



## Vehicle licensing & insurance bulletin

# Temporary Number Plates during COVID-19

Motorists who license a vehicle in BC during the COVID-19 outbreak may display ICBC's new temporary paper number plates on their vehicle until they receive regular metal number plates.

Further to the protocol described in Vehicle licensing and insurance [bulletin 25](#), in-person contact also is no longer required for transactions that include issuing number plates.

Instead, after the motorist licenses and insures their vehicle by phone/email, number plate delivery to vehicle owners is by Canada Post and other secure options.

### Temporary Number Plate (TNP)

The TNP serves as vehicle identification and evidence of valid licence and insurance, like a regular metal licence plate. It looks similar to a Temporary Operation Permit (sample TNP on page 4.)

ICBC will issue TNPs through its Autoplan broker network and brokers will send these electronically to motorists. If the motorist needs to operate their vehicle before arrival of the permanent plate, motorists now may print Temporary Number Plates (TNPs) on their own printer.

The TNP is displayed similar to a Temporary Operation Permit. Normally that is to affix the top section of the page to the lower driver-side corner inside the rear window, and to affix the smaller bottom section of page to the inside bottom passenger-side of windshield (instructions on page 3 of this bulletin).

### Validation

The number appearing on the TNP can be entered into CPIC to check whether the vehicle licence and insurance are valid and to retrieve all the information usually available from CPIC. The TNP number is the same as what is embossed on the metal licence plate in transit to the motorist.

The motorist must also carry copies of registration, licensing and insurance documents as described in bulletin 25.

### Effective & End Date

These measures are effective immediately.

They will remain in place only while the COVID-19 pandemic has a significant impact on the B.C. public. ICBC will issue another bulletin or notice prior to ending these measures.



## Legislation and Regulation

Motor Vehicle Act [Section 3\(7\)](#) Issue a numbered licence in the form established by ICBC  
Motor Vehicle Act [Section 12\(1\)](#) Number plates of a material and design determined by ICBC  
Motor Vehicle Act Regulations [Division 3](#) Display and use of number plates

John Kilpatrick  
Manager, Provincial Vehicle Registration, Licensing and Insurance

**RESCINDED**

[Revised and re-sent with "draft" watermark removed from pages 2-5.]



## Use of Temporary Number Plate

- Drivers must carry the APV250 (Insurance, Reg and Licensing documents) or its photocopy or an electronic copy in their vehicle whenever the vehicle is on highway.
- The TNP is temporary. It is to immediately be replaced by the regular licence plate(s) when received by mail or courier, and then destroyed.
- Validation decals should not be affixed to the TNP.
- The TNP should not be transferred between vehicles (e.g. it is not to be used on a substitute vehicle as allowed for regular metal licence plates under the ten day rule).
- Page 1 is to be placed in rear window (bottom driver side), and Page 2 in bottom right passenger side of windshield. This also applies to commercial vehicles 5500 kg and over.
- Where adjustments to display location must be made, TNPs should be placed in a location that does not impact visibility while driving.
- Motorcycles and trailers only require the rear TNP.
- There is only one TNP template to be used for all types of vehicles. There is not a smaller sized version of the TNP for motorcycles and utility trailers.
- Clear tape, shrink-wrap or other protection may be applied to a TNP only if it is entirely unobstructed and the characters remain clearly visible.



## Temporary Number Plate Sample



Temporary Number Plate

Page 1

Plate Number

# ABC123

Vehicle Description **White 2015 Honda Accord**

Effective Date **27 MAR 2020**

Expiry Date **26 MAR 2021**

This is a temporary number plate issued during the COVID-19 pandemic and the owner of the vehicle must affix the regular metal number plate or plates to the vehicle as soon as they are received from the Corporation.  
Attach page 1 to lower inside corner of **rear window** on the driver's side of the vehicle. If unable to use rear window, attach page 1 to rear side window on driver's side of vehicle. For motorcycles and trailers, this number plate is required to be displayed on the rear of the vehicle.

Agency Number **00000**  
Issue Date **27 MAR 2020**

MV1800A\_BCP (03/2020)



Temporary Number Plate

Page 2

Plate Number

# ABC123

Attach page 2 to lower inside corner of **front windshield** on passenger's side with numbers facing out.

MV1800A\_BCP (03/2020)



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Conservation Officer Service (Chief C.O.)

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