



Vehicle registration & licensing

Foreign representative vehicles

This bulletin contains current information about British Columbia's licensing program for vehicles owned or leased by foreign representatives and their offices.

Background

B.C.'s foreign representative licence plate (number plate) program is aligned with predominant practices in other Canadian jurisdictions and internationally. It is part of a package of privileges and benefits that reflect similar considerations extended by other countries to Canadian diplomatic and consular representatives abroad.

The distinctive foreign representative number plates with white lettering on a red background were first issued on June 11, 2007. Prior to that, only senior consular officers were issued special number plates, identified by the word "Consul" in blue letters on a white background.

Approximately 235 vehicles are actively licensed with BC foreign representative number plates.

Eligibility and mandatory features

Foreign representative vehicle licensing is mandated by the federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (Office of Protocol) for eligible vehicles owned or leased by individuals and other entities accredited by the Office of Protocol; although it is optional for Honorary Consular Officers (Canadian citizens residing in British Columbia representing a foreign country). For Honorary Consular Officers, the program is limited to one set of plates for one registered vehicle in their name.

Only passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles and motor homes are eligible. The initial licence issuance is through ICBC Autoplan Sales, subsequent transactions may be processed by Autoplan brokers.

The vehicle registration will show the name of the accredited party. This may be an accredited individual (for example, a foreign representative and their dependents, or an honorary consular officer), an International Organization, a Foreign State or Consular Post, an office of a political subdivision of a foreign state, or an Other Office (for example, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.)

Operation

Normal rules of the road for vehicle operations apply. There are no special restrictions on who may operate a foreign representative licensed vehicle, where, or for what purpose it may be operated.



Number plate prefixes

The number plates are in an AA ###A alpha-numeric format (the letters I, O, Q, S, U, Y and Z are excluded.) The first two alpha characters in the licence plate number correspond to one of five accreditation categories designated by the federal Office of Protocol, as follows:

- CC 000A - for Career Consular Officer-level foreign representatives and their dependents or a Foreign State or a Consular Post where headed by a Career Officer;
- CS 000A - for administrative, technical and service level foreign representatives and their dependents;
- DL 000A - for diplomatic-level foreign representatives and their dependents or an International Organization;
- HC 000A - for Honorary Consular Officer-level foreign representatives or a Consular Post headed by an Honorary Officer; and,
- SR 000A - for foreign officials and their dependents from Offices of Political Subdivisions of Foreign States and from Other Offices, and for their Offices.

Sample images of the foreign representative number plates are attached.

Plate surrender

Within 30 days after the conclusion of a foreign representative's posting or appointment, the foreign representative licence plate must be returned to an ICBC Autoplan broker.

Contacts

Enquiries related to the Foreign Representative Program should be directed to:

Office of Protocol, Intergovernmental Relations, Office of the Premier
Phone: 250-356-6177 or e-mail: Protocol@gov.bc.ca

For licensing information, contact: Rob Miller, A/Senior Business Analyst
Vehicle Registration Programs
250-414-7907 or email rob.miller@icbc.com

Legislation and regulations

Motor Vehicle Fees Regulation [Fee Schedule Item 2\(e\)\(i\)](#)

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ICBC



Sample Foreign Representative Number Plates





Distribution list

B.C. Ministry of Environment

Conservation Officer Service (Chief C.O.)

B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Compliance and Enforcement Branch
(Director)

Land Tenures Branch (Manager responsible
for ORVs)

B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

CPPO (Directors of Policy & Legislation and
Corporate Initiatives)

Police Services Division, Road Safety Unit
(Director)

RoadSafetyBC, Policy Unit (Director)

B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

CVSE (Director)

CVSE (Deputy Director)

Provincial Permit Centre (Manager)

Transportation Policy & Programs Dept.
(Exec. Director)

Transportation Policy Branch (Manager)

Canadian Border Services Agency

Law Enforcement

BC Association of Chiefs of Police

Municipal Police forces

PRIME-BC

RCMP "E" Division, Traffic Services (Officer
in Charge)

RCMP, Lower Mainland District Traffic
Services (Officer in Charge)

Other Jurisdictions

Canadian Council of Motor Transport
Authorities (CCMTA)

American Association of Motor Transport
Authorities (AAMVA)

Registrar of Imported Vehicles

RIV Policy, Standards & Enforcement
(Compliance Manager)

Toll operators

Transport Canada

Motor Vehicle Regulation Enforcement
(Director)

Road Safety and Motor Vehicle Regulation
(Director General)

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

ICBC

Business Education - Insurance

Claims Services (Personal & Commercial)

Commercial Insurance / CUS & GU

Communications, SE & Road Safety

Driver Licensing Policy & Standards

Insurance & DL Contact Centre / BEU / Ins.

Op Support / Ins. Procedures & Bus. Change

Insurance Product Services

Insurance Sales & Distribution

Insurance Strategy & Pricing

Insurance Underwriting

Procurement Operations

Vehicle Registration Programs / Specialty

Vehicle Registration Services