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MEMORANDUM

2015-001

TO: Licensing Plate Issuing Officials

FROM: Brenda R. Coone, Director
Motor Vehicle Division

SUBJECT: Responses to Questions Asked at the Alabama Licensing Conference

During the 2015 Alabama Licensing Conference, two questions were posed that required research in order to provide an accurate response. The questions and their corresponding responses are as follows:

1. When a registrant applies for a twenty-day temporary tag, should licensing officials verify evidence of insurance?

Yes. Section 32-7A-4, Code of Alabama 1975, provides that registration shall not be obtained or maintained unless the vehicle is covered by a liability insurance policy, commercial automobile liability policy, motor vehicle liability bond, or deposit of cash. Code Section 32-7A-5 and Revenue Rule 810-5-8-.07 entitled, "Vehicles Exempt from the Mandatory Liability Insurance Law", provide that certain vehicles are exempt from the law. Vehicles registered with a temporary tag are not specifically exempt from insurance. It is likely that insurance on temporary registrations cannot be verified using OIVS; however, physical evidence of insurance must be presented by the registrant in accordance with Code Section 32-7A-6.

2. If a registration is revoked based on the response provided by the registrant and the registrant attempts to renew their motor vehicle registration during their renewal month, should the revoked registration be handled before a renewal can be processed?

Due to the possible complexity of the response, two scenarios are being presented with the corresponding response.

Scenario 1. The registrant provides the licensing official with an affidavit stating that the vehicle is inoperable or stored and will not be operated prior to the end of the current registration year. In this instance, the registrant is not required to purchase another registration for the current year. Registration fees are due when a vehicle is operated on the public highways of this state.

Scenario 2. The registrant informs the licensing official that the vehicle will be/has been operated during the current registration year. In this scenario, the registrant must first purchase a registration for the current year as provided in Code Section 32-7A-11. The registration renewal can be processed the same day, if desired.

Please feel free to contact the Motor Vehicle Division at mli@revenue.alabama.gov should you have any questions regarding these items.