

Avoiding a fine for incorrect registration plates

With the end of paper tax discs on 1st October the DVLA will be relying on Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to check vehicles have a current vehicle excise duty, even a NIL value VED for a Historic tax class vehicle. Using ANPR cameras will also give the police the opportunity of spotting other offences such as incorrect registration plates for which there is a potential fine of £1,000. George Wilder highlights how to check your classic MG built on or after 1st January 1973 has the correct plates and avoid a heavy fine.

George saw the recent sale of a 1974 MGBV8GT advertised on the MGV8s for Sale webpage on the V8 website and noted the car appeared to be fitted with non reflective number plates. George says those plates are incorrect for a car of this age when used on the road. Their use could result in a fine as well as being a reason for MOT test failure.

The DVLA issue guidance on registration plates in leaflet **INF104** available via the link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vehicle-registration-numbers-and-number-plates>

INF 104 para 7 states "Number plate design specification: Vehicles manufactured after 1st January 1973 must display number plates made of a reflective material with a

white background at the front of the vehicle and a yellow background at the back of the vehicle, and with black letters and numbers. This is followed by technical detail on font and layout of the letters and numbers on the plate. Vehicles made before 1st January 1973 may display traditional 'black and white' number plates, for example, white, silver or grey characters on a black plate.

The MOT Testers' manual is quite clear on number plates too, para 6.3 states "incorrect plates are a reason for an MOT rejection". <http://www.motinfo.gov.uk/htdocs/m4s06000301.htm>

Following the 12 month extension of the Vehicle Excise Duty exemption in the Budget 2013 and then the introduction of the 40 year rolling exemption announced in the Budget 2014, so eligible vehicles can have their tax status changed from PLG to Historic but that has not changed the registration plate regulations.

The online reference for the number plate requirements is: <https://www.gov.uk/displaying-number-plates/overview>

Getting a replica tax disc

With end of paper tax discs in October, Paul Baker posted a note on the V8 Bulletin Board saying "with the new rules for tax discs I wanted to get a replica for the first tax disc my RV8 would have carried - namely one ending June 96. Most replica providers don't go beyond the late 80s and early 90s,



however I found a great supplier who provided me with a customised tax disc by return of post and all for less than £10! I thought I would share his details – the company is www.creativetaxdiscs.co.uk .

Buying a tax disc with this company based in Yorkshire is straightforward but you will need to know the date of first registration. If your V5C is not near at hand you can pop into the "Vehicle Enquiry" service on the Directgov website via the link on the V8 website to trace that date so you have the month in which the car was first registered and taxed. There is also an additional service they offer for free and that is to add the following details to the disc which are normally written in by the Post Office counter staff - that is the registration number, the make MG, the tax classification, the period of road tax, most probably 12 months, and the amount of road tax paid.