

Guidelines on how you can register kit cars and rebuilt or radically altered vehicles

For more information go to www.direct.gov.uk/vehiclereg



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1. Introduction

A vehicle must be properly taxed, insured and registered before it can be used or kept on the public road. When a vehicle is first registered, we give it a registration number which must be properly displayed on the vehicle's number plate. The registration number stays with the vehicle until it is broken up, destroyed, permanently exported or transferred to another vehicle by what is known as a 'cherished transfer'.

For information on the display of vehicle registration numbers go to **www.direct.gov.uk/numberplates** or see leaflet 'Vehicle registration numbers and number plates' (INF104) which you can get from **www.direct.gov.uk/motoringleaflets**.

However, sometimes a vehicle needs to be rebuilt or it is radically altered and this can affect the identity of the vehicle – is it the original vehicle which has been repaired, or have so many new or different parts been used that the original vehicle no longer exists?

When giving a registration number to a rebuilt vehicle or radically altered vehicle our main priority is to decide whether or not the vehicle is newly built with no previously registered identity (in its present form). Vehicles which have been substantially rebuilt or altered from the manufacturers original specification need to be examined at a DVLA local office who will check the vehicle record and history. Checks will be made to establish if the donor vehicle or major component parts have been subject to a Vehicle Identification Check (VIC) or Certificate of Destruction (CoD).

Vehicle Identity Check (VIC)

The VIC has been introduced to put criminals off disguising stolen cars with the identity of written-off or scrapped ones. The check is designed to help confirm that the vehicle being returned to the road has been repaired following accident damage and has not been stolen. For further information go to **www.direct.gov.uk/vic**.

Since April 2003, DVLA is notified of all cars that are written off by an insurance company or declared scrapped by their owners due to accident damage are notified to DVLA.

Any vehicle, which has failed a VIC, will not be entitled to keep its original registration number. A DVLA local office will allocate a 'Q' registration number and Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA), Single Vehicle Approval (SVA) or Motorcycle Single Vehicle Approval (MSVA) will be needed before the vehicle is registered.

If a VIC application is rejected by Vehicle Operator and Services Agency (VOSA) because the vehicle has been rebuilt, the DVLA local office will need to assess the vehicle in line with our rebuild guidelines.

Certificate of Destruction (CoD)

Since 2003, cars, light vans and some tricycles (for example Reliant Robin) can only be scrapped at an Authorised Treatment Facility (ATF) who will issue a CoD certifying that the vehicle has been or will be dismantled in line with strict environmental standards. For further information go to **www.direct.gov.uk/scrappingyourcar** or refer to 'Certificate of Destruction' (INF156).

These vehicles must never re-appear as 'complete' vehicles or be presented for registration under these guidelines. Some minor components from a vehicle issued with a CoD may be recycled. **The original CoD vehicle identity cannot be kept under any circumstances.**

Vehicles with personalised registration numbers

Not all registration numbers are transferable. Check your Registration Certificate (V5C) first. You may want to arrange to transfer or retain the registration number before you carry out any alterations or conversions. For more information, see the 'Application to transfer or retain a vehicle registration number' (V317), or our booklet 'Registration Numbers and You' (INF46). You can get these from **www.direct.gov.uk/motoringforms**, **www.direct.gov.uk/motoringleaflets** or DVLA local offices.

Important – It is the responsibility of the vehicle keeper to ensure that their vehicle meets the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 (as amended) if used on the road

2. Vehicles that have been rebuilt using a mix of new and/or used parts

To keep the original registration number:

Cars and light vans must use:

- the original unaltered chassis or unaltered monocoque bodyshell (that is, the body and chassis as one unit); or
- a new chassis or monocoque bodyshell of the same specification as the original. A receipt from the dealer or manufacturer is required.

AND the vehicle must have two other major components – as listed below – from the original vehicle.

- Suspension (front and back)
- Axles (both)
- Transmission
- Steering assembly
- Engine

If a second-hand chassis or monocoque bodyshell is used, the vehicle must have Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) or Single Vehicle Approval (SVA) (see section 11). A 'Q' registration number will then be issued (see section 7).

Motorcycles must use

- an unaltered frame (original or new) **and** two of the following major components from the original machine.
- Forks
- Wheels
- Engine or gearbox

If a second-hand frame is used, the vehicle must have Motorcycle Single Vehicle Approval (MSVA). A 'Q' registration number will then be issued (see section 7).

3. Vehicles that have been radically altered

This covers vehicles which are radically altered from their original specification, but which are not kit conversions.

In these cases, the vehicle components from the original vehicle will be given a number of points. To keep the original registration number, the vehicle must have eight or more points, which must include the original or new unmodified chassis or monocoque bodyshell.

If the vehicle has less than eight points, a second-hand or altered chassis, frame or monocoque bodyshell is used, the vehicle must have IVA, SVA or MSVA, whichever is appropriate, so that it can be registered. A 'Q' registration number will then be issued, (see section 7.)

The following points will be given to the original major components used.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ■ Chassis or monocoque bodyshell (body and chassis as one unit) (original or new)* | 5 |
| ■ Suspension (front & back) | 2 |
| ■ Axles (both) | 2 |
| ■ Transmission | 2 |
| ■ Steering assembly | 2 |
| ■ Engine | 1 |

*Direct replacement from the manufacturers

If there is evidence that two vehicles have been welded together to form one (also known as "Cut and Shut"), IVA, SVA or MSVA will be required. A 'Q' registration number will then be issued.

4. Kit built

If all the parts of a vehicle are supplied new by the manufacturer, the vehicle will be allocated a current registration number as long as you provide satisfactory receipts and a Certificate of Newness.

Kit cars which have been built using **no more than one** reconditioned component will also be registered under a current registration number as long as you provide satisfactory evidence that the component has been reconditioned to an 'as new' standard. The vehicle must have IVA, SVA or MSVA.

5. Kit Conversions

This is where a kit of new parts is added to an existing vehicle, or old parts are added to a kit of a manufactured body, chassis or monocoque bodyshell. The general appearance of the vehicle will change and result in a different description being put on the Registration Certificate (V5C).

A vehicle will keep the registration number of the original vehicle if the original unaltered chassis/monocoque bodyshell has been used along with two other major components from the original vehicle.

If a new monocoque bodyshell or chassis from a specialist kit manufacturer (or an altered chassis or bodyshell from an existing vehicle) is used with two original major components from the donor vehicle, a replacement registration number will be issued based on the age of the donor vehicle. The vehicle must have IVA, SVA or MSVA. The date of manufacture for the vehicle will be taken from the IVA, SVA or MSVA certificate.

Where insufficient parts from a donor vehicle are used or in cases where the original registration is unknown IVA/SVA/MSVA will be required to register the vehicle and a 'Q' prefix registration number will be allocated.

6. Reconstructed Classics

The reconstructed classic category is intended to support the restoration of unregistered classic vehicles. Reconstructed vehicles must comprise of genuine period components all over 25 years old, and of the same specification. The appropriate vehicle enthusiasts club for the marque (make) must confirm in writing that following inspection, they authenticate that the vehicle is a true reflection of that marque and that it meets the above criteria. This written confirmation must support an application to the local office. An age related registration number will be issued based on the age of the youngest component used.

Reconstructed classics or replica classic vehicles built to original specifications using a mixture of new and used components, will be issued a Q registration number. The vehicle must have a IVA, SVA or MSVA.

7. Q Registration Numbers

'Q' registration numbers are issued where the age or identity of the vehicle is not known. Although seen by many enthusiasts as a seal of disapproval, they have proved to be a useful consumer protection aid. The display of a 'Q' registration number is a visible sign to a prospective purchaser that the age or identity of the vehicle is in doubt. The vehicle must have IVA, SVA or MSVA before a 'Q' registration number can be used.

8. Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)

By law, all vehicles used on the public road must have a VIN. This may be lost when a vehicle is substantially rebuilt, particularly in the case of kit vehicles where the chassis or bodyshell may not have been stamped by the manufacturer. In these circumstances, the DVLA local office will issue a replacement VIN and an authorisation letter.

The vehicle cannot be registered until we receive confirmation that the vehicle has been stamped with a VIN.

9. Registering unidentified vehicles

The following procedures must be followed when making an application to tax and register a vehicle without identity for the first time:

- You should apply to your nearest DVLA local office which you can find at www.direct.gov.uk/dvla/local or by phoning 0300 123 1277 (you will have to give your postcode). Applications from outside a DVLA local office's catchment area will be refused.
- You will be asked to produce a photocard driving licence as proof of name and address. If you do not have one, you must produce one original document (not a copy) from each of the two lists below.

Documentation confirming your name	Documentation confirming your address
Current DVLA driving licence	A gas, electricity, water, landline phone bill issued within the last three months
UK/EU Passport	Council tax bill for the current year
Birth Certificate	Bank/building society statement issued within the last three months
Marriage Certificate	Medical card
Decree nisi/absolute	

- You must produce official receipts, from identifiable suppliers, for the components used in a rebuild.
- All vehicles without a VIN and registration number will be inspected at the DVLA local office and referred to the police.

These arrangements have been introduced in an effort to combat vehicle crime. If you rebuild vehicles and can prove where the components came from, you do not need to worry about this procedure. However, if the police believe a vehicle has been stolen, we will not register the vehicle and it may be seized.

If you are considering buying a vehicle without a VIN or registration number you should beware. If the police suspect that the vehicle has been stolen, you may lose it and the money you paid for it. You can get more advice about buying a vehicle on www.direct.gov.uk/buyingacar which includes a checklist to help avoid buying stolen vehicles.

10. Documents needed to register a vehicle

- Application for a first tax disc and registration of a used motor vehicle' (V55/5) or 'Application for a first tax disc and registration of a new motor vehicle' (V55/4) (for new kit built vehicles)
- Vehicle tax (where appropriate)
- Form 'Built up Vehicle Inspection Report' (V627/1) (to be filled in before inspection)
- IVA/SVA/MSVA certificate (if required)
- MoT certificate (if required)
- Insurance certificate
- Certificate of Newness (kit cars)
- Registration Fee (if required)
- Receipts
- Documentation confirming your name and address (see section 9)
- Registration Certificate (V5C) (if a donor vehicle is used)

For kit converted, radically altered and rebuilt vehicles, the V5C must be presented with the other paperwork.

11. Vehicles that are given alternative registration numbers

If registered vehicles are given alternative numbers, they will have to pass either IVA, SVA or MSVA in order to register. The level and type of test required will depend on the vehicle. Further information on type approval is available from VOSA on 0300 123 9000 or **www.direct.gov.uk/motoring**

