

Vehicle Licensing Guide

Reconstructed, Replica, and Specially Constructed Vehicles-Application for Title VLIC-3.350

Original Date: 12/10/2007

Revision Date: 10/10/2024

[Definitions](#)

[Customer Requirements](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

[Contact](#)

POLICY	
Title: Reconstructed, Replica, and Specially Constructed Vehicles-Application for Title	
Effective Date: December 10, 2007	Revision Date: April 10, 2019
Authority: Code of Virginia § 46.2-100 , 46.2-602.1 , 46.2-625 , 46.2-635 , 46.2-734 , 46.2-1600 , 46.2-1072 , and 46.2-1072.1	
Policy: DMV's Vehicle Branding Work Center shall issue a vehicle identification number (VIN), when applicable, for reconstructed, replica, or specially constructed vehicles upon application and submission of required documents and fees by the applicant. DMV's Vehicle Branding Work Center shall issue a certificate of title for reconstructed, replica, and specially constructed vehicles upon application, provided the applicant complies with all titling requirements including, but not limited to: Vehicle is fully assembled at time of application. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All security interests (liens) held against the vehicle or its components/parts are reported.• Application for title is marked to indicate that the vehicle is "Reconstructed", "Replica", or "Specially Constructed".• All titles or other ownership documents are submitted to establish ownership for any parts or components acquired for use in constructing the vehicle.• All bill(s) of sale, title(s), certificate(s) or statement(s) of origin, and/or notarized affidavit(s) are properly assigned to the applicant and display any identification numbers and sales prices as required based on the type of vehicle from which the component was obtained and properly account for each component used in the construction of the vehicle.• Apply for a VIN from Vehicle Branding Work Center, (when applicable).• Pass a VIN and vehicle inspection by DMV Law Enforcement Division. DMV's Vehicle Branding Work Center shall brand titles issued for reconstructed vehicles as "Reconstructed"; titles issued for replica vehicles as "Replica"; titles issued for specially constructed vehicles as "Specially Constructed".	
Exception: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the vehicle being titled is reconstructed using a cab or glider kit, an assignment of VIN is not required. A manufacturer assigned VIN is provided on the Manufacturer's Certificate (or Statement) of Origin (MCO or MSO) for the cab or glider kit.• Replica vehicles built on a manufactured chassis or a chassis from another vehicle are not assigned VINs provided it still displays a VIN and has a Manufacturer's Certificate (or Statement) of Origin (MCO/MSO) or a valid title with the same VIN.• Replica vehicles built on a chassis from another vehicle may use the VIN from the existing chassis provided the new vehicle is a replica of the vehicle from which the chassis came. <<<<REVISION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applications to title and register off-road motorcycles converted to on-road use must be processed by the Titling Work Center at HQ (these are not processed in the CSC or by Vehicle Branding Work Center). END REVISION>>>>	

[Return to top of page](#)

DEFINITIONS

Cab or Glider Kit - A factory-purchased kit consisting of a cab, radiator, frame rails, and front axle with no engine, transmission, or rear axle. These kits are used to replace wrecked or retired cabs and front axles. Installation of a cab or glider kit makes a vehicle a reconstructed vehicle.

- Glider kits are not eligible for antique license plates unless assembled more than 25 years prior to January 1 of the current calendar year.

Essential Parts - All integral parts, including engine and body parts, of a vehicle, the removal, alteration, or substitution of which will tend to conceal the identity of a vehicle. (Va. Code § [46.2-100](#).)

Major Components - Any one of the following subassemblies of a motor vehicle: (i) front clip assembly, consisting of the fenders, grille, hood, bumper, and related parts; (ii) engine; (iii) transmission; (iv) rear clip assembly, consisting of the quarter panels, floor panels, trunk lid, bumper, and related parts; (v) frame; (vi) air bags; and (vii) any door that displays a vehicle identification number. (Va. Code § [46.2-1600](#).)

Motor Home - A motorized recreational vehicle designed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use that contains at least four of the following permanently installed independent life support systems that meet the National Fire Protection Association standards for recreational vehicles:

- A cooking facility with an onboard fuel source,
- A potable water supply system that includes at least a sink, a faucet, and a water tank with an exterior service supply connection,
- A toilet with exterior evacuation,
- A gas or electric refrigerator,
- A heating or air conditioning system with an onboard power or fuel source separate from the vehicle engine; or
- A 110-125 volt electric power supply.

Power Train - Component parts consisting of engine, transmission and rear axle.

Reconstructed Vehicle - Any vehicle materially altered from its original construction by the removal, addition, or substitution of new or used essential parts. (Va. Code § [46.2-100](#).) This definition does NOT include vehicles that have been "Converted Electric", UNLESS it has been materially altered from its original construction by the removal, addition, substitution of new or used essential parts other than those required for the conversion to electric propulsion (refer to [VLIC-3.451](#)).

- The installation of a box or dump to an existing cab and chassis is NOT considered a reconstructed vehicle when performed by a licensed manufacturer. The application in these cases will usually include 2 Manufacturer's Certificates (or Statements) of Origin (MCO, MSO).

Replica Vehicle - Any vehicle not fully constructed by a licensed manufacturer, but either constructed or assembled from components. Such components may be from a single vehicle, multiple vehicles, a kit, parts, or fabricated components. The kit may be made up of major components as defined in Virginia Code § [46.2-1600](#), a full body, or a full chassis, or a combination of these parts. The vehicle must resemble a vehicle of distinctive name, line-make, model, or type as produced by a licensed manufacturer or manufacturer no longer in business and is not a reconstructed or specially constructed vehicle as herein defined. (Va. Code § [46.2-100](#).)

- Replica vehicles are not eligible for antique license plates unless **assembled** more than 25 years prior to January 1 of the current calendar year.

Specially Constructed Vehicle - Any vehicle that was not originally constructed under a distinctive name, make, model, or type by a generally recognized manufacturer of vehicles and which would not be otherwise defined as a reconstructed vehicle. (Va. Code § [46.2-100](#).) EXAMPLE: A vehicle using a Mercury frame and a Chevrolet body.

[Return to top of page](#)

CUSTOMER REQUIREMENTS

<<<<<REVISION

1.) Submit the following as applicable:

Salvage Title	
Submit the following:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VSA 17A Application for Title and Registration • VSA 56 Salvage Certificate Application • Bill of sale • Original title properly assigned to the customer • Fees – SUT 4.15% or \$75 minimum & \$15 titling fee • If repairs have been done, customer must submit a Request for Examination of Rebuilt Salvage Vehicle (LES 022A) and \$125 salvage examination fee.

Rebuilt/Reconstructed Branded Titles	
Submit the following:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VSA 17A Application for Title and Registration • Bill of sale • Original title properly assigned to the customer • Fees – SUT 4.15% or \$75 minimum and \$15 titling fee

Non-Repairable Vehicles	
Submit the following:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VSA 17A Application for Title and Registration • VSA 57 Nonrepairable Certificate Application • Bill of sale • Original title properly assigned to the customer • Fees – SUT 4.15% or \$75 minimum and \$15 titling fee <p>NOTE: If the title is already in the customer's name, only the VSA 57 and title need to be submitted.</p>

Reconstructed, Specially Constructed, or Kit Cars that are not already branded	
Submit the following:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VSA 17A Application for Title and Registration <p>NOTE: Application for title must indicate if the vehicle is reconstructed, a replica, or specially constructed by checking the appropriate box under "Acquisition Type".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VSA 22 Application for Assigned Vehicle Identification Number¹ • Original MSO/MCO, or title • Receipts for all parts that were issued in the construction of the vehicle² • Photos of the front, back, and sides of the completed vehicle • Detailed notarized statement of how the vehicle was constructed (customer cannot just list parts) • Bill of sale • Fees – SUT 4.15% or \$75 minimum of total amount of receipts/sales price combined on vehicles under 26,001 lbs. GVWR. Do not include shipping and do not include receipts that show that SUT was already paid. Include the \$15 title fee, \$125 Examination fee, and \$5 VIN plate fee (If VIN plate is needed)
<p>1.) VSA 22 is not required for vehicles that come with a manufacturer assigned VIN on the MCO/MSO. Also not required for replica vehicles built using the chassis from another existing vehicle, provided the chassis being used still has the VIN plate AND the new vehicle is a replica of the vehicle from which the chassis came.</p> <p>2.) Customer must submit all properly assigned ownership documents and/or receipts and/or bills of sale for any parts used for reconstructed, replica, or specially constructed, as required by the type of construction completed listed in the table below.</p>	

END REVISION>>>>>

Vehicle Components Needing Receipts or Bills of Sale, or Additional Documentation			
Reconstructed Vehicle	Reconstructed Motorcycle	Specially Constructed	Replica
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frame • Body • Engine and drive train • Cab or glider kit, when applicable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frame • Body • Engine • Transmission, if applicable • Front-end assembly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frame • Body • Engine and drive train 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frame • Body • Engine and drive train • MCO/MSO for replica kit, when applicable • MCO/MSO for a chassis specially manufactured for the replica, if applicable • Title for the chassis, if it came from another vehicle, if applicable
<p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles converted to a motor home must have at least 4 of the required permanently installed independent life support systems that meet the National Fire Protection Association standards for recreational vehicles pursuant to Va. Code § 46.2-1500 (see Definitions in this procedure). • Descriptive notarized statement explaining how the applicant performed the construction of the vehicle (reconstructed, specially constructed, and replica); not a list of parts used. • Multiple pictures of the completed vehicle. (Pictures must show at least the front, back, and side of the vehicle.) 			

<<<<<REVISION

- 2.) Combine all submitted documents and payment in a 1st class envelope (preferably using a tracking option) addressed to:
 Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles
 Vehicle Branding Work Center Reconstructed/Replica/Specially Constructed
 P.O. Box 27412
 Richmond, VA 23269-0001

NOTE: The customer will be billed for any additional fees not covered by the enclosed payment. **END REVISION>>>>>**

[Return to top of page](#)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

<<<<REVISION

RECONSTRUCTED, REPLICAS, AND SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED VEHICLES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)	
Questions	Answers
Does Vehicle Branding issue registrations?	No - Vehicle Branding does not issue registrations.
Where do I send off road motorcycles that have been converted to on road use?	Converted off-road motorcycles should be sent to the Titling Work Center.
What stops does Vehicle Branding release?	Vehicle Branding only releases Stolen vehicle stops.
Can I place a sold on a stolen vehicle?	No - The only way for the vehicle to be removed from a customer record is for the vehicle to be retitled by the insurance company or if the vehicle is recovered. Owners will still be responsible for personal property taxes.
Where can I find additional information on the status of a salvage vehicle application that was submitted?	Check the vehicle notes on the record for information regarding the salvage vehicle.
Can Vehicle Branding change the odometer reading on record for a vehicle?	No - Vehicle Branding can only correct errors done by Vehicle Branding.
What is the "DMV confirming possible brand(s)" held, and who can remove it?	This held goes on the record when the VIN doesn't run through NMVTIS in a timely manner. This held can be removed by CSCs. NOTE: This held sometimes takes several attempts to remove before it is released in the system.
Who removes the "DMV researching brand(s)" held?	Only Vehicle Branding removes this held. Vehicle Branding receives a daily report of these holds and once research has been done, the held will be removed, or additional information will be requested. Do not attempt to remove this held.
If a vehicle has been "restored" is it considered branded or reconstructed?	No - It is not considered branded or reconstructed unless the entire frame or the complete dashboard has been replaced.
What does the Vehicle Branding Work Center do?	Vehicle Branding will do the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Verify submitted documents and vehicle identification numbers, 2.) Determine the appropriate model/assembly year for the vehicle, when applicable, 3.) Determine whether the customer applied for an assignment of VIN or an inspection of an existing VIN, 4.) Send required paperwork to DMV's Law Enforcement Division (LED) 5.) Issue a title for the vehicle once LED returns the paperwork indicating the vehicle has passed its inspection.
What does DMV's Law Enforcement Division (LED) do?	LED will do the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Contact the customer and schedule a VIN inspection, and vehicle inspection when required, 2.) Perform the examination of all identification number, including the confidential number, 3.) Install VIN plates (when required) upon passing the inspection,

	4.) Return paperwork to Vehicle Branding for the issuance of a title (If the vehicle passed inspection).
What are some other important tips to remember?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Applicant must completely assemble the vehicle prior to applying for title and registration. 2.) Reconstructed and specially constructed vehicles are subject to vehicle safety inspection and emissions requirements. 3.) Replica vehicles are subject to vehicle safety inspection and emission requirements as established for the model year for which the vehicle is a replica. 4.) Vehicles with titles branded as "Replica" are NOT automatically eligible for antique plates based on their model year. Replica vehicles are registered and issued plates based on the year of assembly. 5.) The Vehicle Branding work center determines the final make, model year, and body type for reconstructed vehicles in a way that is similar to the examples outlined in the chart below.

RECONSTRUCTED, SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED, AND REPLICA VEHICLE EXAMPLE CHART					
	Example	Build Info	Make	Body Type	Model Year
Reconstructed Vehicle <small>(model year determined by the year reconstruction is completed)</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1973 Chevy Body, and • 1979 Chevy Frame, and drivetrain 	Reconstructed in 2014	Reconstructed 1973 Chevrolet	Same as body type used in construction (4DR, 2DR, etc.)	2014
Reconstructed Motorcycle <small>(model year determined by the year reconstruction is completed)</small>	All Harley Davidson parts from model years 1977 and 1978	Reconstructed in 2014	Reconstructed Harley Davidson	Motorcycle	2014
Reconstructed Vehicle with Cab or Glider Kit <small>(model year is the year on the cab or glider kit MCO/MSO)</small>	1979 International Glider Kit	Reconstructed in 1980	Reconstructed International	Tractor (Body type on previous title)	1979 (Year on MCO/MSO) NOTE: VIN from MCO/MSO of Glider Kit
Specially Constructed Vehicle <small>(model year determined by the year construction is completed)</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1977 Mercury frame, drivetrain, and • 1979 Chevrolet body 	Specially constructed in 2014	Specially Constructed (Variety of make parts used)	Same as body type used in construction	2014
Replica Using Kit from Same Manufacturer¹ <small>(Model year is the year on the replica kit MCO/MSO)</small>	Replica 1965 Shelby Cobra using kit manufactured by Shelby.	Completed in 2013	Shelby	From MCO/MSO	Model Year: 1965 Assembly Year: 2013
Replica Using Kit from Different Manufacturer¹ <small>(Model year is the year on the replica kit MCO/MSO)</small>	Replica 1965 Shelby Cobra using kit manufactured by XYZ (non-Shelby)	Completed in 2013	XYZ	From MCO/MSO	Model Year: 1965 Assembly Year: 2013
Replica Using No Kit¹ <small>(Model year is the same year as the vehicle it is a replica of)</small>	Replica 1965 Shelby Cobra using no kit	Completed in 2013	Homemade	Identified by customer on application, verified upon inspection by LED	Model Year: 1965 Assembly Year: 2013
1.) Replica vehicles are not automatically eligible for antique plates based on the model year. License plates are issued to replica vehicles based on the year assembled.					

CONTACT

For additional information contact:

- Your CSC Manager/Assistant Manager
- VSA/[Vehicle Branding Work Center](#)

[Return to top of page](#)