



**BROOME COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

Richard R. Blythe, County Clerk  
Sharon Exley, Executive Deputy County Clerk  
Laurie Tracy, Deputy County Clerk – DMV

TO: BROOME COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE & AMBULANCE COMPANIES

FROM: RICK BLYTHE, BROOME COUNTY CLERK

RE: \*\*\*Official (PSD) Plates for Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Companies\*\*\*

Here is some information that I recently received from the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles concerning availability of 'Official'. These are internal instructions to DMV Offices, so some of this may not be of interest.

*Legislation was recently passed that allows volunteer fire and volunteer ambulance companies to receive Official (Political Subdivision) (PSD) plates for certain vehicles. Previously, volunteer fire or ambulance companies were not entitled to PSD plates as they do not meet the definition of a Political Subdivision, and are not entitled to the same exemptions under V & T law as government entities. Although the new legislation will allow the Volunteer Fire Company and Volunteer Ambulance Company to be given PSD plates for certain vehicles, these companies will still be required to submit a valid Insurance ID card when registering any vehicle.*

*A new form, MV-653V (Volunteer Fire Company or Volunteer Ambulance Company Certification of Eligibility for Official Plates), specifically for the volunteer fire and ambulance companies has been created. This form must be used each time the volunteer organization registers a vehicle. The MV-653 (Political Subdivision Certification of Eligibility for Official Plates) has been revised with minor changes to become consistent with the new form.*

*Effective 8/20/08, PSD plates may be issued to volunteer fire and ambulance companies when all of the following criteria are met:*

- *For volunteer fire companies, the vehicles that may receive PSD plates are those defined as "fire vehicles" in section 115a of the V&T law. These are vehicles owned by, and registered to, the volunteer fire company that are used for fire service purposes.*

*NOTE: These vehicles are not required to be registered at all, but the new legislation allows the registrant to receive PSD plates if they choose to register.*

- *For volunteer ambulance companies, the only vehicles that may receive PSD plates are "emergency ambulance service vehicles" as defined in section 115c of V&T. These are NOT ambulances, as they are not designed to transport sick or injured persons. The vehicles allowed PSD plates transport medical personnel and equipment to sick or injured persons.*



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- *The company requesting the plates must have been assigned an authorization code in the PSD database. Fire companies will have a code that starts with VF, ambulance companies will start with VA. They will all be listed in the "Volunteer Fire" Or "Volunteer Ambulance." category in organization type, so they will have to be searched by organization name, or by selecting "Volunteer Fire" Or "Volunteer Ambulance." in the organization type dropdown and choosing the appropriate county from the county code dropdown. If you cannot find an organization in the database or if the volunteer company's name does not specifically match the listed name on the PSD list, contact the IOCU and they will determine if the company has been approved.*
- *Because these companies are not exempt from the insurance requirements of the Motor Vehicle Financial Security Act, the applicant MUST show an insurance ID card when registering one of the above vehicles. The programming to allow entry of an insurance code will not be ready when we implement this program on 8/20, however, MVRs will be required to collect the proper insurance card. Until the programming is available, any insurance ID cards submitted on these transactions should NOT be attached to the MV-82. They should be sent to Insurance Service Bureau (ISB) daily in an envelope to the following address:*

*PSD/Insurance Cards  
6 Empire State Plaza  
Rm 331 Administration  
Albany NY 12228*
- *An official of the Volunteer Company must complete form MV-653V (Volunteer Fire Company or Volunteer Ambulance Company Certification of Eligibility for Official Plates). This form must be submitted with each registration application.*

**NOTE:** *This legislation applies only to VOLUNTEER companies. It does not affect the issuance of PSD plates to Fire Districts or paid fire and ambulance departments of municipalities. Those applicants have always been entitled to PSD plates and continue to be exempt from the requirement to submit an insurance ID card.*

Deputy County Clerk for Motor Vehicles, Laurie Tracy is available to assist you in this process. She can be reached at 778-6511 or via e-mail at:  
[LTracy@co.broome.ny.us](mailto:LTracy@co.broome.ny.us)

Thank you for your attention to this communication.



**VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OR VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE COMPANY  
CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICIAL PLATES**

**ATTENTION:** This form is to be used only by a volunteer fire company or volunteer ambulance company to certify eligibility for Official Plates. The vehicle must be registered in the name of the volunteer organization.  
**PROOF OF VEHICLE INSURANCE IS REQUIRED.**

**VOLUNTEER FIRE OR VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE ORGANIZATION INFORMATION**

Name of Volunteer Organization	
Address	
Head of Organization	Title
Business Phone	Business E-Mail Address (Optional)

**DESCRIPTION OF VEHICLE(S):**

Check this box if you are certifying multiple vehicles, and attach a separate sheet listing the requested information for all vehicles.

Year	Make	Model
Vehicle ID # (VIN)	Plate Number (if currently registered)	

**PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE BOX BELOW:**

- This volunteer fire company is registering a fire vehicle, as defined in §115-a of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, which is owned or controlled by a fire company, as defined in §3 of the Volunteer Firefighters' Benefit Law.
- This volunteer ambulance company is registering an Emergency Ambulance Service Vehicle (EASV), as defined in §115-c of the Vehicle & Traffic Law, which is owned or controlled by an ambulance company, as defined in §3 of the Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Benefit Law.

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the above-described vehicle(s) is (are) owned or controlled by the volunteer organization to which this application for registration applies, and that the information contained herein is true and accurate. I do so in my capacity as an officer who has been granted the authority to act on behalf of the above-named organization.

I understand that knowingly making a false statement on an application submitted to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles is a misdemeanor under Vehicle and Traffic Law, a misdemeanor or felony under New York State Penal Law, and may result in criminal prosecution in addition to revocation or suspension of the registration pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Sign Your Name in Full)

Print Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>OFFICE USE ONLY</b>	Authorization Code _____	<input type="checkbox"/> FS Insurance Card Presented
	<input type="checkbox"/> Code from List	Insurance Company Code _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Code from IOCU	Insurance Effective Date _____
	DMV Supervisor Approval: _____	Date: _____

(Signature)