

735-046-0010

Custom Plates: Application and Standards

(1) A person who wishes to obtain custom plates must submit an application for custom plates to DMV.

Custom plate choices:

(a) May not be reserved in advance of application and payment of required fees; and

(b) Are approved and assigned by DMV on a first-come, first-served basis. When two or more applications requesting an identical plate choice are received, whether it be an application for renewal of a custom plate which has been expired for more than 30 days or an original application, the one for which DMV first receives the application and required fees shall be the one considered for approval of that plate choice. "Application" as used in this subsection may include application by phone provided DMV is in possession of the required fees. For example, a call is made to request an alternate choice because the original choice is not available.

(2) Except as provided in OAR 735-046-0020, applicants for custom plates shall otherwise qualify for Oregon title and registration for the vehicle to which the plates are to be assigned, and shall pay any applicable fees. Such requirements and fees shall be submitted with the request for approval of a custom plate choice, unless previously submitted to DMV.

(3) A custom plate choice shall not be considered approved and assigned until the plate has actually been issued by DMV.

(4) To be considered for approval by DMV a requested plate choice shall:

(a) Be compatible with DMV's computer system;

(b) Not be identical to any plate configuration reserved for current Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients, Oregon office holders, the Governor or Honorary Consular Corps Representatives, unless the custom plate is being issued under the provisions of OAR 735-046-0050;

(c) Not begin with the letters CMH, MOH, SEN, REP, USS, USR or ORE and be followed by numbers;

(d) Be limited to alphabetic or numeric characters, or combinations thereof, and shall not include any punctuation or symbols other than a dash or space;

(e) Include at least one alphabetic or numeric character;

(f) Be limited to no more than six alphabetic characters, numeric characters, spaces or dashes, except that a seventh character shall be allowed provided it is a space or a dash;

(g) Except as provided in section (6) of this rule, not be identical to any other plate configuration in current use. The use of a space or a dash within a plate choice shall not be considered when determining whether the plate is identical to another plate configuration; and

(5) In addition to other provisions of this rule, all of the following apply to approval of a plate choice that is identical to a plate configuration that is in current use:

(a) DMV may approve a plate choice that conflicts with a plate configuration currently in use for motor vehicles registered under ORS 803.420(1) (i.e., passenger plated vehicles) if:

(A) The specific plate configuration requested has previously been issued and is not still in inventory or to be issued in the future;

(B) The previously issued plates bearing the plate choice are surrendered to DMV with the custom plate request, or are no longer in circulation. If there is any question about such plates being in circulation, it shall be the applicant's responsibility to satisfy DMV that the plates have been destroyed, surrendered to DMV, surrendered to another state, or otherwise not available for use on a vehicle; and

(C) The plate choice is to be assigned to a vehicle that qualifies for registration under ORS 803.420(1).

(b) For motor vehicles other than those registered under ORS 803.420(1), i.e., those which are not passenger plated vehicles, DMV may approve a plate choice that is identical to a plate configuration that is in current use if:

(A) The vehicle to which the custom plates are to be issued is of a different type than the vehicle to which the plates bearing the identical plate configuration are in current use or could be issued. For example, a plate choice that is identical to a disabled veteran plate configuration (for example D00001) cannot be assigned to a custom plate issued to either a passenger vehicle or motor home. A plate choice that is identical to a motor home plate configuration (for example H00001) cannot be assigned to a custom plate issued to a motor home but can be assigned to a custom plate issued to a passenger vehicle;

(B) The plate choice requested is not currently assigned to a registration plate; and

(C) The plate choice requested will not be assigned to a future plate series.

(6) DMV shall not approve a custom plate choice, including plate choices that would do so by means of foreign or slang words or phrases, by use of phonetic, numeric or reverse spelling, or by being viewed in mirror image, that:

(a) Would have the effect of alarming, threatening, offending or misleading a reasonable person. Such choices may include, but are not limited to, combinations of letters, numbers or both that:

(A) Refer to intimate bodily parts or to sexual or excretory acts or functions;

(B) Refer in an alarming or offensive manner to a person or class of persons on the basis or race, color, gender, ethnic heritage, national origin, or other characteristic;

(C) Suggest that the vehicle to which the custom plate is issued is an official vehicle of a public agency or official, when it is in fact not such a vehicle; and/or

(D) Refer to illegal acts.

(b) Refers to alcoholic beverages, or controlled substances or paraphernalia used in the consumption thereof by combinations of letters, numbers or both.

(7) DMV may use any reliable lexicological source to determine the meaning of any word, symbol or phrase.

(8) When reviewing a plate choice for approval, DMV need not consider the applicant's subjective intent or declared meaning.

(9) DMV shall approve the transfer of registration plates which are not from a current issue of plates as custom plates under the provisions of ORS 805.242. All of the following apply to such a transfer:

- (a) For vehicles which require two registration plates, the applicant must have two registration plates available for transfer to the vehicle;
- (b) The registration plates being transferred must not be so old, damaged, mutilated or otherwise rendered illegible as to be not useful for purposes of identification;
- (c) The registration plates being transferred must be from a series in current use;
- (d) The registration plates may only be transferred to a vehicle type that is otherwise eligible for custom plates; and
- (e) The registration plates may only be transferred to a vehicle of the same registration type to which they were originally issued (e.g., passenger vehicle to passenger vehicle).

Stat. Auth.: ORS 184.616, 184.619, 802.010, 805.200, 805.205, 805.220 and Ch. 311, OL 2007

Stats. Implemented: ORS 803.420, 803.535, 805.220, 805.240, ORS 805.242, 805.250 and Ch. 311, OL 2007

735-046-0050

Congressional Medal of Honor, Elected Official and Honorary Consul Plates

(1) Requirements and Qualifications. In addition to all other requirements for registration, an applicant for Congressional Medal of Honor plates, elected official plates or honorary consul plates must submit to DMV, an application for registration and all applicable fees, including any fee required for the custom plate requested. At the time of application, the applicant must:

- (a) Be the registered owner of the vehicle listed on the application;
- (b) For Medal of Honor Recipients, meet the qualifications for issuance of Medal of Honor Plates under chapter 311, Oregon Laws, 2007 and this rule;
- (c) For elected officials, meet the qualifications of ORS 805.220, and hold the office specified on the application. DMV may contact the Secretary of State to verify compliance with this subsection;
- (d) For members of the Honorary Consular Corps, submit proof to DMV that the applicant is affiliated with, or represents a foreign consulate. Proof under this subsection must be a letter that clearly indicates the applicant is designated as an honorary consul. The letter must be from the designating nation and must be on official letterhead.

(2) Plate Transfer. In addition to all other requirements for transferring registration plates, an applicant for a plate transfer must submit to DMV, a completed, signed application to transfer registration plates and all applicable fees. At the time of transfer, the applicant must be the registered owner of the vehicle listed on the application. There is no plate transfer fee for elected official plates.

(3) Plate Configurations. The following plate configurations are reserved as specified:

- (a) For Congressional Medal of Honor recipients: The applicant may choose “MOH” or “CMH,” followed by a single number of 1 thru 9;

(A) A total of 18 pair of Medal of Honor plates are reserved for issuance to qualified Congressional Medal of Honor recipients.

(B) Once a Congressional Medal of Honor plate configuration is issued, it is removed from the list of available plate choices and will not be issued again. For example, after "CMH 1" is issued, it is longer available as a plate choice, and only 17 plate configuration choices are available to the next applicant.

(b) For elected officials:

(A) Governor: "GOV1";

(B) Secretary of State: "2";

(C) State Treasurer: "3";

(D) President of the Senate: "4";

(E) President pro tempore of the Senate: "4A";

(F) Speaker of the House of Representatives: "5";

(G) Speaker pro tem of the House: "5A";

(H) State Senators: "SEN" followed by the applicable Senate district number;

(I) State Representatives: "REP" followed by the applicable House district number;

(J) U.S. Senator: "USS" followed by a number; and

(K) U.S. Representative: "USR" followed by the House District number.

(L) For members of the Honorary Consular Corp: "ORE" followed by a number assigned by DMV.

(4) In addition to the elected official plate for Governor under subsection (3)(b) of this rule, DMV will issue regular series plates to the Governor upon request from the Governor's office. The fee for a regular series plate issued under this section is the plate manufacturing fee established under ORS 803.570.

(5) A person who no longer qualifies for elected official plates or honorary consul plates must remove them from their vehicle at the end of their term of office, appointment, or at the time they no longer act in the official capacity of their position. When this occurs, the person may surrender the plates to DMV or retain the plates as a souvenir.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 184.616, 184.619, 802.010, 805.200, 805.205, 805.220 and Ch. 311, OL 2007

Stats. Implemented: ORS 803.420, 803.530, 803.535, 805.220, 805.240, 805.242, 805.250 and Ch. 311, OL 2007