ARTICLE 64:30

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBERING SYSTEM

Chapter

64:30:01 Definitions.
64:30:02 Administration.
64:30:03 Inspection and assignment of number.
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CHAPTER 64:30:02

ADMINISTRATION

Section

64:30:02:01 Administration and inspection.
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64:30:02:04.01 VIN requirements for trailers.
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64:30:02:06 Definition of year on cars, pickups, trucks, and vans.

64:30:02:01. Administration and inspection. The replacement and assigned vehicle identification number system shall be administered by the Division of Motor Vehicles. The inspection and identification functions of the system shall be carried out by the Division of
Highway Patrol's vehicle theft unit. The Department of Revenue shall administer the replacement, assignment, inspection, and identification of the vehicle identification number system.

**General Authority:** SDCL 32-3-57.

**Law Implemented:** SDCL 32-3-22, 32-3-53.

**64:30:02:04. Application for VIN assignment.** Persons attempting to obtain an assigned or replacement vehicle identification number, except those primarily doing business as manufacturers of new vehicles, shall apply to the Division of Motor Vehicles county treasurer of the applicant’s county of residence. Upon completion of the application form, the Division of Motor Vehicles Department of Revenue shall initiate the registration process and refer the applicant to the Highway Patrol vehicle theft unit for inspection and identification of the vehicle. Schedule an appointment for the inspection and identification of the vehicle.

**General Authority:** SDCL 32-3-57.

**Law Implemented:** SDCL 32-3-20, 32-3-22.

**64:30:02:04.01. VIN requirements for trailers.** Any person manufacturing trailers shall obtain and attach a 17-digit vehicle identification number on each trailer produced. For these trailers and any other trailer which weighs **under less than** 3,000 pounds and has no trailer identification number, the county treasurer may assign an identification number from the trailer identification numbers assigned to the county by the department. The applicant must stamp the number into the trailer frame and then obtain verification from a law enforcement officer that the correct number has been imprinted onto the trailer.
For any trailer which weighs 3,000 pounds or more, application for an identification number shall be made directly to the Division of Motor Vehicles or to the county treasurer of the applicant’s county of residence. The trailer must be inspected by an officer of the Highway Patrol’s vehicle theft unit who, in conjunction with the Department of Revenue, shall attach the trailer identification number plate upon the successful completion of the inspection.

**General Authority:** SDCL 32-3-57(1).

**Law Implemented:** SDCL 32-3-20, 32-3-22.

**CHAPTER 64:30:03**

**INSPECTION AND ASSIGNMENT OF NUMBER**

Section

64:30:03:01 VIN inspection.

64:30:03:02 VIN removed or altered.

64:30:03:03 Vehicle with no VIN.

64:30:03:04 Component identification.

64:30:03:05 Replacement identification numbers.

64:30:03:06 Motorcycles built with aftermarket parts.

64:30:03:01. **VIN inspection.** If the original identification number can be established, the inspecting official shall provide and attach a replacement VIN plate repeating the original identification number. If no original identification number exists or can be determined, an assigned VIN plate shall be provided by the inspecting official. If the public VIN for a vehicle
cannot be determined, the secondary VIN shall be searched for subject to the following conditions:

(1) A secondary VIN search shall not be conducted in a location which is open to public view or in the presence of unauthorized persons;

(2) Secondary VIN locations shall be obtained from the National Automobile Theft Bureau (NATB) National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB);

(3) If the secondary vehicle identification number has been recorded but does not readily identify the vehicle, the applicant shall be advised further checking will be required and he will be contacted later to return with the vehicle to complete the process;

(4) The inspecting official shall submit the secondary VIN to the NATB NICB and may request factory information. On receipt of the requested information, the inspecting official shall contact the applicant for completion of the identification procedure and VIN assignment;

(5) Written information concerning the location of secondary VINs may be maintained only by the NATB NICB.

General Authority: SDCL 32-3-57.

Law Implemented: SDCL 32-3-22.

CHAPTER 64:30:04

VIN PLATES

Section
64:30:04:01 Plate design and storage.
64:30:04:02 Duplicate replacement or assigned plate.
64:30:04:03 Lost assigned plate.
64:30:04:01. Plate design and storage. The VIN plate shall be made of anodized aluminum foil. The plate shall have an adhesive backing with self-destruct capability. Each VIN plate shall carry a control number for accountability purposes.

Replacement and assigned VIN plates shall be requisitioned from the Division of Motor Vehicles Department of Revenue. Plates shall be stored in a secure location and access restricted to authorized employees. Complete records of control numbers and issued VIN plates shall be maintained by the Division of Motor Vehicles Department of Revenue.

General Authority: SDCL 32-3-57.

Law Implemented: SDCL 32-3-22.

64:30:04:02. Duplicate replacement or assigned plate. If an assigned or replacement VIN plate was issued and it becomes damaged or mutilated, the owner shall submit a notarized statement of facts describing how the VIN became damaged or mutilated to the county treasurer of the owner’s residence. A duplicate plate bearing the same numbers as previously assigned may be issued as follows:

1. If the mutilated plate is still affixed to the vehicle, the applicant must make the vehicle available to the inspecting official who shall remove the plate in the inspecting official’s presence and the inspecting official shall affix the replacement VIN on the vehicle; or

2. If the plate is already detached, the applicant shall surrender it to the inspecting official, who will then affix the replacement VIN on the vehicle.
(3) The applicant shall prepare a statement of facts describing the change and the inspecting official shall forward it to the Division of Motor Vehicles, together with the removed plates;

(4) Any replacement or assigned VIN plate which is damaged prior to or during application or a replacement VIN plate on which a numbering error occurs shall be returned to the Division of Motor Vehicles Department of Revenue by the inspecting official. Each replacement or assigned VIN plate being returned shall be rendered unusable prior to mailing by cutting the plate in half diagonally without destroying the legibility of the control number.

**General Authority:** SDCL 32-3-57.

**Law Implemented:** SDCL 32-3-22.

64:30:04:03. Lost assigned plate. When a vehicle has been issued an assigned VIN plate and the plate is lost, a substitute plate bearing that number shall be issued if the number can be verified. If the number cannot be verified for a vehicle, the inspecting official Department of Revenue shall assign a new VIN number and the inspecting official shall affix the new VIN plate to the vehicle. The request for replacement of a lost plate shall be treated as a new application.

**General Authority:** SDCL 32-3-57.

**Law Implemented:** SDCL 32-3-22.

**CHAPTER 64:30:05**

**VIN PLATE ATTACHMENT GUIDELINES**

Section

64:30:05:01 Motor vehicles—Number affixed to front door Repealed.
64:30:05:01. **Motor vehicles -- Number affixed to front door.** The inspecting official shall affix a replacement or assigned VIN plate to the left front door pillar post of a motor vehicle unless the left front door pillar post design will not permit attaching the VIN plate, in which case the plate shall be attached to the left front door latch post. Repealed.

**Source:** 13 SDR 59, effective November 27, 1986; 13 SDR 129, 13 SDR 134, effective July 1, 1987.

**General Authority:** SDCL 32-3-57.

**Law Implemented:** SDCL 32-3-22.

64:30:05:06. **Trailers.** For a homemade or rebuilt trailer weighing less than 3000 pounds without a VIN, the owner shall apply to the county treasurer for a number which is supplied to the treasurer by the department. The owner shall attach the number to the trailer by stamping the number either to the left side of the tongue portion or the frame, if the tongue is permanently
attached, or to the left frame rail at the front of the trailer, if the tongue is not permanently attached. The trailer is subject to inspection by a law enforcement agency after the number is attached. The applicant shall also sign an affidavit which states that the applicant built or rebuilt the trailer.

For a manufactured trailer over 2000 weighing 3000 or more pounds without a VIN, the owner shall apply to the department for a VIN number. If the trailer had a VIN which was lost or damaged, the same number may be reassigned if the number is ascertainable. The number, which is issued on a VIN plate, shall be attached in the same location as on a homemade or rebuilt trailer. The applicant shall sign an affidavit which states that it is a manufactured trailer and gives the reason for the absence of a VIN.

**General Authority:** SDCL 32-3-57(2).

**Law Implemented:** SDCL 32-3-22.

64:30:05:07. Newly constructed vehicles. The inspecting official Department of Revenue shall provide newly constructed vehicles which do not have specially assigned or readily identifiable numbers with an assigned VIN to be used as the public number.

**General Authority:** SDCL 32-3-57.

**Law Implemented:** SDCL 32-3-22.

64:30:05:08. Rebuilt vehicles Motor vehicles -- Number affixed to front door. On rebuilt vehicles, including rebuilt vehicles other than motorcycles or trailers, the inspecting official shall affix the plate to a clean, visible surface on the left front door pillar post. If possible, the number shall be placed adjacent to the number which was assigned by the manufacturer or
another state to the part used to rebuild the vehicle. If this is not possible due to construction of
the vehicle, alternative visible locations are as follows:

(1) The left front door latch post;

(2) The left side of the dashboard;

(3) The left side of the steering column support; and

(4) The frame on the left side of the vehicle in the engine compartment.

**General Authority:** SDCL 32-3-57.

**Law Implemented:** SDCL 32-3-22, 32-3-53.

**Cross-References:** Motorcycles, §§ 64:30:05:02 to 64:30:05:05, inclusive; Trailers,
§ 64:30:05:06.