

## VIRGINIA

### Definitions

**Antique Motor Vehicle.** Every motor vehicle, as defined in this section, which was actually manufactured or designated by the manufacturer as a model manufactured in a calendar year not less than 25 years prior to January 1 of each calendar year and is owned solely as a collector's item.

**Major Component.** Any one of the following subassemblies of a motor vehicle: (i) front clip assembly, consisting of the fenders, grille, hood, bumper, and related parts; (ii) engine; (iii) transmission; (iv) rear clip assembly, consisting of the quarter panels, floor panels, trunk lid, bumper, and related parts; (v) frame; (vi) air bags; and (vii) any door that displays a vehicle identification number.

**Reconstructed Vehicle.** Every vehicle of a type required to be registered under this title materially altered from its original construction by the removal, addition, or substitution of new or used essential parts. Such vehicles, at the discretion of the Department, shall retain their original vehicle identification number, line-make, and model year.

**Replica Vehicle.** Every vehicle of a type required to be registered under this title not fully constructed by a licensed manufacturer but either constructed or assembled from components. Such components may be from a single vehicle, multiple vehicles, a kit, parts, or fabricated components. The kit may be made up of "major components" as defined in § 46.2-1600, a full body, or a full chassis, or a combination of these parts. The vehicle shall resemble a vehicle of distinctive name, line-make, model, or type as produced by a licensed manufacturer or manufacturer no longer in business and is not a reconstructed or specially constructed vehicle as herein defined.

**Specially Constructed Vehicle.** Any vehicle that was not originally constructed under a distinctive name, make, model, or type by a generally recognized manufacturer of vehicles and not a reconstructed vehicle as herein defined.

## Titling & Registration

### From Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles:

---

#### **Titling a Reconstructed, Specially Constructed, or Replica Vehicle**

Every person who owns a reconstructed vehicle, specially constructed vehicle, or replica vehicle must obtain a certificate of title and registration for the vehicle before it is operated on any highway. All liens held against the vehicle must be shown on the Virginia title.

#### **Definitions**

A **reconstructed vehicle** is any vehicle that has been materially altered from its original construction by the removal, addition, or substitution of new or used essential parts. (VA Code § 46.2-100)

A **specially constructed vehicle** is any vehicle that was not originally constructed under a distinctive name, make, model, or type by a generally recognized manufacturer of vehicles and which would not be otherwise defined as a reconstructed vehicle. (VA Code § 46.2-100) For example, a vehicle constructed using a Mercury frame and a Chevrolet body.

A **replica vehicle** is any vehicle not fully constructed by a licensed manufacturer, but either constructed or assembled from components. Such components may be from a single vehicle, multiple vehicles, a kit, parts, or fabricated components. The kit may be made up of major components, a full body, or a full chassis, or a combination of these parts. The vehicle must resemble a vehicle of distinctive name, line-make, model, or type as produced by a licensed manufacturer or manufacturer no longer in business and is not a reconstructed or specially constructed vehicle. (VA Code § 46.2-100)

**Major components** are any one of the following subassemblies of a motor vehicle: (i) front clip assembly, consisting of the fenders, grille, hood, bumper, and related parts; (ii) engine; (iii) transmission; (iv) rear clip assembly, consisting of the quarter panels, floor panels, trunk lid, bumper, and related parts; (v) frame; (vi) air bags; and (vii) any door that displays a vehicle identification number. (VA Code § 46.2-1600)

#### **How to Apply**

Follow these steps when applying for a title for a reconstructed, specially constructed or replica vehicle.

##### **1. Submit the following completed forms:**

- Application for Assigned Vehicle Identification Number (VSA 22), if required

**NOTE:** Vehicles such as reconstructed or specially constructed motor vehicles may have existing vehicle identification numbers (VINs) that are no longer appropriate because the vehicle has been fundamentally altered to be an entirely different vehicle for titling purposes. In order to title these types of vehicles, DMV will assign vehicle identification numbers.

If the vehicle is a replica built on a manufactured chassis or a chassis from another vehicle, a VIN usually will not have to be assigned by DMV because the Manufacturer's Certificate (or Statement) of Origin (MCO or MSO) will provide an acceptable VIN for the vehicle. A replica vehicle built on the chassis from another vehicle may use the VIN from the existing chassis, as long as the new vehicle is a replica of the vehicle from which the chassis came. However, DMV must assign a VIN to any replica vehicle that otherwise does not have one, or if the replica does not appear to be the vehicle from which the chassis came.

Any vehicle owner seeking an assignment of VIN from DMV must establish ownership of the vehicle by submitting all titles or other ownership documents for any parts acquired for use in constructing the vehicle. Each type of vehicle has certain components that must be accounted for with a bill of sale, title, certificate of origin and/or a notarized affidavit. These documents must show any identification numbers, sale price, and be properly assigned to

the applicant.

Any vehicle, for which an application for a VIN has been made, will be subject to inspection by DMV ("VIN inspection"). In addition, all reconstructed, specially constructed, and replica vehicles must be inspected by DMV's Law Enforcement Services prior to titling, even if the vehicle has an existing, useable VIN.

DMV charges a fee for the inspection, verification, or identification of the serial number or VIN of any vehicle.

- Application for Certificate of Title and Registration (VSA 17A)
- Credit Card Charge Authorization (FMS 99), if applicable

2. **Submit proof of address**

3. **Submit properly assigned ownership documents or bills of sale** for the following:

- Frame
- Body
- Engine and Drive Train (component parts consisting of engine, transmission and rear axle)
- MCO or MSO for cab/glider kit, if applicable (A glider kit is a new cab and front axle used to replace a wrecked or retired cab and front axle. Motor vehicle sales and use tax is not required; however, you must provide proof that you paid retail tax.)
- For replica vehicle, MCO or MSO of the chassis, if specially manufactured or the title for the chassis if it came from another vehicle

**NOTE:** For motorcycles, submit properly assigned ownership documents or bills of sale for the following:

- Frame
- Body
- Engine
- Transmission, if applicable
- Front-end assembly

4. **Submit the following documents:**

- A detailed notarized statement stating how the vehicle was constructed
- Multiple pictures of the completed vehicle (You must show at least the front and side of the vehicle.)

5. **Submit the following fees:**

- \$5 VIN Plate Fee, if applicable
- \$125 Inspection Fee
- \$10 Title Fee
- 3% Motor Vehicle Sales and Use Tax

**NOTE:** If the vehicle weighs 26,001 pounds or more, you are exempt from paying sales and use tax. If you paid retail sales tax on any parts at the time of purchase and you are providing proof of payment, no motor vehicle sales and use tax is required.

- Registration Fee, if applicable

**NOTE:** In order to operate your vehicle on Virginia highways, the vehicle must pass a state motor vehicle safety inspection. You must pay the local vehicle registration fee to the locality and display the local sticker or decal on the windshield, if applicable.

6. **Submit all documents and fees to:** Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles  
ATTN: Vehicle Branding Work Center  
P.O. Box 27412  
Richmond, VA 23269

Physical address:

2300 W. Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23269

**NOTE:** The estimated turnaround time for this process is 3 weeks, if you submit all required documentation. You must completely assemble the vehicle prior to submitting your original paperwork to DMV for processing. A DMV Investigator will contact you to schedule an appointment to inspect the vehicle and install the VIN plate, if applicable.

### **Additional Information**

Please note the following:

- Replica vehicles may not be driven more than 5,000 miles each year (VA Code § 46.2-602.1).
- A state inspection must be performed on the vehicle and the state inspection sticker must be displayed on the windshield, if applicable.
- The locality sticker/decal must be displayed on the windshield, if applicable.

**NOTE:** Some localities do not require the display of a sticker/decal on a vehicle; however, payment of the local registration fee is still required. Check with the appropriate locality for requirements.

## **Antique and Vintage License Plates**

If you own a passenger vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer or motorcycle with a model year that is more than 25 model years old before January 1 of the current calendar year, you've got an antique! Depending on how you plan to use your vehicle, you may choose antique, vintage or any one of our standard license plates. Antique license plates are provided by DMV; vintage license plates are original Virginia license plates issued prior to 1976 that you provide. Antique vehicles must be insured with motor vehicle liability insurance or you must pay the uninsured motor vehicle fee.

DMV began issuing yearly decals for passenger vehicles and trailers in 1973, which means that passenger vehicles and trailers manufactured in or after 1973 are not eligible to use vintage license plates. You will only be able to use antique or standard license plates issued by DMV on those vehicles. If you own a motorcycle, however, you may be able to provide vintage motorcycle plates that were issued up to 1976. If your motorcycle was manufactured in or after 1976, though, you will have to use either antique or standard license plates issued by DMV.

### **Is your antique vehicle just for show...?**

If you plan to use your antique vehicle or trailer solely as a collector's item, you may register your vehicle with antique license plates or permanent vintage license plates.

Registering your vehicle either of these ways limits your use of the vehicle to:

- Participation in antique car club activities, exhibits, tours, parades, and similar events.
- Testing its operation, obtaining repairs or maintenance, selling the vehicle or trailer, transportation to and from events as described in number 1 above and for the occasional pleasure driving not to exceed 250 miles from your residence.
- Carrying or transporting passengers, personal effects or other antique motor vehicles being transported for show purposes.

You may not use your vehicle for general, daily transportation. This includes, but is not limited to, driving to and from work.

If you are providing vintage license plates, then the year embossed on the license plate must match the model year of the vehicle. In addition, DMV must inspect and approve the physical condition of the vintage plates.

To register your vehicle with antique or permanent vintage license plates, DMV charges a one-time fee. Use forms VSA 14 or VSA 10, and VSA 10B.

- Your license plates will be valid for as long as you own the vehicle.
- You may not transfer your license plates to another vehicle, but you may surrender them to DMV and then register them to a different vehicle for an additional fee.
- Unless the vehicle was manufactured for one license plate only, you must display license plates on the front and the rear of your vehicle.
- Using the "Antique Vehicle Applicant Certification," VSA 10B, you must also certify that you own, or have regular use of, another vehicle, without antique plates, for daily use and that the vehicle or trailer you want to register with antique plates can be driven safely on the highways of Virginia.

### **...or do you plan to use it for everyday driving?**

In order to enjoy unrestricted driving privileges in your antique vehicle, you'll need to either purchase standard license plates (not antique plates) from DMV or provide vintage license plates and register your antique vehicle for general transportation purposes. No matter which option you choose, you will be subject to the same registration requirements. So, remember, if you choose to use vintage license plates, just like owning a modern vehicle, you'll have to:

- Renew your vehicle registration every year or every other year (depending on whether you renew for one or two years), pay the same registration fee you would pay to purchase standard license plates.
- Display month and year decals on your vintage license plates.
- Obtain an annual safety inspection sticker for your vehicle.

If you own another vehicle or trailer of the same model year, you may transfer your general transportation vintage license plates to that vehicle.

Violations of the antique vehicle rules are Class 4 misdemeanors under Virginia Code Section 46.2-730 and will result in the revocation of your antique or permanent vintage license plates for a period of five years from the date DMV is notified of your conviction.

### **Additional Information**

For more details about the use of antique or vintage license plates, visit Virginia Code Section 46.2-730.

## Special Plates: Plate Information

### Antique Vehicle-Yellow Background



Personalization available	<b>Yes</b>
Number of characters combinations available on plate	<b>6</b>
Plate Fee	<b>\$50.00 One-Time</b>
Personalized plate fee (in addition to registration fee)	<b>\$10.00 Annually</b>
Disabled symbol available	<b>No</b>

### Antique Veh-Black Bkground



Personalization available	<b>No</b>
Number of characters combinations available on plate	<b>0</b>
Plate Fee	<b>\$50.00 One-Time</b>
Personalized plate fee (in addition to registration fee)	<b>N/A</b>
Disabled symbol available	<b>No</b>

**From Virginia State Police:**

---

**Are antique vehicles exempt from inspection and what are the restrictions?**

For a vehicle to be defined as "antique," it must be 25 years old or older. If the vehicle is registered as an antique through the Department of Motor Vehicles, it is exempt from state inspection.

Restrictions: Antique motor vehicles shall not be used for general transportation purposes, including, but not limited to, daily travel to and from the owner's place of employment. Such vehicle may be operated on the highway for participation in club activities, exhibits, tours, parades, and similar events or for the purpose of testing their operation, obtaining repairs or maintenance, transportation to and from the events earlier described, and for occasional pleasure drives, not to exceed 250 miles from the residence of the owner.



**From Code of Virginia:**

---

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE II. TITLING, REGISTRATION AND LICENSURE  
CHAPTER 6. TITLING AND REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
ARTICLE 1. TITLING AND REGISTRATION, GENERALLY

Va. Code § 46.2-602.1 (2010)

§ 46.2-602.1. Titling and registration of **replica vehicles**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the model year of **vehicles** constructed or **assembled** by multiple manufacturers or assemblers shall be the model year of which the **vehicle** is a **replica**. No **vehicle** titled under this section shall be driven more than 5,000 miles per year as shown by the vehicle's odometer. No vehicle titled under this section shall be automatically eligible for **antique** motor **vehicle** license plates provided for in § 46.2-730.

Any vehicle registered under this section shall be subject to vehicle safety inspections as provided for in Article 21 (§ 46.2-1157 et seq.) of Chapter 10 and emissions inspections as provided for in Article 22 (§ 46.2-1176 et seq.) of Chapter 10. Such vehicles shall meet such safety and emission requirements as established for the model year of which the **vehicle** is a **replica**.

The Department shall assign each such vehicle a new vehicle identification number, line-make, and model year, if required.

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS; DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-100 (2011)

\* \* \*

**"Antique motor vehicle"** means every motor vehicle, as defined in this section, which was actually manufactured or designated by the manufacturer as a model manufactured in a calendar year not less than 25 years prior to January 1 of each calendar year and is owned solely as a collector's item.

"Antique trailer" means every trailer or semitrailer, as defined in this section, that was actually manufactured or designated by the manufacturer as a model manufactured in a calendar year not less than 25 years prior to January 1 of each calendar year and is owned solely as a collector's item.

\* \* \*

"Essential parts" means all integral parts and body parts, the removal, alteration, or substitution of which will tend to conceal the identity of a vehicle.

\* \* \*

"Foreign market vehicle" means any motor vehicle originally manufactured outside the United States, which was not manufactured in accordance with 49 U.S.C. § 30101 et seq. and the policies and regulations adopted pursuant to that Act, and for which a Virginia title or registration is sought.

"Foreign vehicle" means every motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that is brought into the Commonwealth otherwise than in the ordinary course of business by or through a manufacturer or dealer and that has not been registered in the Commonwealth.

\* \* \*

**"Specially constructed vehicle"** means any vehicle that was not originally constructed under a distinctive name, make, model, or type by a generally recognized manufacturer of vehicles and not a reconstructed vehicle as herein defined.

\* \* \*

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE II. TITLING, REGISTRATION AND LICENSURE  
CHAPTER 6. TITLING AND REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
ARTICLE 2. TITLING VEHICLES

Va. Code § 46.2-625 (2010)

§ 46.2-625. Specially constructed, **reconstructed**, **replica**, or foreign **vehicles**

If a vehicle for which the registration or a certificate of title is applied is a specially constructed, **reconstructed**, **replica**, or foreign **vehicle**, the fact shall be stated in the application and, in the case of any foreign vehicle registered outside the Commonwealth, the owner shall present to the Department the certificate of title and registration card or other evidence of registration as he may have. The Commissioner may require such other evidence of ownership as he may deem advisable and promulgate regulations establishing what additional evidence of ownership, if any, shall be required for titling and registration of specially constructed, **reconstructed**, **replica**, or foreign **vehicles**. All titles and registrations for specially constructed, **reconstructed**, and **replica vehicles** shall be branded with the words "specially constructed," "reconstructed," or "replica" as appropriate.

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE II. TITLING, REGISTRATION AND LICENSURE  
CHAPTER 6. TITLING AND REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
ARTICLE 1. TITLING AND REGISTRATION, GENERALLY

Va. Code § 46.2-602 (2010)

§ 46.2-602. Titling and registration of foreign market vehicles

A. The Department shall not issue a permanent certificate of title or registration for a foreign market vehicle until the applicant submits proof that the vehicle complies with federal safety requirements.

B. The Department shall accept as proof that a foreign market vehicle complies with federal safety requirements documents from either the United States Department of Transportation or the United States Customs Service stating that the vehicle conforms or has been brought into conformity with federal safety requirements.

C. The certificate of title of any foreign market vehicle titled under this section shall contain an appropriate notation that the owner has submitted proof that it complies with federal safety requirements.

D. Any foreign market vehicle previously titled in the Commonwealth shall be titled and registered without further proof of compliance with federal safety requirements. If, however, proof of compliance is not submitted to the Department, the certificate of title shall contain an appropriate notation that the owner of the foreign market vehicle has not submitted proof that the vehicle complies with federal safety requirements.

E. No foreign market **vehicle manufactured prior** to 1968 shall be subject to this section.

F. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A of this section, the Department shall issue a nonnegotiable title for a foreign market vehicle on submission of a complete application for a title including all necessary documents of ownership. A negotiable title will be issued on proof of compliance as provided in subsection A of this section. The Department shall show on the face of any title issued under this section any negotiable security interests in the motor vehicle as provided in §§ 46.2-636 through 46.2-643.

G. The Department shall not transfer the title to a foreign market vehicle if ownership of the vehicle is evidenced by a nonnegotiable title, unless the nonnegotiable title owner is deceased. If the nonnegotiable title owner is deceased, a new, nonnegotiable title may be issued to the legatee or distributee in accordance with §§ 46.2-633 and 46.2-634.

H. A nonnegotiable title may be issued for the purpose of recording a lien. A negotiable certificate of title shall be issued on proof of compliance with all regulations prescribed in this section.

I. Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, the Department shall issue, on application, a temporary, nonrenewable 180-day registration to a foreign market vehicle upon:

1. Proof that the vehicle has been brought into compliance with all federal safety requirements and that the applicant is merely waiting for documentary releases from the Federal Department of Transportation;

2. Proof of satisfactory passage of a Virginia safety inspection; and

3. Submission of a complete application for a title, including all necessary documents of ownership.

J. The Department shall withhold delivery of the certificate of title during the 180-day period of conditional registration and shall not issue the permanent title until the requirements of subsection A of this section have been met.

K. Upon application, the Department shall issue a temporary one-trip permit for the purpose of transporting a foreign market vehicle from the port of entry to the applicant's home or to a conversion facility. The one-trip permit shall be issued in accordance with § 46.2-651.

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE II. TITLING, REGISTRATION AND LICENSURE  
CHAPTER 6. TITLING AND REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
ARTICLE 10. SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES

Va. Code § 46.2-730 (2010)

§ 46.2-730. License **plates** for **antique** motor **vehicles** and **antique** trailers; fee

A. On receipt of an application and evidence that the applicant owns or has regular use of another passenger car or motorcycle, the Commissioner shall issue appropriately designed license **plates** to owners of **antique** motor **vehicles** and **antique** trailers. These license **plates** shall be valid so long as title to the vehicle is vested in the applicant. The fee for the registration card and license plates of any of these vehicles shall be a one-time fee of \$ 50.

B. On receipt of an application and evidence that the applicant owns or has regular use of another passenger car or motorcycle, the Commissioner may authorize for use on **antique** motor **vehicles** and **antique** trailers Virginia license plates manufactured prior to 1976 and designed for use without decals, if such license plates are embossed with or are of the same year of issue as the model year of the **antique** motor **vehicle** or **antique** trailer on which they are to be displayed. Original metal year tabs issued in place of license plates for years 1943 and 1952 and used with license plates issued in 1942 and 1951, respectively, also may be authorized by the Commissioner for use on **antique** motor **vehicles** and **antique** trailers that are of the same model year as the year the metal tab was originally issued. These license plates and metal tabs shall remain valid so long as title to the vehicle is vested in the applicant. The fee for the registration card and permission to use the license plates and metal tabs on any of these vehicles shall be a one-time fee of \$ 50. If more than one request is made for use, as provided in this section, of license plates having the same number, the Department shall accept only the first such application.

C. Notwithstanding the provisions of §§ 46.2-711 and 46.2-715, **antique** motor **vehicles** may display single license plates if the original manufacturer's design of the **antique** motor **vehicles** allows for the use of only single license plates or if the license plate was originally issued in one of the following years and is displayed in accordance with the provisions of subsection B of this section: 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1945, or 1946.

D. **Antique** motor **vehicles** and **antique** trailers registered with license plates issued or authorized for use under this section shall not be used for general transportation purposes, including, but not limited to, daily travel to and from the owner's place of employment, but shall only be used:

1. For participation in club activities, exhibits, tours, parades, and similar events;

2. On the highways of the Commonwealth for the purpose of testing their operation or selling the vehicle or trailer, obtaining repairs or maintenance, transportation to and from events as described in subdivision 1 of this subsection, and for occasional pleasure driving not exceeding 250 miles from the residence of the owner; and

3. To carry or transport (i) passengers in the **antique** motor **vehicles**, (ii) personal effects in the **antique** motor **vehicles** and **antique** trailers, or (iii) other **antique** motor **vehicles** being transported for show purposes.

The registration card issued to an **antique** motor **vehicle** or an **antique** trailer registered pursuant to subsections A, B, and C shall indicate such vehicle or trailer is for limited use.

E. Owners of motor vehicles and trailers applying for registration pursuant to subsections A, B and C shall submit to the Department, in the manner prescribed by the Department, certifications that such vehicles or trailers are capable of being safely operated on the highways of the Commonwealth.

Pursuant to § 46.2-1000, the Department shall suspend the registration of any vehicle or trailer registered with license plates issued under this section that the Department or the Department of State Police determines is not properly equipped or otherwise unsafe to operate. Any law-enforcement officer shall take possession of the license plates, registration card and decals, if any, of any vehicle or trailer

registered with license plates issued under this section when he observes any defect in such vehicle or trailer as set forth in § 46.2-1000.

F. **Antique** motor **vehicles** and **antique** trailers displaying license plates issued or authorized for use pursuant to subsections B and C of this section may be used for general transportation purposes if the following conditions are met:

1. The physical condition of the vehicle's license plate or plates has been inspected and approved by the Department;
2. The license plate or plates are registered to the specific vehicle by the Department;
3. The owner of the vehicle periodically registers the vehicle with the Department and pays a registration fee for the vehicle equal to that which would be charged to obtain regular state license plates for that vehicle;
4. The vehicle passes a periodic safety inspection as provided in Article 21 (§ 46.2-1157 et seq.) of Chapter 10 of this title;
5. The vehicle displays current decals attached to the license plate, issued by the Department, indicating the valid registration period for the vehicle; and
6. When applicable, the vehicle meets the requirement of Article 22 (§ 46.2-1176 et seq.) of Chapter 10 of this title.

If more than one request is made for use, as provided in this subsection, of license plates having the same number, the Department shall accept only the first such application. Only vehicles titled to the person seeking to use license plates as provided in this subsection shall be eligible to use license plates as provided in this subsection.

G. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the use of an **antique** motor **vehicle** to tow a trailer or semitrailer.

H. Any owner of an **antique** motor **vehicle** or **antique** trailer registered with license plates pursuant to this section who is convicted of a violation of this section shall be guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor. Upon receiving a record of conviction of a violation of this section, the Department shall revoke and not reinstate the owner's privilege to register the vehicle operated in violation of this section with license plates issued or authorized for use pursuant to this section for a period of five years from the date of conviction.

I. Except for the one-time \$ 50 registration fee prescribed in subsections A and B, the provisions of this section shall apply to all owners of vehicles and trailers registered with license plates issued under this section prior to July 1, 2007. Such owners shall, based on a schedule and a manner prescribed by the Department, (i) provide evidence that they own or have regular use of another passenger car or motorcycle, as required under subsections A and B, and (ii) comply with the certification provisions of subsection E. The Department shall cancel the registrations of vehicles owned by persons that, prior to January 1, 2008, do not provide the Department (i) evidence of owning or having regular use of another passenger car or motorcycle as required under subsections A and B, and (ii) the certification required pursuant to subsection E.

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE II. TITLING, REGISTRATION AND LICENSURE  
CHAPTER 6. TITLING AND REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
ARTICLE 10. SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES

Va. Code § 46.2-734 (2010)

§ 46.2-734. **Reconstructed** and **specialty** constructed **vehicles**; inspection requirements; storage of unlicensed vehicles; use

A. On receipt of an application therefor and written evidence that the applicant is a hobbyist and is registering a **reconstructed** or **specialty** constructed **vehicle** built, **reconstructed**, restored, preserved, and maintained for historic or hobby interest, the Commissioner shall issue to the applicant one special license plate, which shall be mounted on the rear of the vehicle.

For the purposes of this section, "hobbyist" means the owner of one or more **reconstructed** or **specialty** constructed **vehicles** who collects, purchases, acquires, trades, or disposes of **reconstructed** or **specialty** constructed **vehicles** or parts thereof for his own use in order to build, reconstruct, restore, preserve, and maintain a **reconstructed** or **specialty** constructed **vehicle** for **historic** or **hobby** interest.

B. These **vehicles** shall be titled according to their chassis numbers or, if no chassis number exists, then by their motor serial numbers. The vehicles shall meet inspection requirements applicable to the model year shown on the registration certificate.

C. A hobbyist may store unlicensed, operable or inoperable, vehicles on his property provided the vehicles and the outdoor storage area are maintained in such a manner that they do not constitute a health hazard and are screened from ordinary public view by a fence, rapidly growing trees, shrubbery, billboards or other appropriate means. The hobbyist shall, however, not be exempt from local zoning ordinances governing the storage of these vehicles.

D. Vehicles registered under this section shall not be used for general transportation purposes, including but not limited to daily travel to and from the owner's place of employment, but shall only be used (i) for participation in hobbyist vehicle exhibits and similar limited-use events and (ii) on the highways of the Commonwealth for the purpose of testing their operation, obtaining repairs or maintenance, and transportation to and from events as described in this subsection.

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE II. TITLING, REGISTRATION AND LICENSURE  
CHAPTER 6. TITLING AND REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
ARTICLE 10. SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES

Va. Code § 46.2-747 (2010)

§ 46.2-747. Special license plates for **street rods**

On receipt of an application, the Commissioner shall issue special license plates to owners of **street rods**. For the purposes of this section, "**street rods**" shall mean modernized private passenger motor vehicles either manufactured prior to 1949 or designed or manufactured to resemble vehicles manufactured prior to 1949.



TITLE 58.1. TAXATION  
SUBTITLE II. TAXES ADMINISTERED BY OTHER AGENCIES  
CHAPTER 24. VIRGINIA MOTOR VEHICLE SALES AND USE TAX

Va. Code § 58.1-2424 (2010)

§ 58.1-2424. Credits against tax

A. Credit shall be granted for the amount of tax paid to another state on a motor vehicle purchased in another state at the time such vehicle is first registered in the Commonwealth, provided the purchaser provides proof of payment of such tax. However, no credit shall be granted for any tax paid to another state if that state exempts from the tax vehicles sold to residents of a state which does not give credit for the tax. Credit for taxes collected under the Virginia retail sales and use tax (§ 58.1-600 et seq.) shall be allowed against the tax levied for **specialty** constructed or **reconstructed vehicles** and other motor vehicles subject to such tax.

B. Credit shall be granted any rentor subject to the additional tax on the rental of a daily rental passenger car for a portion of the tangible personal property tax assessed by a Virginia locality on such car for a tax year ending after June 30, 1981. The amount of such credit shall be equal to the ratio of the number of months in such tax year after June 30, to the total number of months in the tax year. Any such credit may be carried over from month to month for a period of up to six months or until fully absorbed, whichever occurs first. To the extent any credit is claimed hereunder as to any tangible personal property tax properly assessed and not actually paid when due, such credit shall be subject to collection as an underpayment of the additional tax imposed under § 58.1-2402 A 4 as of the date the credit was claimed, with penalties and interest as provided in § 58.1-2411.

TITLE 58.1. TAXATION  
SUBTITLE III. LOCAL TAXES  
CHAPTER 35. TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY, MACHINERY AND TOOLS AND MERCHANTS' CAPITAL  
ARTICLE 1. TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX

Va. Code § 58.1-3503 (2010)

§ 58.1-3503. General classification of tangible personal property

A. Tangible personal property is classified for valuation purposes according to the following separate categories which are not to be considered separate classes for rate purposes:

1. Farm animals, except as exempted under [§ 58.1-3505](#).
2. Farm machinery, except as exempted under [§ 58.1-3505](#).
3. Automobiles, except those described in subdivisions 7, 8 and 9 of this subsection and in subdivision A 8 of [§ 58.1-3504](#), which shall be valued by means of a recognized pricing guide or if the model and year of the individual automobile are not listed in the recognized pricing guide, the individual vehicle may be valued on the basis of percentage or percentages of original cost. In using a recognized pricing guide, the commissioner shall use either of the following two methods. The commissioner may use all applicable adjustments in such guide to determine the value of each individual automobile, or alternatively, if the commissioner does not utilize all applicable adjustments in valuing each automobile, he shall use the base value specified in such guide which may be either average retail, wholesale, or loan value, so long as uniformly applied within classifications of property. If the model and year of the individual automobile are not listed in the recognized pricing guide, the taxpayer may present to the commissioner proof of the original cost, and the basis of the tax for purposes of the motor vehicle sales and use tax as described in [§ 58.1-2405](#) shall constitute proof of original cost. If such percentage or percentages of original cost do not accurately reflect fair market value, or if the taxpayer does not supply proof of original cost, then the commissioner may select another method which establishes fair market value.
4. Trucks of less than two tons, which may be valued by means of a recognized pricing guide or, if the model and year of the individual truck are not listed in the recognized pricing guide, on the basis of a percentage or percentages of original cost.
5. Trucks and other vehicles, as defined in [§ 46.2-100](#), except those described in subdivisions 4, and 6 through 10 of this subsection, which shall be valued by means of either a recognized pricing guide using the lowest value specified in such guide or a percentage or percentages of original cost.
6. Manufactured homes, as defined in [§ 36-85.3](#), which may be valued on the basis of square footage of living space.
7. **Antique** motor **vehicles**, as defined in [§ 46.2-100](#), which may be used for general transportation purposes as provided in subsection C of [§ 46.2-730](#).
8. Taxicabs.
9. Motor **vehicles with specially** designed equipment for use by the handicapped, which shall not be valued in relation to their initial cost, but by determining their actual market value if offered for sale on the open market.
10. Motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles and off-road motorcycles as defined in [§ 46.2-100](#), campers and other recreational vehicles, which shall be valued by means of a recognized pricing guide or a percentage or percentages of original cost.
11. Boats weighing under five tons and boat trailers, which shall be valued by means of a recognized pricing guide or a percentage or percentages of original cost.
12. Boats or watercraft weighing five tons or more, which shall be valued by means of a percentage or percentages of original cost.
13. Aircraft, which shall be valued by means of a recognized pricing guide or a percentage or percentages of original cost.

14. Household goods and personal effects, except as exempted under § 58.1-3504.

15. Tangible personal property used in a research and development business, which shall be valued by means of a percentage or percentages of original cost.

16. Programmable computer equipment and peripherals used in business which shall be valued by means of a percentage or percentages of original cost to the taxpayer, or by such other method as may reasonably be expected to determine the actual fair market value.

17. All tangible personal property employed in a trade or business other than that described in subdivisions 1 through 16 of this subsection, which shall be valued by means of a percentage or percentages of original cost.

18. All other tangible personal property.

B. Methods of valuing property may differ among the separate categories, so long as each method used is uniform within each category, is consistent with requirements of this section and may reasonably be expected to determine actual fair market value as determined by the commissioner of revenue or other assessing official; however, assessment ratios shall only be used with the concurrence of the local governing body. A commissioner of revenue shall upon request take into account the condition of the property. The term "condition of the property" includes, but is not limited to, technological obsolescence of property where technological obsolescence is an appropriate factor for valuing such property. The commissioner of revenue shall make available to taxpayers on request a reasonable description of his valuation methods. Such commissioner, or other assessing officer, or his authorized agent, when using a recognized pricing guide as provided for in this section, may automatically extend the assessment if the pricing information is stored in a computer.

TITLE 58.1. TAXATION  
SUBTITLE III. LOCAL TAXES  
CHAPTER 35. TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY, MACHINERY AND TOOLS AND MERCHANTS' CAPITAL  
ARTICLE 1. TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX

Va. Code § 58.1-3506 (2010)

§ 58.1-3506. Other classifications of tangible personal property for taxation

A. The items of property set forth below are each declared to be a separate class of property and shall constitute a classification for local taxation separate from other classifications of tangible personal property provided in this chapter:

1. a. Boats or watercraft weighing five tons or more, not used solely for business purposes;
- b. Boats or watercraft weighing less than five tons, not used solely for business purposes;
2. Aircraft having a maximum passenger seating capacity of no more than 50 that are owned and operated by scheduled air carriers operating under certificates of public convenience and necessity issued by the State Corporation Commission or the Civil Aeronautics Board;
3. Aircraft having a registered empty gross weight equal to or greater than 20,000 pounds that are not owned or operated by scheduled air carriers recognized under federal law, but not including any aircraft described in subdivision 4;
4. Aircraft that are (i) considered Warbirds, manufactured and intended for military use, excluding those manufactured after 1954, and (ii) used only for (a) exhibit or display to the general public and otherwise used for educational purposes (including such flights as are necessary for testing, maintaining, or preparing such aircraft for safe operation), or (b) airshow and flight demonstrations (including such flights necessary for testing, maintaining, or preparing such aircraft for safe operation), shall constitute a new class of property. Such class of property shall not include any aircraft used for commercial purposes, including transportation and other services for a fee;
5. All other aircraft not included in subdivisions A 2, A 3, or A 4 and flight simulators;
6. **Antique** motor **vehicles** as defined in § 46.2-100 which may be used for general transportation purposes as provided in subsection C of § 46.2-730;
7. Tangible personal property used in a research and development business;
8. Heavy construction machinery not used for business purposes, including but not limited to land movers, bulldozers, front-end loaders, graders, packers, power shovels, cranes, pile drivers, forest harvesting and silvicultural activity equipment and ditch and other types of diggers;
9. Generating equipment purchased after December 31, 1974, for the purpose of changing the energy source of a manufacturing plant from oil or natural gas to coal, wood, wood bark, wood residue, or any other alternative energy source for use in manufacturing and any cogeneration equipment purchased to achieve more efficient use of any energy source. Such generating equipment and cogeneration equipment shall include, without limitation, such equipment purchased by firms engaged in the business of generating electricity or steam, or both;
10. Vehicles without motive power, used or designed to be used as manufactured homes as defined in § 36-85.3;
11. Computer hardware used by businesses primarily engaged in providing data processing services to other nonrelated or nonaffiliated businesses;
12. Privately owned pleasure boats and watercraft, 18 feet and over, used for recreational purposes only;
13. Privately owned vans with a seating capacity of not less than seven nor more than 15 persons, including the driver, used exclusively pursuant to a ridesharing arrangement as defined in § 46.2-1400;

14. Motor **vehicles specially** equipped to provide transportation for physically handicapped individuals;

15. Motor vehicles (i) owned by members of a volunteer rescue squad or volunteer fire department or (ii) leased by members of a volunteer rescue squad or volunteer fire department if the member is obligated by the terms of the lease to pay tangible personal property tax on the motor vehicle. One motor vehicle that is owned by each volunteer rescue squad member or volunteer fire department member, or leased by each volunteer rescue squad member or volunteer fire department member if the member is obligated by the terms of the lease to pay tangible personal property tax on the motor **vehicle**, may be **specially** classified under this section, provided the volunteer rescue squad member or volunteer fire department member regularly responds to emergency calls. The volunteer shall furnish the commissioner of revenue, or other assessing officer, with a certification by the chief or head of the volunteer organization, that the volunteer is a member of the volunteer rescue squad or fire department who regularly responds to calls or regularly performs other duties for the rescue squad or fire department, and the motor vehicle owned or leased by the volunteer rescue squad member or volunteer fire department member is identified. The certification shall be submitted by January 31 of each year to the commissioner of revenue or other assessing officer; however, the commissioner of revenue or other assessing officer shall be authorized, in his discretion, and for good cause shown and without fault on the part of the member, to accept a certification after the January 31 deadline. In any county that prorates the assessment of tangible personal property pursuant to § 58.1-3516, a replacement vehicle may be certified and classified pursuant to this subsection when the vehicle certified as of the immediately prior January date is transferred during the tax year;

16. Motor vehicles (i) owned by auxiliary members of a volunteer rescue squad or volunteer fire department or (ii) leased by auxiliary members of a volunteer rescue squad or volunteer fire department if the member is obligated by the terms of the lease to pay tangible personal property tax on the motor vehicle. One motor vehicle that is regularly used by each auxiliary volunteer fire department or rescue squad member may be specially classified under this section. The auxiliary member shall furnish the commissioner of revenue, or other assessing officer, with a certification by the chief or head of the volunteer organization, that the volunteer is an auxiliary member of the volunteer rescue squad or fire department who regularly performs duties for the rescue squad or fire department, and the motor vehicle is identified as regularly used for such purpose; however, if a volunteer rescue squad or fire department member and an auxiliary member are members of the same household, that household shall be allowed no more than two special classifications under this subdivision or subdivision 15 of this section. The certification shall be submitted by January 31 of each year to the commissioner of revenue or other assessing officer; however, the commissioner of revenue or other assessing officer shall be authorized, in his discretion, and for good cause shown and without fault on the part of the member, to accept a certification after the January 31 deadline;

17. Motor vehicles owned by a nonprofit organization and used to deliver meals to homebound persons or provide transportation to senior or handicapped citizens in the community to carry out the purposes of the nonprofit organization;

18. Privately owned camping trailers as defined in § 46.2-100, and privately owned travel trailers as defined in § 46.2-1900, which are used for recreational purposes only, and privately owned trailers as defined in § 46.2-100 which are designed and used for the transportation of horses except those trailers described in subdivision A 11 of § 58.1-3505;

19. One motor vehicle owned and regularly used by a veteran who has either lost, or lost the use of, one or both legs, or an arm or a hand, or who is blind or who is permanently and totally disabled as certified by the Department of Veterans Services. In order to qualify, the veteran shall provide a written statement to the commissioner of revenue or other assessing officer from the Department of Veterans Services that the veteran has been so designated or classified by the Department of Veterans Services as to meet the requirements of this section, and that his disability is service-connected. For purposes of this section, a person is blind if he meets the provisions of § 46.2-739;

20. Motor vehicles (i) owned by persons who have been appointed to serve as auxiliary police officers pursuant to Article 3 (§ 15.2-1731 et seq.) of Chapter 17 of Title 15.2 or (ii) leased by persons who have been so appointed to serve as auxiliary police officers if the person is obligated by the terms of the lease to pay tangible personal property tax on the motor vehicle. One motor vehicle that is regularly used by each auxiliary police officer to respond to auxiliary police duties may be specially classified under this section. In order to qualify for such classification, any auxiliary police officer who applies for such

classification shall identify the vehicle for which this classification is sought, and shall furnish the commissioner of revenue or other assessing officer with a certification from the governing body that has appointed such auxiliary police officer or from the official who has appointed such auxiliary officers. That certification shall state that the applicant is an auxiliary police officer who regularly uses a motor vehicle to respond to auxiliary police duties, and it shall state that the vehicle for which the classification is sought is the vehicle that is regularly used for that purpose. The certification shall be submitted by January 31 of each year to the commissioner of revenue or other assessing officer; however, the commissioner of revenue or other assessing officer shall be authorized, in his discretion, and for good cause shown and without fault on the part of the member, to accept a certification after the January 31 deadline;

21. Until the first to occur of June 30, 2019, or the date that a special improvements tax is no longer levied under § 15.2-4607 on property within a Multicounty Transportation Improvement District created pursuant to Chapter 46 (§ 15.2-4600 et seq.) of Title 15.2, tangible personal property that is used in manufacturing, testing, or operating satellites within a Multicounty Transportation Improvement District, provided that such business personal property is put into service within the District on or after July 1, 1999;

22. Motor vehicles which use clean special fuels as defined in § 46.2-749.3, which shall not include any vehicle described in subdivision 38 or 40;

23. Wild or exotic animals kept for public exhibition in an indoor or outdoor facility that is properly licensed by the federal government, the Commonwealth, or both, and that is properly zoned for such use. "Wild animals" means any animals that are found in the wild, or in a wild state, within the boundaries of the United States, its territories or possessions. "Exotic animals" means any animals that are found in the wild, or in a wild state, and are native to a foreign country;

24. Furniture, office, and maintenance equipment, exclusive of motor vehicles, that are owned and used by an organization whose real property is assessed in accordance with § 58.1-3284.1 and that is used by that organization for the purpose of maintaining or using the open or common space within a residential development;

25. Motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers with a gross vehicle weight of 10,000 pounds or more used to transport property for hire by a motor carrier engaged in interstate commerce;

26. All tangible personal property employed in a trade or business other than that described in subdivisions A 1 through A 18, except for subdivision A 17, of § 58.1-3503;

27. Programmable computer equipment and peripherals employed in a trade or business;

28. Privately owned pleasure boats and watercraft, motorized and under 18 feet, used for recreational purposes only;

29. Privately owned pleasure boats and watercraft, nonmotorized and under 18 feet, used for recreational purposes only;

30. Privately owned motor homes as defined in § 46.2-100 that are used for recreational purposes only;

31. Tangible personal property used in the provision of Internet services. For purposes of this subdivision, "Internet service" means a service, including an Internet Web-hosting service, that enables users to access content, information, electronic mail, and the Internet as part of a package of services sold to customers;

32. Motor vehicles (i) owned by persons who serve as auxiliary, reserve, or special deputy sheriffs or (ii) leased by persons who serve as auxiliary, reserve, or special deputy sheriffs if the person is obligated by the terms of the lease to pay tangible personal property tax on the motor vehicle. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "auxiliary deputy sheriff" means auxiliary, reserve, or special deputy sheriff. One motor vehicle that is regularly used by each auxiliary deputy sheriff to respond to auxiliary deputy sheriff duties may be specially classified under this section. In order to qualify for such classification, any auxiliary deputy sheriff who applies for such classification shall identify the vehicle for which this classification is sought, and shall furnish the commissioner of revenue or other assessing officer with a certification from the governing body that has appointed such auxiliary deputy sheriff or from the official who has appointed such auxiliary deputy sheriff. That certification shall state that the applicant is an

auxiliary deputy sheriff who regularly uses a motor vehicle to respond to such auxiliary duties, and it shall state that the vehicle for which the classification is sought is the vehicle that is regularly used for that purpose. The certification shall be submitted by January 31 of each year to the commissioner of revenue or other assessing officer; however, the commissioner of revenue or other assessing officer shall be authorized, in his discretion, and for good cause shown and without fault on the part of the member, to accept a certification after the January 31 deadline;

33. Forest harvesting and silvicultural activity equipment;

34. Equipment used primarily for research, development, production, or provision of biotechnology for the purpose of developing or providing products or processes for specific commercial or public purposes, including, but not limited to, medical, pharmaceutical, nutritional, and other health-related purposes; agricultural purposes; or environmental purposes but not for human cloning purposes as defined in § 32.1-162.21 or for products or purposes related to human embryo stem cells. For purposes of this section, biotechnology equipment means equipment directly used in activities associated with the science of living things;

35. Boats or watercraft weighing less than five tons, used for business purposes only;

36. Boats or watercraft weighing five tons or more, used for business purposes only;

37. Tangible personal property which is owned and operated by a service provider who is not a CMRS provider and is not licensed by the FCC used to provide, for a fee, wireless broadband Internet service. For purposes of this subdivision, "wireless broadband Internet service" means a service that enables customers to access, through a wireless connection at an upload or download bit rate of more than one megabyte per second, Internet service, as defined in § 58.1-602, as part of a package of services sold to customers;

38. Low-speed vehicles as defined in § 46.2-100;

39. Motor vehicles with a seating capacity of not less than 30 persons, including the driver;

40. Motor vehicles powered solely by electricity; and

41. Tangible personal property designed and used primarily for the purpose of manufacturing a product from renewable energy as defined in § 56-576.

B. The governing body of any county, city or town may levy a tax on the property enumerated in subsection A at different rates from the tax levied on other tangible personal property. The rates of tax and the rates of assessment shall (i) for purposes of subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11 through 20, 22 through 24, and 26 through 41 of subsection A, not exceed that applicable to the general class of tangible personal property, (ii) for purposes of subdivisions A 7, A 9, A 21, and A 25, not exceed that applicable to machinery and tools, and (iii) for purposes of subdivision A 10, equal that applicable to real property.

C. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, for any qualifying vehicle, as such term is defined in § 58.1-3523, (i) included in any separate class of property in subsection A and (ii) assessed for tangible personal property taxes by a county, city, or town receiving a payment from the Commonwealth under Chapter 35.1 of this title for providing tangible personal property tax relief, the county, city, or town may levy the tangible personal property tax on such qualifying vehicle at a rate not to exceed the rates of tax and rates of assessment required under such chapter.

TITLE 58.1. TAXATION  
SUBTITLE III. LOCAL TAXES  
CHAPTER 35. TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY, MACHINERY AND TOOLS AND MERCHANTS' CAPITAL  
ARTICLE 1. TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX

Va. Code § 58.1-3504 (2010)

§ 58.1-3504. Classification of certain household goods and personal effects for taxation; governing body may exempt

A. Notwithstanding any provision of § 58.1-3503, household goods and personal effects are hereby defined as separate items of taxation and classified as follows:

1. Bicycles.
2. Household and kitchen furniture, including gold and silver plates, plated ware, watches and clocks, sewing machines, refrigerators, automatic refrigerating machinery of any type, vacuum cleaners and all other household machinery, books, firearms and weapons of all kinds.
3. Pianos, organs, and all other musical instruments; phonographs, record players, and records to be used therewith; and radio and television instruments and equipment.
4. Oil paintings, pictures, statuary, curios, articles of virtu and works of art.
5. Diamonds, cameos or other precious stones and all precious metals used as ornaments or jewelry.
6. Sporting and photographic equipment.
7. Clothing and objects of apparel.
8. **Antique** motor **vehicles** as defined in § 46.2-100 which may not be used for general transportation purposes.
9. All-terrain vehicles and off-road motorcycles as defined in § 46.2-100.
10. All other tangible personal property used by an individual or a family or household incident to maintaining an abode.

The classification above set forth shall apply only to such property owned and used by an individual or by a family or household incident to maintaining an abode.

The governing body of any county, city or town may, by ordinance duly adopted, exempt from taxation all of the above classes of household goods and personal effects.

B. Notwithstanding any provision set forth above, household appliances in residential rental property used by an individual or by a family or household incident to maintaining an abode shall be deemed to be fixtures and shall be assessed as part of the real property in which they are located.

For purposes of this subsection, "household appliances" shall mean all major appliances customarily used in a residential home and which are the property of the owner of the real estate, including, without limitation, refrigerators, stoves, ranges, microwave ovens, dishwashers, trash compactors, clothes dryers, garbage disposals and air conditioning units.



## Equipment Exemptions

### From Virginia Administrative Code:

---

#### **19VAC30-70-190. Signal device (intention to stop or turn), hazard lights, stop lamp.**

A. Any motor vehicle may be equipped with a switch that will permit all turn signal lamps to flash simultaneously.

B. Supplemental turn signals, properly wired into the turn signal circuit, may be installed. These may be either approved type turn signals or clearance lamps.

C. Single face lamps are permissible on the front, except tractor units shall be equipped with two-faced lamps mounted on the front fenders or on or near the front of the vehicle.

D. Inspect for and reject if:

1. Motor vehicle, or trailer, except an **antique vehicle** not originally equipped with a stop lamp, is not equipped with at least one stop lamp of an approved type (DOT or SAE-S) that automatically exhibits a red or amber lens to the rear when the brake pedal is actuated;

2. Every passenger car manufactured for the **1986 or subsequent model year** and multipurpose passenger vehicle, truck, or bus whose overall width is less than 80 inches, **manufactured September 1, 1993, and subsequent model year** is not equipped with a supplemental center high mount stop lamp of an approved type (DOT or SAE-U, U1 or U2) mounted at the vertical centerline of the vehicle which functions only in cooperation with the vehicle's stop lamps brake lights and hazard lights. Any other vehicle on which a supplemental center high mount stop lamp is mounted shall have the lamp mounted at the vertical center line of the vehicle. The lamps shall be of an approved type and shall function only in conjunction with the stop lamps. The high mount stop lamp must be steady burning and not wired to flash with turn signals or other wig-wag device.

"Multipurpose passenger vehicle" means any motor vehicle that is (i) designed to carry no more than 10 persons and (ii) constructed either on a truck chassis or with special features for occasional off-road use.

NOTE: Camper shells and/or other items that may be temporarily carried on or attached to multipurpose vehicles will not be considered during inspection of the center high mount stop lamp, provided the lamp continues to function as designed.

NOTE: Multipurpose passenger vehicles with an overall width of 80 or more inches or GVWR of 10,000 pounds or more are not required to be equipped with a center high mount stop light; No sticker or other foreign material shall be affixed to the vehicle in such a manner so as to obscure the center high mount stop lamp;

3. Proper signals do not go on with each throw of the switch or if stop signals do not go on with slightest pressure on the brake pedal. Turn signals may flash-stop signals may not flash except when the vehicle is equipped with a brake warning system or device which will cause the brake lights to flash when the vehicle is in motion but committed to an emergency or panic stop;

4. Motor vehicle was **manufactured after January 1, 1955**, and is not equipped with approved signaling devices (SAE-I);

5. Vehicle is not equipped with a turn signal if such signal is not working properly or does not continue to function in the same manner as when it was originally manufactured. (The turn signal switch shall lock in place when positioned for a left turn or a right turn, and the turn signal indicators must function. Do not reject a vehicle if the self-cancelling mechanism in the switch does not function when the steering wheel is rotated.);

6. Switch is not convenient to the driver and not of an approved type;

7. Any vehicle so constructed so as to prevent the operator from making a hand and arm signal, if such vehicle is not equipped with an approved type signaling device;

8. Turn signal lens is not clear or amber to the front, or red or amber to the rear. Lens or bulb color has been altered or modified. If the turn signal lens is clear, then the bulb shall be amber.

NOTE: The pink color lens found on 1998 and 1999 Honda Accords emit the proper color light (amber) when the lamp is activated. There may be other manufacturers using the same configuration and are not in violation of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards;

9. Wiring or electrical connections are defective or filaments do not burn.

NOTE: LED (light emitting diode) lights with a clear lens are acceptable if of an approved type. For those vehicles that are equipped with a multiple LED light (not filament burning bulbs), they will pass inspection if 50% of the diode lights are burning;

10. Lens has a piece broken from it. The lens may have one or more cracks provided an off-color light does not project through the crack(s).

NOTE: No repairs shall be effected like taping or gluing cracks or pieces.

11. The hazard warning signal operating unit does not operate independently of the ignition or equivalent switch and when activated cause all turn signals to flash simultaneously.

NOTE: They are deemed not to be installed if none of the lights burn or flash when the switch is activated and the hazard warning signal flasher unit has been removed;

12. Device is not mounted near the rear for rear signals or near the front for front signals (except supplemental turn signals) or if the signal is hidden by a bolster or other part of body chassis;

13. All "Class A" signals are not mounted at least three feet apart. (This does not apply to the combination rear signal device.) However, signal lamps that are mounted as far apart as practical inside and at the rear of the frame so as to be properly visible will meet inspection requirements;

14. Any vehicle has unapproved lens or plastic covers, any other materials that are not original equipment or any colored material placed on or in front of the signal device (intention to stop or turn), hazard lights or stop lamp.

**19VAC30-70-560. Signal device (intention to stop or turn), hazard lights, stop lamps.**

A. Any motor vehicle may be equipped with a switch that will permit all turn signal lamps to flash simultaneously.

B. Supplemental turn signals, properly wired into the turn signal circuit may be installed. These may be either approved type turn signals or clearance lamps.

C. Single face lamps are permissible on the front except tractor units shall be equipped with two-faced lamps mounted on the front fenders or on or near the front of the vehicle.

D. Inspect for and reject if:

1. Motor vehicle or trailer , except an antique vehicle not originally equipped with a stop lamp, is not equipped with at least two stop lamps of an approved type (DOT or SAE-S) that automatically exhibit a light through a red or amber lens to the rear when the brake pedal is actuated.

2. Proper signals do not go on with each throw of the switch or if stop signals do not go on with slightest pressure on the brake pedal. Turn signals may flash; however, stop signals may not flash.

Every passenger car **manufactured for the 1986 or subsequent model year** and multipurpose passenger vehicle, truck, or bus whose overall width is less than 80 inches, **manufactured September 1, 1993, and subsequent model year** is not equipped with a supplemental center high mount stop lamp of an approved type (DOT or SAE-U, U1 or U2) mounted at the vertical centerline of the vehicle that functions only in cooperation with the vehicle's brake lights and hazard lights. Any other vehicle on which a supplemental center high mount stop lamp is mounted shall have the lamp mounted at the vertical center line of the vehicle. The lamps shall be of an approved type and shall function only in conjunction with the stop lamps. The high mount stop lamp must be steady burning and not wired to flash with turn signals or other wig-wag device.

"Multipurpose passenger vehicle" means any motor vehicle that is (i) designed to carry no more than 10 persons and (ii) constructed either on a truck chassis or with special features for occasional off-road use.

NOTE: Camper shells and/or other items that may be temporarily carried on or attached to multipurpose vehicles will not be considered during inspection of the center high mount stop lamp, provided the lamp continues to function as designed.

NOTE: Multipurpose passenger vehicles with an overall width of 80 or more inches or GVWR of 10,000 pounds or more are not required to be equipped with a center high mount stop light.

No sticker or other foreign material shall be affixed to the vehicle in such a manner so as to obscure the center high mount stop lamp.

3. Motor vehicle was **manufactured after January 1, 1955**, and is not equipped with approved signaling devices.

4. Vehicle is not equipped with a turn signal if such signal is not working properly or does not continue to function in the same manner as when it was originally manufactured. (The turn signal switch shall lock in place when positioned for a left turn or a right turn, and the turn signal indicators must function. Do not reject a vehicle if the self-cancelling mechanism in the switch does not function when the steering wheel is rotated.)

5. Switch is not convenient to the driver and/or not of an approved type.

6. Any vehicle constructed so as to prevent the operator from making a hand and arm signal, if such vehicle is not equipped with an approved type signaling device.

7. Turn signal lens is not clear or amber to the front, or red or amber to the rear. Lens or bulb color has been altered or modified. If the lens is clear, then the bulb shall be amber.

NOTE: LED (light emitting diode) lights with a clear lens are acceptable, if of an approved type. For those vehicles that are equipped with a multiple LED light (not filament burning bulbs), they will pass inspection if more than 50% of the diode lights are burning.

8. Wiring or electrical connections are defective or filaments do not burn.

9. Lens has a piece broken from it. The lens may have one or more cracks provided an off-color light does not project through the crack(s).

NOTE: Taping or gluing cracks or pieces is not allowed.

NOTE: The hazard warning signal operating unit shall operate independently of the ignition or equivalent switch, and when activated, cause all turn signals to flash simultaneously.

NOTE: They are deemed not to be installed if none of the lights burn or flash when the switch is activated and the hazard warning signal flasher unit has been removed.

10. Device is not mounted near rear for rear signals, or near front for front signals (except supplemental turn signals) or if the signal is hidden by a bolster or other part of body chassis.

A tractor truck need not be equipped with mechanical or electrical signal devices on the rear if it is equipped with double-faced signal lamps mounted on the front fenders or on the sides near the front of the vehicle clearly visible to the rear.

11. All "Class A" signals are not mounted at least three feet apart. (This does not apply to the combination rear signal device.) However, signal lamps that are mounted as far apart as practical inside and at the rear of the frame so as to be properly visible will meet inspection requirements.

12. Any vehicle has unapproved lens or plastic covers, any other materials that are not original equipment or any colored material placed on or in front of signal device (intention to stop or turn), hazard lights or stop lamp.

**From Code of Virginia:**

---

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE III. OPERATION  
CHAPTER 10. MOTOR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY  
ARTICLE 3. LIGHTS AND TURN SIGNALS

Va. Code § 46.2-1014 (2010)

§ 46.2-1014. Brake lights

Every motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, except an **antique vehicle** not originally equipped with a brake light, registered in the Commonwealth and operated on the highways in the Commonwealth shall be equipped with at least two brake lights of a type approved by the Superintendent. Such brake lights shall automatically exhibit a red or amber light plainly visible in clear weather from a distance of 500 feet to the rear of such vehicle when the brake is applied.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to motorcycles equipped with brake lights as required by § [46.2-1012](#).

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE III. OPERATION  
CHAPTER 10. MOTOR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY  
ARTICLE 3. LIGHTS AND TURN SIGNALS

Va. Code § 46.2-1014.1 (2010)

§ 46.2-1014.1. Supplemental high mount stop light

Whenever operated on the highways, every Virginia-registered passenger car manufactured for the **1986 or subsequent model year** shall be equipped with a supplemental center high mount stop light of a type approved by the Superintendent or which meets the standards adopted by the United States Department of Transportation. The light shall be mounted as near the vertical center line of the vehicle as possible. The light shall be actuated only in conjunction with the vehicle's brake lights and hazard lights. Any supplemental high mount stop light installed on any other vehicle shall comply with those requirements.

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE III. OPERATION  
CHAPTER 10. MOTOR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY  
ARTICLE 3. LIGHTS AND TURN SIGNALS

Va. Code § 46.2-1036 (2010)

§ 46.2-1036. Acetylene lights on **antique** motor **vehicles**

**Antique** motor **vehicles** as defined in § 46.2-100 may be equipped with acetylene headlights, taillights, and lights to illuminate their rear license plates as provided in regulations promulgated by the Superintendent.

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE III. OPERATION  
CHAPTER 10. MOTOR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY  
ARTICLE 3. LIGHTS AND TURN SIGNALS

Va. Code § 46.2-1038 (2010)

§ 46.2-1038. When turn signals required; exceptions

A. Any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer which is so constructed or carries a load in such a manner as to prevent a hand and arm signal required in § 46.2-849 from being visible both to the front and rear of such motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer or any vehicle the driver of which is incapable of giving the required hand and arm signals, shall be equipped with electrical turn signals which meet the requirements of this title and are of a type that has been approved by the Superintendent. A tractor truck, however, need not be equipped with electrical turn signals on the rear if it is equipped with double faced signal lights mounted on the front fenders or on the sides near the front of the vehicle clearly visible to the rear.

B. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive on any highway a motor vehicle registered in the Commonwealth and **manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1955**, unless such vehicle is equipped with such turn signals on both front and rear.

C. Any such turn signal may be used in lieu of the hand and arm signal required by § 46.2-849.

D. Subsections A and B of this section shall not apply to any motorcycle. The provisions of this section shall not apply to motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers used for agricultural or horticultural purposes and exempted from registration under Article 6 (§ 46.2-662 et seq.) of Chapter 6 of this title.



TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE III. OPERATION  
CHAPTER 10. MOTOR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY  
ARTICLE 3. LIGHTS AND TURN SIGNALS

Va. Code § 46.2-1039 (2010)

§ 46.2-1039. Requirements of turn signals; regulations

Every turn signal used to give a signal of intention to turn a vehicle shall be so constructed and so installed as to give a signal plainly visible in clear weather and under normal traffic conditions from a distance of at least 100 feet to the rear and 100 feet to the front of the vehicle. No front turn signal, however, shall be required on **vehicles manufactured before January 1, 1943**.

The Superintendent may promulgate regulations not inconsistent with this section and § 46.2-1038 governing the construction, location, and operation of turn signals and the color of lights which may be used in any such signal device. Nothing contained herein, however, shall prohibit the requiring of turn signals on any vehicle whose driver is prevented by any reason from giving the hand and arm signal required in § 46.2-849.

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE III. OPERATION  
CHAPTER 10. MOTOR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY  
ARTICLE 5. EXHAUST SYSTEM

Va. Code § 46.2-1048 (2010)

§ 46.2-1048. Pollution control systems or devices

No motor vehicle registered in the Commonwealth and **manufactured for the model year 1973** or for subsequent model years shall be operated on the highways in the Commonwealth unless it is equipped with an air pollution control system, device, or combination of such systems or devices installed in accordance with federal laws and regulations.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle, as herein described, on the highways in the Commonwealth with its pollution control system or device removed or otherwise rendered inoperable.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate on the highways in the Commonwealth a motor vehicle, as described in this section, equipped with any emission control system or device unless it is of a type installed as standard factory equipment, or comparable to that designed for use upon the particular vehicle as standard factory equipment.

No motor vehicle, as described in this section, shall be issued a safety inspection approval sticker unless it is equipped as provided under the foregoing provisions of this section or if it violates this section.

The provisions of this section shall not prohibit or prevent shop adjustments or replacements of equipment for maintenance or repair or the conversion of engines to low polluting fuels, such as, but not limited to, natural gas or propane, so long as such action does not degrade the antipollution capabilities of the vehicle power system.

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE III. OPERATION  
CHAPTER 10. MOTOR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY  
ARTICLE 6. WINDSHIELDS AND WINDOWS

Va. Code § 46.2-1055 (2010)

§ 46.2-1055. Windshield wipers

Every permanent windshield on a motor vehicle shall be equipped with a device for cleaning snow, rain, moisture, or other matter from the windshield directly in front of the driver. The device shall be so constructed as to be controlled or operated by the driver of the vehicle. Every such device on a school bus or a vehicle designed or used to carry passengers for compensation or hire or as a public conveyance shall be of a mechanically or electrically operated type. The device or devices on any motor **vehicle** manufactured or **assembled** after January 1, 1943, shall clean both the right and left sides of the windshield and shall be of a mechanically or electrically operated type.

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE III. OPERATION  
CHAPTER 10. MOTOR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY  
ARTICLE 6. WINDSHIELDS AND WINDOWS

Va. Code § 46.2-1055.1 (2010)

§ 46.2-1055.1. Windshield defroster or defogger

Every Virginia-registered motor vehicle manufactured for the **1969 or subsequent model years** and required to be equipped with a windshield shall be equipped with a windshield defroster or defogger. The defroster or defogger shall be in good working order at all times when the vehicle is operated on the highways.

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE III. OPERATION  
CHAPTER 10. MOTOR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY  
ARTICLE 6. WINDSHIELDS AND WINDOWS

Va. Code § 46.2-1056 (2010)

§ 46.2-1056. When safety glass required

It shall be unlawful for any person to drive on any highway a motor vehicle registered in the Commonwealth and manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1935, and designed or used for the purpose of carrying persons for compensation or hire or as a public conveyance to transport school children and others, unless such vehicle is equipped with safety glass wherever glass is used in doors, windows, and windshields.

It shall be unlawful to drive on any highway any motor vehicle registered in the Commonwealth, **manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1936**, unless the vehicle is equipped with safety glass approved by the Superintendent, or meets the standards and specifications of the American National Standards Institute, Incorporated, or the regulations of the federal Department of Transportation whenever glass is used in doors, windows, and windshields.

The term "safety glass" as used in this section shall mean any product composed of glass so manufactured, fabricated or treated as substantially to prevent shattering and flying of the glass when struck or broken. The Commissioner shall maintain a list of types of glass approved by the Superintendent as conforming to the specifications and requirements for safety glass as set forth in this section and shall not issue a license for or relicense any motor vehicle subject to the provisions herein stated unless such motor vehicle is equipped as herein provided with the approved type of glass.

No glazing material other than safety glass shall be used in any motor vehicle registered in the Commonwealth, except that the Superintendent may permit safety glazing materials other than glass to be used in lieu of safety glass in portions of motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers designated by him, provided any such material bears a trade name or identifying mark, and has been submitted to and approved by the Superintendent.

If any person drives any vehicle in violation of this section while under a certificate issued by the State Corporation Commission, in addition to the penalty provided in § 46.2-113, the certificate of such person may, in the discretion of the State Corporation Commission, be suspended until this section is satisfactorily complied with.

Replacement safety glass installed in any part of a vehicle other than the windshield need not bear a trademark or name, provided (i) the glass consists of two or more sheets of glass separated by a glazing material, (ii) the glass is cut from a piece of approved safety glass, and (iii) the edge of the glass can be observed.

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE III. OPERATION  
CHAPTER 10. MOTOR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY  
ARTICLE 10. MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT

Va. Code § 46.2-1082 (2010)

§ 46.2-1082. Mirrors

No person shall drive a motor vehicle on a highway in the Commonwealth if the vehicle is not equipped with a mirror which reflects to the driver a view of the highway for a distance of not less than 200 feet to the rear of such vehicle.

No motor vehicle registered in the Commonwealth, designed and licensed primarily for passenger vehicular transportation on the public highways and **manufactured after 1968** shall be driven on the highways in the Commonwealth unless equipped with at least one outside and at least one inside rear view mirror meeting the requirements of this section.

Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, no motor vehicle which either has no rear window, or which has a rear window so obstructed as to prevent rearward vision by means of an inside rear view mirror, shall be required to be equipped with an inside rear view mirror if such motor vehicle has horizontally and vertically adjustable outside rear view mirrors installed on both sides of such motor vehicle in such a manner as to provide the driver of such motor vehicle a rearward view along both sides of such motor vehicle for at least 200 feet.

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE III. OPERATION  
CHAPTER 10. MOTOR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY  
ARTICLE 10. MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT

Va. Code § 46.2-1088.1 (2010)

§ 46.2-1088.1. Hood scoops

No motor vehicle shall be operated on a public highway in the Commonwealth if any hood scoop installed thereon exceeds any of the following dimensions:

1. For any hood scoop installed on any motor vehicle manufactured for the **1990 or earlier model year**: thirty-eight inches wide at its widest point, two and one-quarter inches high at its highest point measured from the junction of the dashboard and the windshield, and fifty-two and one-quarter inches long at its longest point.
2. For any hood scoop installed on any motor vehicle manufactured for the 1991 or subsequent model year: thirty-eight inches wide at its widest point, one and one-eighth inches high at its highest point measured from the junction of the dashboard and the windshield, and fifty and one-half inches long at its longest point.

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE III. OPERATION  
CHAPTER 10. MOTOR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY  
ARTICLE 12. SAFETY BELTS

Va. Code § 46.2-1092 (2010)

§ 46.2-1092. Safety lap belts or a combination of lap belts and shoulder harnesses to be installed in certain motor vehicles

No passenger car registered in the Commonwealth and **manufactured for the year 1963 or for subsequent years** shall be operated on the highways in the Commonwealth unless the front seats thereof are equipped with adult safety lap belts or a combination of lap belts and shoulder harnesses of types approved by the Superintendent.

Failure to use the safety lap belts or a combination of lap belts and shoulder harnesses after installation shall not be deemed to be negligence. Nor shall evidence of such nonuse of such devices be considered in mitigation of damages of whatever nature.

No motor vehicle registered in the Commonwealth and **manufactured after January 1, 1968**, shall be issued a safety inspection approval sticker if any lap belt, combination of lap belt and shoulder harness, or passive belt systems required to be installed at the time of manufacture by the federal Department of Transportation have been either removed from the motor vehicle or rendered inoperable.

No passenger car, except convertibles, registered in the Commonwealth and **manufactured on or after September 1, 1990**, shall be operated on the highways in the Commonwealth unless the forward-facing rear outboard seats thereof are equipped with rear seat lap/shoulder belts of types required to be installed at the time of manufacture by the federal Department of Transportation.

No passenger car, including convertibles, registered in the Commonwealth and **manufactured on or after September 1, 1991**, shall be operated on the highways in the Commonwealth unless the forward-facing rear outboard seats thereof are equipped with rear seat lap/shoulder belts of types required to be installed at the time of manufacture by the federal Department of Transportation.

No truck, multi-purpose vehicle, or bus, except school buses and motor homes, with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less, registered in the Commonwealth and **manufactured on or after September 1, 1991**, shall be operated on the highways in the Commonwealth unless the forward-facing rear outboard seats thereof are equipped with rear seat lap/shoulder belts of types required to be installed at the time of manufacture by the federal Department of Transportation.

Passenger cars, trucks, multipurpose vehicles, and buses, except school buses and motor homes, registered in the Commonwealth and **manufactured on or after September 1, 1992**, shall not be operated on the highways of the Commonwealth unless equipped with rear seat lap/shoulder belts of types required to be installed at the time of manufacture by the federal Department of Transportation for each forward-facing rear outboard seating position on a readily removable seat.

For the purposes of this section, forward-facing rear outboard seats are defined as those designated seating positions for passengers in outside front facing seats behind the driver and front passenger seats, except any designated seating position adjacent to a walkway that is located between the seat and the near side of the vehicle and is designed to allow access to a more rearward seating position.

The Superintendent of State Police shall include in the Official Motor Vehicle Inspection Regulations a section which identifies each classification of motor vehicle required to be equipped with any of the devices described in the foregoing provisions of this section.

Such regulations shall also include a listing of the exact devices which are required to be installed in each motor vehicle classification and the model year of each motor vehicle classification on which the standards of the federal Department of Transportation first became applicable.



TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE III. OPERATION  
CHAPTER 10. MOTOR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY  
ARTICLE 6. WINDSHIELDS AND WINDOWS

Va. Code § 46.2-1057 (2010)

§ 46.2-1057. Windshields

It shall be unlawful for any person to drive on a highway in the Commonwealth any motor **vehicle or reconstructed** motor **vehicle**, other than a motorcycle, registered in the Commonwealth, which was manufactured, assembled or reconstructed after July 1, 1970, unless the motor vehicle is equipped with a windshield.

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE III. OPERATION  
CHAPTER 10. MOTOR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY  
ARTICLE 9. BRAKES

Va. Code § 46.2-1067 (2010)

§ 46.2-1067. Within what distances brakes should stop vehicle

On a dry, hard, approximately level stretch of highway free from loose material, the service braking system shall be capable of stopping a motor vehicle or combination of vehicles at all times and under all conditions of loading at a speed of twenty miles per hour within the following distances:

1. Passenger motor **vehicles**, except buses and **antique vehicles**, twenty-five feet.
2. Buses, trucks, and tractor trucks, forty feet.
3. Motor vehicles registered or qualified to be registered as **antique vehicles**, when equipped with two-wheel brakes, forty-five feet; four-wheel brakes, twenty-five feet.
4. All combinations of vehicles, forty feet.
5. Motorcycles, thirty feet.

§ 46.2-1158.01. Exceptions to motor vehicle inspection requirement.

A. The following shall be exempt from inspection as required by § 46.2-1157:

1. Four-wheel vehicles weighing less than 500 pounds and having less than 6 horsepower;
2. Boat, utility, or travel trailers that are not equipped with brakes;
3. **Antique motor vehicles** or **antique trailers** as defined in § 46.2-100 and licensed pursuant to § 46.2-730;
4. Any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that is outside the Commonwealth at the time its inspection expires when operated by the most direct route to the owner's or operator's place of residence or the owner's legal place of business in the Commonwealth;
5. A truck, tractor truck, trailer, or semitrailer for which the period fixed for inspection has expired while the vehicle was outside the Commonwealth (i) from a point outside the Commonwealth to the place where such vehicle is kept or garaged within the Commonwealth or (ii) to a destination within the Commonwealth where such vehicle will be (a) unloaded within 24 hours of entering the Commonwealth, (b) inspected within such 24-hour period, and (c) operated, after being unloaded, only to an inspection station or to the place where it is kept or garaged within the Commonwealth;
6. New motor vehicles, new trailers, or new semitrailers may be operated upon the highways of Virginia for the purpose of delivery from the place of manufacture to the dealer's or distributor's designated place of business or between places of business if such manufacturer, dealer, or distributor has more than one place of business, without being inspected; dealers or distributors may take delivery and operate upon the highways of Virginia new motor vehicles, new trailers, or new semitrailers from another dealer or distributor provided a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer shall not be considered new if driven upon the highways for any purpose other than the delivery of the vehicle;
7. New motor vehicles, new trailers, or new semitrailers bearing a manufacturer's license may be operated for test purposes by the manufacturer without an inspection;
8. Motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers may be operated for test purposes by a certified inspector without an inspection sticker during the performance of an official inspection;
9. New motor vehicles, new trailers, or new semitrailers may be operated upon the highways of Virginia over the most direct route to a location for installation of a permanent body without being inspected;
10. Motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers purchased outside the Commonwealth may be driven to the purchaser's place of residence or the dealer's or distributor's designated place of business without being inspected;
11. Prior to purchase from auto auctions within the Commonwealth, motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers may be operated upon the highways not to exceed a five-mile radius of such auction by prospective purchasers only for the purpose of road testing without being inspected; motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers purchased from auto auctions within the Commonwealth also may be operated upon the highways from such auction to the purchaser's place of residence or business without being inspected;
12. Motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers, after the expiration of a period fixed for the inspection thereof, may be operated over the most direct route between the place where such vehicle is kept or garaged and an official inspection station for the purpose of having the same inspected pursuant to a prior appointment with such station;
13. Any vehicle for transporting well-drilling machinery and mobile equipment as defined in § 46.2-700;

14. Motor vehicles being towed in a legal manner as exempted under § 46.2-1150;
  15. Logtrailers as exempted under § 46.2-1159;
  16. Motor vehicles designed or altered and used exclusively for racing or other exhibition purposes as exempted under § 46.2-1160;
  17. Any tow dolly or converter gear as defined in § 46.2-1119;
  18. A new motor vehicle, as defined in § 46.2-1500, that has been inspected in accordance with an inspection requirement of the manufacturer or distributor of the new motor vehicle by an employee who customarily performs such inspection on behalf of a motor vehicle dealer licensed pursuant to § 46.2-1508 shall be deemed to have met the safety inspection requirements of the section without a separate safety inspection by an official inspection station. Such inspection shall be deemed to be the first inspection for the purpose of § 46.2-1158, and an inspection approval sticker furnished by the Department of State Police at the uniform price paid by all official inspection stations to the Department of State Police for an inspection approval sticker may be affixed to the vehicle as required by § 46.2-1163;
  19. Mopeds;
  20. Low-speed vehicles; and
  21. Vehicles exempt from registration pursuant to Article 6 (§ 46.2-662 et seq.) of Chapter 6.
- B. The following shall be exempt from inspection as required by § 46.2-1157 provided (i) the commercial motor vehicle operates in interstate commerce; (ii) the commercial motor vehicle is found to meet the federal requirements for annual inspection through a self-inspection, a third-party inspection, a Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance inspection, or a periodic inspection performed by any state with a program; (iii) the inspection has been determined by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to be comparable to or as effective as the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 396 § 396.3(a); and (iv) documentation of such determination as provided for in 49 C.F.R. Part 396 § 396.3(b) is available for review by law-enforcement officials to verify that the inspection is current:
1. Any commercial motor vehicle operating in interstate commerce that is subject to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations;
  2. Any trailer or semitrailer being operated in interstate commerce that is subject to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

TITLE 46.2. MOTOR VEHICLES  
SUBTITLE III. OPERATION  
CHAPTER 10. MOTOR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY  
ARTICLE 3. LIGHTS AND TURN SIGNALS

Va. Code § 46.2-1039 (2010)

§ 46.2-1039. Requirements of turn signals; regulations

Every turn signal used to give a signal of intention to turn a vehicle shall be so constructed and so installed as to give a signal plainly visible in clear weather and under normal traffic conditions from a distance of at least 100 feet to the rear and 100 feet to the front of the vehicle. No front turn signal, however, shall be required on **vehicles manufactured before** January 1, 1943.

The Superintendent may promulgate regulations not inconsistent with this section and [§ 46.2-1038](#) governing the construction, location, and operation of turn signals and the color of lights which may be used in any such signal device. Nothing contained herein, however, shall prohibit the requiring of turn signals on any vehicle whose driver is prevented by any reason from giving the hand and arm signal required in [§ 46.2-849](#).

## **Emissions Exemptions**

Annual emissions inspections are required for vehicles registered in the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, and Stafford and cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park and must be passed prior to vehicle registration and registration renewal.

### **Diesel Vehicles:**

All 1997 MY and newer diesel powered vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating up to and including 8,500 pounds are required to undergo emissions inspections.

### **Exemptions:**

1. New vehicles being titled for the first time for the first two years of registration
1. A vehicle with a MY of 25 years old or older
2. Vehicles with a GVWR of more than 10,000 lbs