

Vehicle Licensing Guide

Tow Truck For Hire-Application For Title VLIC-3.230

Original Date: 06/1993
Revision Date: 01/01/2018

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POLICY	
Title: Tow Truck For Hire-Application For Title	
Effective Date: June 1993	Revision Date: 03/25/2017
Authority: Code of Virginia §§ 46.2-100 , 46.2-649.1 , and 46.2-697	
Policy: DMV shall title and register a motor vehicle as a tow truck for hire provided the motor vehicle being titled complies with all the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vehicle is operated for hire and will display For Hire license plates.• Is designed to lift, pull or carry another vehicle by means of a hoist or other mechanical apparatus, OR Is designed with a ramp on wheels and a hydraulic lift with a capacity to haul or tow (commonly called "rollbacks"). <<<<REVISION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of at least 10,000 pounds END REVISION>>>>• Holds \$750,000 Commercial Liability Insurance Coverage at time of registration. <<<<REVISION Refer to VLIC-4.270 for tow truck registration requirements. END REVISION>>>>	
Exception: The following are not included in the definition of tow trucks, and therefore not titled and registered as such pursuant to Va. Code § 46.2-100 : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Automobile or watercraft transporter• Stinger-steered automobile or watercraft transporter• Tractor truck A motor vehicle that is eligible for registering as a tow truck may be registered under Section 46.2-697 as a wrecker at the owner's decision.	

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DEFINITIONS

Tow Truck (Wrecker)-pursuant to Va. Code § [46.2-100](#), a motor vehicle for hire (i) designed to lift, pull, or carry another vehicle by means of a hoist or other mechanical apparatus and (ii) having a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of at least 10,000 pounds. "Tow Truck" also includes vehicles designed with a ramp on wheels and a hydraulic lift with a capacity to haul or tow another vehicle, commonly referred to as "rollbacks".

The following vehicles are NOT defined as tow trucks:

- Automobile or watercraft transporter
- Stinger-steered automobile or watercraft transporter
- Tractor truck

Private Use-A motor vehicle designed for the transportation of property, operated as such by the owner or lessee for his convenience, not for compensation.

For-Hire-A motor vehicle designed for transportation of property, used for such by the owner or lessee, for compensation.

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CUSTOMER REQUIREMENTS

1. Submit an Application for Certificate of Title and Registration ([VSA-17A](#)) in accordance with [VLIC-3.000](#).

- Verify that all weight group fields that apply to the vehicle (empty weight, gross weight and gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or gross combination weight rating (GCWR)) are completed on the [VSA-17A](#).
NOTE: For requests to change empty weight, GVWR, or GCWR, follow guidelines in [VLIC-4.520](#).
 - Record all liens held against the vehicle on the [VSA-17A](#).
2. Submit proof of address when applicable. (Refer to [VLIC-3.530](#).)
 3. Pay required title, sales and use tax, and registration fees.

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FRONT COUNTER CSR

1. Verify that the [VSA-17A](#) and title are completed correctly following guidelines in [VLIC-3.000](#).
2. Verify that all requirements for titling as a Tow Truck have been met.
3. Verify that the customer has an approved proof of address document. (Refer to [DMV-177](#) and [VLIC-3.530](#).)
4. Collect the title, sales and use tax, and registration fees.
 - Tow trucks are not eligible for payments of the Uninsured Motor Vehicle (UMV) fee.
5. Process the title in the system. (Refer to [VLIC-3.000](#))
 - Ensure the body style "TW" is entered into the system indicating the vehicle is a tow truck.
 - Enter the empty weight, GVWR and GCWR required for body style TW.
 - Enter the correct odometer reading and odometer code into the system. Refer to [VLIC-3.520](#).
6. If customer is requesting license plates, refer to [VLIC-4.270](#) and [Tow Trucks/Wreckers Registration Options](#).
7. Continue processing the title in accordance with [VLIC-3.000](#).

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DMV CONTACT CENTER ACTIONS

- For customer insurance questions, you may transfer them to Motor Carrier Services.
- <<<<<REVISION**
- Tow trucks with a GVWR of **less than 10,000 lbs.** that were issued "TW" trucks in the past, now require Truck plates issued pursuant to Va. Code § [46.2-697](#). Refer to [VLIC-4.270](#). **END REVISION>>>>>**

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RELATED LINKS

[Tow Trucks/Wreckers Registration Options](#)

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CONTACT

For additional information contact:

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

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