

# Vehicle Licensing Guide

## Clean Special Fuel License Plates VLIC-4.315

**Original Date:** 09/18/2003

**Revision Date:** 09/25/2022

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POLICY	
<b>Title:</b> Clean Special Fuel License Plates	
<b>Effective Date:</b> September 18, 2003	<b>Revision Date:</b> October 10, 2019
<b>Authority:</b> Code of Virginia §§ <a href="#">33.2-501</a> , <a href="#">46.2-749.3</a> (A1, A2), <a href="#">46.2-1177</a> (5), <<<<<REVISION <a href="#">IRS Code, Section 30D(d)(1)</a> END REVISION>>>>>	
<p><b>Policy:</b> Only DMV's Special Registration Work Center (SRWC) may issue, reissue or transfer Clean Special Fuel plates to vehicles that are determined by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to meet California's super ultra-low emission vehicle (SULEV) rating or the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) equivalent.</p> <p>To qualify these vehicles must be operated exclusively using the following clean special fuels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Compressed Natural Gas</li><li>Electricity</li><li>Ethane</li><li>Hydrogen</li><li>Hybrid Gasoline/Electric</li><li>Hythane</li><li>Liquefied Natural Gas</li><li>Liquefied Petroleum Gas</li><li>Methane</li><li>Solar</li><li>Combination of two types of clean special fuels</li></ul> <p>Because flexible fuel vehicle engines do not use clean special fuels exclusively, it does not qualify for Clean Special Fuel Plates.</p>	
<b>Exception:</b> N/A	

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### USE OF HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANES (HOV)

Pursuant to Va. Code § [46.2-749.3](#), use of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes by vehicles registered with and displaying the appropriate design of Clean Special Fuel license plates are NOT allowed free access to any Express Lanes without meeting the minimum passenger requirement. Drivers with clean special fuels plates must have the specified number of people in the vehicle and an E-Z pass Flex set to HOV mode.

Effective September 30, 2019, gas/electric hybrid vehicles displaying clean special fuel plates are no longer eligible to use HOV lanes on any road, highway or interstate in Virginia unless the HOV required number of occupants are in the vehicle, or the vehicle is a qualified plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV).

Qualifying plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) are determined based on federal law. To qualify, the vehicle must be included in the [Federal Tax Credits for All-Electric and Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles](#) list. All other clean special fuel vehicles will continue to be eligible for the HOV lane use exemption until September 30, 2025.

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### CUSTOMER REQUIREMENTS

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1. Submit a completed License Plate Application ([VSA 10](#)) displaying the ENTIRE vehicle identification number (VIN) and title number. **END REVISION>>>>>**
2. IF the vehicle has been converted to a dedicated clean special fuel engine by the owner or prior owner, the owner must submit either:
  - A copy of the receipt for purchase of a dedicated clean special fuel engine, AND a copy of a letter or bill from a mechanic certifying installation of a dedicated clean special fuel engine.
  - OR
  - A letter of certification from a certified emissions inspection station verifying that the vehicle has a clean special fuel engine.

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## FRONT COUNTER CSR

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1. Verify completion of the [VSA 10](#).
  - Ensure that the VSA 10 contains the ENTIRE VIN and title number.
2. For a vehicle that has been converted to a dedicated clean special fuel engine by the current or prior owner, verify that the documentation indicates the vehicle has a clean special fuel engine. The owner must submit either:
  - A copy of the receipt for purchase of a dedicated clean special fuel engine, AND a copy of a letter or bill from a mechanic certifying installation of a dedicated clean special fuel engine,
  - OR
  - A letter of certification from a certified emissions inspection station verifying that the vehicle has a clean special fuel engine.
3. Advise the customer that gas/electric hybrid vehicles displaying clean special fuel plates will no longer qualify for the HOV lane use exemption unless the required number of occupants are in the vehicle, or the vehicle is one of the qualifying plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) listed in the [Federal Tax Credits for All-Electric and Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles](#) list).
4. Collect the standard registration fee, if applicable.  
**NOTE:** DO NOT collect a Clean Special Fuel plate fee.
5. Issue standard-issue license plates, if applicable.
6. Scan the VSA 10 to the [Special Registration Work Center](#) (SRWC) and wait for an email alert.
  - Enter the customer's phone number in the system (if the customer provides a number) to enable the work center to contact them directly, if necessary.
  - If the scanner is inoperable:
    - Fax the VSA 10 to the SRWC. **END REVISION>>>>>**
7. Advise the customer that:
  - DMV headquarters SRWC will verify the clean special fuel documentation and notify the customer by mail.
  - IF QUALIFIED, headquarters SRWC will mail the customer the clean special fuel license plates and issue an invoice for:
    - Clean Special Fuel plate fee,
    - Registration fee,
    - Non-refundable \$64 annual electric license tax for original and subsequent registration years.
      - The annual electric license tax is not required for mopeds converted to electric propulsion.
  - IF NOT QUALIFIED, the SRWC at Headquarters will notify the customer.

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## DMV CONTACT CENTER ACTIONS

- **INTERNAL DMV CONTACT CENTER INFORMATION ONLY:** Hybrid vehicles do not automatically qualify as clean special fuel vehicles. DMV and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) work together in determining the qualifying hybrid vehicles.  
**NOTE:** For your information, DEQ's revised assessment standards state that only hybrid vehicles that meet California's super ultra-low emission vehicle (SULEV) rating, or the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) equivalent, beginning with model year 2005 vehicles, qualify as clean special fuel vehicles.
- Advise the customer that gas/electric hybrid vehicles displaying clean special fuel plates will no longer qualify for the HOV lane use exemption unless the required number of occupants are in the vehicle or the vehicle is a qualifying plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) (refer to the [Federal Tax Credits for All-Electric and Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles](#) list).
- DMV Contact Center Agents DO NOT advise customers that they qualify for Clean Special Fuel Plates.
- DMV Direct Agents refer customers to DMV's website for eligibility of [Clean Special Fuels Plates & Vehicle Occupancy Requirements](#).

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## POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Refer to [Clean Special Fuel vehicles/Plates](#) on DMV's website for images of all Clean Special Fuel license plate designs.
- The annual fee for Clean Special Fuel license plates is \$25, in addition to the regular registration fee.
- In addition to the \$25 annual and the regular registration fee, customers must pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$64 [annual electric license tax](#) at the time of first registration and upon each subsequent renewal of registration.
- Clean Special Fuel Plates are NOT issued at a CSC, DMV Select office, online dealer, or on the Internet, but only through DMV Headquarters Special Registration Work Center (SRWC).

- CSCs will issue the standard blue and white plates (PAVL) to Clean Special Fuels plate applicants, ~~and~~ collect the standard registration fee when applicable, and scan the application(s) and other required documents to [Special Registration Work Center](#) for a determination of eligibility and processing.
- DMV SRWC works with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determine if a specific hybrid vehicle qualifies for Clean Special Fuel Plates.

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## RELATED LINKS

[Clean Special Fuel Plates Web page](#)

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## CONTACT

For additional information contact :

- Your CSC Manager/Assistant Manager
- DMV Contact Center Help Desk at (804) 367-6646
- VSA/[Special Registration Work Center](#)

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