



December 12, 2024

**Registration and Title Bulletin # 005-24
Policy and Procedure**

TO: All County Tax Assessor-Collectors, Licensed Motor Vehicle Dealers, and Insurance Companies

SUBJECT: House Bill (HB) 3297 – Elimination of Vehicle Safety Inspections and Revised Procedures for Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) Certification and Rebuilt Salvage Title Applications

PURPOSE

This bulletin provides comprehensive guidance on changes resulting from HB 3297, enacted by the 88th Legislature. These changes include:

1. Elimination of the vehicle safety inspection program for all non-commercial vehicles.
2. Introduction of the “Inspection Replacement Fee” for registration transactions.
3. Revised procedures for VIN certification and rebuilt salvage title applications.

DETAILS

Effective January 1, 2025, HB 3297 eliminates the vehicle safety inspection program managed by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for non-commercial vehicles. The following changes will take effect:

1. Vehicle Registration Changes

Fees

- **Inspection Replacement Fee:**
 - **Vehicle Previously Registered:** Annual fee of \$7.50, will be assessed at the time of registration.
 - **New Vehicle (2-year – not previously registered):** \$16.75, will be assessed at the time of initial registration for new vehicles (current or preceding model year) not previously registered in Texas or another state. This fee replaces the \$7.50 annual fee for the first year.
 - **Emissions Inspection Fee:** \$2.75, applicable to gas-powered vehicles registered in the following **17 emissions counties:**

Brazoria, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, El Paso, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Johnson, Kaufman, Montgomery, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, Travis, Williamson.



Registration Process Updates

- Owners of **previously registered vehicles** must pay the \$7.50 annual Inspection Replacement Fee at registration.
- Owners of **new vehicles** (current or preceding model year) must pay the \$16.75 Inspection Replacement Fee at the time of initial registration. New vehicles are exempt from emissions testing for the first two years.
- Customers in emissions counties must obtain a passing emissions inspection for all **gas-powered vehicles that have been previously registered** and pay the \$2.75 fee prior to registration or renewal.

2. VIN Certification Requirements

Applicability

VIN certification remains required for vehicles last titled or registered out of state or country. Certification can be achieved through one of two methods:

1. Inspection Station Verification
 - a. For vehicles in emissions counties, VIN certification is completed through a state inspection and verified in the inspection database. Physical proof is not required if the inspection is found in the database. Otherwise, a copy of the Vehicle Inspection Report or mytxcar.org printout is acceptable.
2. Self-Certification
 - a. For vehicles in non-emission counties, or vehicles not otherwise required to obtain an emissions inspection, title applicants must self-certify the VIN. Self-certification is completed using the updated *Application for Texas Title and/or Registration* (Form 130-U), which includes a checkbox for VIN certification and an additional check box for unrecovered stolen vehicles to certify when the VIN cannot be verified.

Revised and Obsolete Forms

- The *Vehicle Identification Number Certification* (Form VTR-270) is now obsolete.
- Self-certification statements have been removed from the *Trailer Verification Statement of Fact* (Form VTR-141) and *Insurance Company Statement of Fact* (Form VTR-331-INS). Applicants must use the revised Form 130-U for VIN certification.



Programming Updates

- The Registration and Title System (RTS) will be updated to disable the VIN Certification Waived checkbox.
 - The “VIN CERTIFICATION WAIVED” remark will no longer be applied to motor vehicle records. Existing remarks will be removed automatically at subsequent titling events. Customers may apply for a corrected title to remove the remark, but it is not required.
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3. Rebuilt Salvage Title Applications

Requirements

- Safety inspections are no longer required for rebuilt salvage vehicles.
- Emissions inspections are still required in emissions counties for registration purposes.

Revised Form

- The *Rebuilt Vehicle Statement* (Form VTR-61) has been updated to remove the safety inspection section and include a field for a work completion date.
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COUNTY AND DEALER ACTIONS

Effective January 1, 2025:

For Registration and Title Transactions:

1. Confirm applicable fees are assessed:
 - a. \$7.50 annual Inspection Replacement Fee or \$16.75 Inspection Replacement Fee for a new vehicle.
 - b. \$2.75 Emissions Inspection Fee for customers in emissions counties.
 2. Verify VIN certification through the inspection database or accept physical proof (e.g., Vehicle Inspection Report or mytxcar.org printout) if not found in the database.
 - a. Ensure customers self-certify VINs using the updated Form 130-U when an inspection is not required. Accept legacy or prior versions of forms (e.g., VTR-270, VTR-141, and VTR-331-INS) for transactions involving vehicles sold or purchased before January 1, 2025.
 3. For rebuilt salvage vehicles, do not require safety inspections. Encourage use of the revised Form VTR-61 but allow prior versions during the transition.
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The department has implemented system updates to facilitate these changes:

- **RTS 24.3.1 Release (October 2024):** Updated paper and electronic registration renewal notices and implemented hard stops for customers without a Texas address.
 - **RTS 25.1 Release (January 2025):** Additional programming details for vehicle registration changes, affidavit exemptions, VIN certification, and rebuilt salvage title processes will be included in the release notes.
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CONTACT

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

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