

During the 2023 legislature, a law was passed banning paper plates (known as E-Tags), which are placed on vehicles that are recently purchased. They expire after 60 days. The issue of the E-Tags was that car dealers and criminals were abusing them. This culminated in the death of a Sergeant in Harris County when he stopped a stolen vehicle that was displaying a fictitious E-Tag.

In July 2025, the State of Texas began to require dealers to get metal plates from the Tax Assessor's Office based on the number of plates sold by the dealer monthly. The problem is that the State of Texas has not figured out how to instantly issue registration stickers simultaneously. The cure for the dealers was for the driver to maintain their buyer's receipt as stated below: "Buyers must keep their Buyer's receipt in the vehicle until registration is complete, and the windshield sticker is received and affixed".

The Texas Transportation Code 502.473 (see below) states that every vehicle on the public roadway shall have a registration sticker. This is why the dealers are advising the buyer to carry the receipt.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Best Regards,

Rod Carroll, CPA

Chief Of Police

Texas Transportation Code - TRANSP § 502.473. Operation of Vehicle Without Registration Insignia

(a) A person commits an offense if the person operates on a public highway during a registration period a motor vehicle that does not properly display the registration insignia issued by the department that establishes that the license plates have been validated for the period.

(b) A person commits an offense if the person operates on a public highway during a registration period a road tractor, motorcycle, trailer, or semitrailer that does not display a registration insignia issued by the department that establishes that the vehicle is registered for the period.

(c) This section does not apply to a dealer operating a vehicle as provided by law.

(d) A court may dismiss a charge brought under Subsection (a) if the defendant pays a reimbursement fee not to exceed \$10 and:

(1) remedies the defect before the defendant's first court appearance; or

(2) shows that the motor vehicle was issued a registration insignia by the department that was attached to the motor vehicle, establishing that the vehicle was registered for the period during which the offense was committed.