	1,5	24.00 (Trucks by gvw)	+\$30.00	Any vehicle registered in Shriners name.	Staggered	ALL	Must be a member of a Shriners Group. Must provide documents to prove that they are a shriner.

NAME OF PLATE	CODE OF LAW	PLATE CLASS	VEHICLE TYPE	REGULAR FEE	SPECIAL FEE	LIMIT PER PERSON	EXPIRATION	OFFICES ISSUING	SPECIAL NOTES OR REQUIREMENTS
SPECIAL MOBILE EQUIPMENT	56-3-750	SM	5	Determined by weight	N/A	No limit	Staggered	ALL	Primarily used on wreckers. "Roll Backs" are not considered SME's and should be issued a truck tag with a gw covering the weight of vehicles being carried.
SPECIAL OLYMPICS	56-3-7700	SP	1,5	\$24.00 (Trucks by gw)	+\$50.00	No limit	Staggered	ALL	A portion of the fees collected for this plate goes into a "Special Olympics" fund. No special requirement.
SQUARE DANCE	56-3-4710	SD	1,5	24.00 (Trucks by gw)	+\$30.00	No limit	Staggered	ALL	No special requirements
STATE GOVERNMENT (Wheelchair plate also available)	56-3-780	SG	1,3,5,6,7	\$2.00	N/A	No limit	Permanent	51 & 57 Wheelchair plates also available at these offices.	Must be owned or leased by an entity of the State of South Carolina. Must be registered "State of S. C. %" or ABC Lease % State of SC.
STATE GUARD	56-3-4310	SC	1,5	\$24.00 (Trucks by gw)	+\$30.00	Limit 1	Staggered	55,57 & 61 Renewals any office.	Must be a member of the South Carolina State Guard. Application must be verified by a Commanding Officer.
TAXI	56-3-640	TX	2	Determined by weight	N/A	No limit	Staggered	ALL	Issued to vehicle which carry passengers for compensation.

NAME OF PLATE	CODE OF LAW	PLATE CLASS	VEHICLE TYPE	REGULAR FEE	SPECIAL FEE	LIMIT PER PERSON	EXPIRATION	OFFICES ISSUING	SPECIAL NOTES OR REQUIREMENTS
TRAILER	56-3-700	TL	6	\$20.00	N/A	No limit	Staggered	ALL	Issued to trailers, semi-trailers and pole trailers.
TRAILER, 5 YEAR	56-3-378	TL	6	\$50.00 (Fee is pro-rated)	N/A	No limit	March 31 on 5th year	51,55 & 57	Full 5 years start in 1995, 2000, 2005 etc. Fee is reduced by \$10.00 for each year that passes in a five year period.
TRAILER, PERMANENT	56-3-785	TP	6	\$75.00	N/A	No limit	Permanent	51 & 57	Owners must file inventory listing each August.
TRAILER, PERMANENT (Motor Carrier)	56-3-120 (5)	PT	6	\$87.00	N/A	No limit	Permanent	ALL	One time fee in lieu of Property tax for motor carrier trailer plate.
TRUCK & TRUCK TRACTOR	56-3-660	TR TH for half year tag.	5	Determined by weight	N/A	No limit	March 31 September 30 on half year plates.	ALL	License plates can be purchased for biennial, annual or 6 month periods. 6 months license plates begin with letters PS. Trucks over 26000 gw must have FEIN or SS number of owner or lessee
ARMED SERVICES	56-3-4310	AF	1,5	\$24.00 (Trucks by gw)	+\$30.00	Limit 2	Staggered	1st time Personalized Renewals any office	Must be a retired member of the U.S. Armed Forces. Must be certified by DD-214, Military ID or other acceptable document.

NAME OF PLATE	CODE OF LAW	PLATE CLASS	VEHICLE TYPE	REGULAR FEE	SPECIAL FEE	LIMIT PER PERSON	EXPIRATION	OFFICES ISSUING	SPECIAL NOTES OR REQUIREMENTS
I. S. MILITARY RESERVE	56-3-1750	US	1,5	\$24.00 (Trucks by gvw)	+\$30.00	Limit 1	Staggered	1st time Personalized Renewals any office	Must be a member of a U.S. Military Reserve Unit which includes Army, Air Force, Marines, Navy and Coast Guards.
UTILITY TRAILER	56-3-130	UT	6	\$10.00	N/A	No limit	Staggered	ALL	Issued to trailers designed for and towed by passenger automobiles to haul personal property. Utility trailers under 2,500 pounds empty weight are not required to be registered unless they are using it for hire.
UTILITY TRAILER (5 Year)	56-3-378	UT	6	\$25.00 (Fee is pro-rated)	N/A	No limit	November 30 every 5th year.	51,55,57	Plates begin in years 1993, 1998, 2003 etc. Fee is reduced by \$5.00 for every year.
VOLUNTEER FIREMAN	56-3-2810	VF	1,5	\$24.00 (Trucks by gvw)	+\$30.00	Limit 1	Staggered	1st time Personalized Renewals any office	Issued to members of volunteer fire units. Must be authorized by Chief Officer of the Fire Unit.

NAME OF PLATE	CODE OF LAW	PLATE CLASS	VEHICLE TYPE	REGULAR FEE	SPECIAL FEE	LIMIT PER PERSON	EXPIRATION	OFFICES ISSUING	SPECIAL NOTES OR REQUIREMENTS
WHEELCHAIR	56-3-1910	WC	1,5	\$20.00 (Trucks by gvw)	N/A	No limit	Staggered	ALL	Must submit an application which has been completed by a licensed physician indicating the type of disability and whether or not it is a permanent disability.
WHOLESALE AUCTION	56-15-510	WA	4	\$20.00	N/A	Limit 75	December 31	ALL	Must be a licensed wholesale auction providing wholesale transactions by auctioning vehicles.
FLEET VEHICLES	56-3-1010	FV	1,5	Determined by weight.		No limit. Must have at least two hundred in the fleet to be eligible.	Has a set expiration date for all vehicles in a fleet. May be any month. The license plate is permanent.	Office 57	Companies who have a fleet of over 200 vehicles may use the fleet vehicle tags. The vehicles must show the name of the company on the side or the rear of the vehicle. Can be issued to vehicles with an empty weight of not more than 22,000 pounds and a gvw of not more than 26,000 pounds. Vehicles may be leased or owned by the company. The company is billed for all vehicles currently in their inventory.