



December 29, 2021

Registration and Title Bulletin # 004-21 Policy and Procedure

TO: All County Tax Assessor-Collectors

SUBJECT: Requirements and Availability of the Disabled Veteran (DV) License Plate with the International Symbol of Access (ISA)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide guidance on the updated eligibility requirements and availability of the new DV license plates that include the ISA as a result of Senate Bill (SB) 792, enacted by the 87th Legislature.

DETAILS

Effective January 1, 2022, SB 792 amends Transportation Code, Section 504.202, by adding Subsections (b-1) and (b-2). Subsection (b-1) allows eligible disabled veterans to opt for the new DV license plates that include the ISA. Additionally, Subsection (b-2) allows eligible organizations that register a motor vehicle used exclusively for the transportation of disabled veterans without charge to apply for DV license plates that include the ISA. SB 792 also amends Transportation Code, Section 681.008(a), stating that a vehicle parked in a disabled parking space must have a DV license plate that includes the ISA. Additionally, SB 792 amends Transportation Code, Section 681.009(e), to specify vehicles transporting persons with disabilities that display DV license plates that include the ISA can park in the designated parking area or spaces for the exclusive use of vehicles transporting persons with disabilities.

As a result, disabled veterans with existing DV license plates will need to do one of the following to maintain parking privileges:

- obtain a parking placard, if they do not have one, or
- exchange their existing DV license plate for a DV license plate or another license plate that includes the ISA.

A disabled veteran must meet the eligibility requirements as specified in Transportation Code, Section 504.201, to obtain a disabled parking placard or DV license plate that includes the ISA. Not all disabilities that qualify a disabled veteran for DV license plates will qualify a disabled veteran for DV license plates that include the ISA.

Eligibility for license plates that include the ISA, including DV plates, and disabled person placards is based on a medical condition that meets the legal definition of a disability.

Transportation Code, Section 681.001, defines "Disability" as a condition in which a person has:

- Visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses;
- Visual acuity of more than 20/200 but with a limited field of vision in which the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle of 20 degrees or less; or
- Mobility problems that substantially impair a person's ability to ambulate.

Currently, the ISA can only be included on a DV license plate through personalization and by paying the \$40 personalization fee. A disabled veteran will no longer be required to personalize their plate or to pay the personalization fee to indicate the ISA on a DV license plate. The fee for DV license plates with or without the ISA will continue to be \$3 for the first set, and no annual registration fee is required. Additional sets may be obtained for the annual registration fee and other applicable fees.

Effective January 1, 2022, the limit for disabled parking placards is a maximum of 2. A customer who opts for:

- 0 DV ISA plates can receive up to 2 disabled parking placards;
- 1 DV ISA plate can receive up to 1 disabled parking placard; or
- 2 DV ISA plates can receive up to 2 disabled parking placards.

To obtain DV license plates that include the ISA, applicants must meet the new eligibility requirements and submit a revised *Application for Disabled Veteran License Plates and/or Parking Placards* (Form VTR-615) or the *Application for Persons with Disabilities Parking Placard and/or License Plate* (Form VTR-214) in conjunction with the Form VTR-615.

The application must be accompanied by a written statement from a physician who is licensed to practice medicine in this state or in a state adjacent to this state or who is authorized by applicable law to practice medicine in a hospital or other health facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs. If the applicant has a mobility problem caused by a disorder of the foot, the written statement may be issued by a person licensed to practice podiatry in this state or a state adjacent to this state.

In order to accommodate the letters "DV," the ISA, and eligible emblems on the DV ISA plate, the letters "DV" will now be stacked and treated as a single character, and the emblems will be in the upper left-hand corner. Some examples are below:



Disabled Veteran with ISA



Disabled Veteran with US Army, ISA

The Registration and Title System (RTS) was updated with Release 11.0 to include the new DV license plates that include the ISA, which will be available effective January 1, 2022. For more information on processing steps, refer to RTS County Release Notes 11.0 posted on the TAC Hub at www.TxDMV.gov.

To assist in the manufacturing process for DV ISA plates, an exclamation point (“!”) is used in the manufactured plate number as a placeholder for the stacked DV text characters. As a result, RTS was programmed to automatically substitute an “!” in the **MFG Plate No** field and **DV** in the **Plate No** field on the Special Plate Information SPL002.

COUNTY ACTION

Effective January 1, 2022, begin issuing DV license plates that include the ISA to applicants who meet the new eligibility requirements and submit a revised *Application for Disabled Veteran License Plates and/or Parking Placards* (Form VTR-615) or the *Application for Persons with Disabilities Parking Placard and/or License Plate* (Form VTR-214) in conjunction with the Form VTR-615.

Please review the attached *Application for Disabled Veteran License Plates and/or Parking Placards* (Form VTR-615) that has been revised to include the option to obtain a DV ISA license plate, the new eligibility requirements as specified in Transportation Code, Section 504.201, the option to obtain a parking placard with each set of plates, the definitions of a disability, and the certification from a Licensed Medical Professional.

CONTACT

If you have any questions, please contact your local Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Regional Service Center.

Sincerely,



Roland D. Luna, Sr., Director
Vehicle Titles and Registration Division

RL:CT:TM

Attachment