

State of South Carolina

Department of Motor Vehicles

To:

All Law Enforcement Jurisdictions

From:

South Carolina Department of Motor Vendor Ve

Effective:

Immediately, until rescinded

RE:

Thirty-Day Grace Period for Expired Registration Decals

NOTE TO CUSTOMER:

Thank you for coming to your County Auditor or Treasurer's office to pay your vehicle taxes.

Now that your taxes are paid, you will receive a new decal from the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (SCDMV) within ten business days. The decal will be mailed to your address as it appears in SCDMV records.

In the event a law enforcement officer stops you prior to your receiving your new decal, please present him or her with this memo. Also, you should keep a copy of your paid tax receipt in your vehicle to serve as a temporary registration until you receive your new one.

NOTE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Please be aware that Section 56-3-840 of the South Carolina Code of Laws provides a built-in grace period of thirty days from the date of expiration of the decal in which to renew a vehicle registration.

SECTION 56-3-840. Delinquent registration and license penalties.

The owner of every vehicle required to be registered and licensed under the provisions of this chapter who fails to register and license the vehicle and pay the specified fees or renewal, when and as required, upon registering the vehicle shall pay to the Department of Motor Vehicles a delinquency penalty fee of ten dollars, if the owner is delinquent less than fifteen days. If the owner is delinquent by fifteen days but less than thirty days, he shall pay a delinquency penalty of twenty-five dollars. If the owner is delinquent by more than thirty days but less than ninety days, he shall pay a delinquency penalty fee of fifty dollars to the department. If the owner is delinquent by more than ninety days, he shall pay a delinquency penalty fee of seventy-five dollars to the department. However, there is no delinquency penalty fee for campers and travel trailers subject to the registration fee under Section 56-3-720.

A person who drives, moves, or operates on a highway a vehicle for which a registration and license are required but have not been obtained within thirty days of the date when required is guilty of a misdemeanor.