



Vehicle registration & licensing

Number plate series change

Starting in June 2014, passenger vehicle number plates will begin to be issued in the new format "AA0 00A" (two letters, a number, a space, two numbers, then a letter).

What to expect

Most vehicles displaying passenger number plates will continue to display the current AAA 000 or the older 000 AAA number plate formats. The new format, AA0 00A, will begin to be issued at each point of service as each exhausts their current number plate stock.



Existing number plate format



New format

Changing to the new AA0 00A format number plate is not expected to impact motorists. The format change applies only to new number plates issued to passenger vehicles (that is, cars, sport utility vehicles, mini-vans, motor homes and neighborhood zero emission vehicles).

Behind the scenes

ICBC internal systems and the intersection safety camera program are ready for the new passenger number plate format.

Tolling facilities' automated licence plate recognition (ALPR) systems are being tested and other ALPR operators may wish to contact ICBC to prepare for the introduction of the new number plate format.

The format change was necessary for passenger vehicles because unique number and letter combinations in the current format has nearly run out.

The original alphanumeric AAA 000 format was introduced in 1970 and the switch to the 000 AAA format was made in 2001. The new format is expected to last approximately eight to ten years. ICBC is responsible for number plate design, plate material and for ensuring each number plate bears the vehicle's licence number. More information about British Columbia number plates and their various formats was shared in bulletin 4 issued May 24, 2011, available at:

<http://partners.icbc.com/insurance-services/vehreg-bulletins.asp>

Legislation and regulations

[Motor Vehicle Act, Section 12 – Number plates](#)

[Motor Vehicle Act Regulations, Division 3 – Display and Use of Number Plates](#)



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Contact

For more information, contact

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Francis", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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ICBC