

B.C. Assigned VIN Program

The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) is a unique 17-digit number used to identify your vehicle and help prevent fraud. The most recognizable location for this number is in the top left corner on the vehicle's dashboard. Other locations include the driver's door or post, and the firewall under the hood.

A B.C. Assigned VIN is required for certain types of vehicles that don't have an original VIN, or when a vehicle's VIN has been stolen or damaged. The Vehicle Registration Support department at ICBC administers the B.C. Assigned VIN Program and creates B.C. VIN tags for vehicles that require them. Once attached to the vehicle, trailer or frame, the Assigned VIN becomes the only accepted and recognized VIN throughout North America.

When is a B.C. Assigned VIN needed?

If your vehicle's VIN is stolen or damaged, it will need a B.C. Assigned VIN. The B.C. Assigned VIN replaces the regular VIN. You require a B.C. Assigned VIN when:

- A dashboard is replaced.
- A vehicle fails inspection because a minimum of two of the three public VINs don't match.
- The original public VINs are illegible because of rust, wear or damage.
- Two or more differing VINs are found on major components of the vehicle, as in the case of an amalgamated vehicle or, sometimes, a rebuilt vehicle.
- The original dashboard VIN tag is removed or stolen.
- A door is replaced and the original VIN is not located in two other visible locations.

The following types of vehicles also require a B.C. Assigned VIN to give them the same level of identification and fraud protection as a regular vehicle:

- Used vehicles when no record is found and continuity of ownership cannot be established, unless the vehicle is an antique or collector vehicle, small utility trailer or farm and industrial tractor with an original serial number or a car, truck or motorcycle with an original 17-digit VIN or two intact identical public VINs.
- Modified vehicles (e.g., street rods) without two identical public VINs still intact.
- Ubuilt motorcycles with an after-market frame that does not have a valid 17-digit VIN.

- Amalgamated vehicles.
- Ubuilt commercial trailers.
- Ubuilt utility trailers if the GVW exceeds 1,400 kg or if the owner requests it.
- Ubuilt snowmobiles.
- All other Ubuilt vehicles (types 1, 2, 3 and 5).
- Replikits or kit cars.
- Glider kit reconstructed commercial vehicles.
- Replicars (if the replicar manufacturer has not provided a New Vehicle Information Statement with a 17-digit VIN).

Contact ICBC's Vehicle Registration Support department for more information about:

- identifying vehicles repaired from salvage or constructed from parts, and
- registering modified vehicles, replikits, glider kits, replicars, amalgamated vehicles and ubuilt vehicles.

Why is a B.C. Assigned VIN needed when a dashboard is replaced?

It's an offence under the Motor Vehicle Act to remove, alter or obliterate any VINs on a vehicle. Under the Criminal Code of Canada, the vehicle operator is presumed to be in possession of a stolen vehicle if the VIN is removed, altered or obliterated. The vehicle may be seized immediately and the operator charged under the Criminal Code.

The dash VIN is the most visible and often-used VIN to identify a vehicle. Law enforcement officers will recognize the B.C. Assigned VIN as the current and correct VIN, even when other VINs are found on the vehicle.

Where is the B.C. Assigned VIN tag installed?

- Cars/trucks/motorhomes: the primary location is the "A" pillar on the driver's side (front door pillar post where the driver's door is hinged). The second choice is the "B" pillar on the driver's side (where the driver's door latches).
- Motorcycles: the VIN is installed on an unobstructed visible portion of the frame (ensure that the frame is not "oil filled").
- Trailers: the VIN is installed on a visible portion of the outside frame rail, curb side at the front.
- Snowmobiles: the VIN is installed on a visible portion of the tunnel.

In addition to the B.C. Assigned VIN tag, you may also choose to stamp the B.C. Assigned VIN into an integral part of your vehicle for added security.

How do I apply for a B.C. Assigned VIN?

If you are the owner of a vehicle that needs a B.C. Assigned VIN, you can complete an application form at an Autoplan broker. The application requires information about the type of vehicle, what VINs were found on the vehicle and the reason for the application. The application form, support documents (such as vehicle registration documents and bills of sale for major component parts) and the \$25 fee must be mailed in. To initiate the process, you can have your Autoplan broker fax the application and support documents, and have the broker mail the originals along with the fee, to:

ICBC - Vehicle Registration Support
Room 235 - 151 West Esplanade
North Vancouver BC V7M 3H9
Telephone: 604-661-6638 (collect calls accepted)
Fax: 604-443-7341

What does it cost?

A \$25 fee must accompany all applications. The fee may be paid by cash, cheque or money order made payable to ICBC. This fee covers the cost of administering the program, including the cost to courier the VIN tag to the designated inspection facility.

How long does it take to get a B.C. Assigned VIN?

Most B.C. Assigned VINs will be sent by courier to your chosen designated inspection facility within two or three days. However, this may be delayed if you do not attach proof of ownership, such as bills of sale and vehicle registration documents. Rush requests will be considered when time and resources permit.

Note: You must have your new B.C. Assigned VIN attached to your vehicle within 30 days of your accepted application.

How is the B.C. Assigned VIN installed?

The B.C. Assigned VIN must be installed by a designated inspection facility (DIF). Your application form must provide the name, address and telephone number of the DIF that will install the Assigned VIN tag. These facilities are listed in the Yellow Pages under "Vehicle Inspection Service" or visit the Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement website at www.th.gov.bc.ca/cvse.

ICBC will courier the Assigned VIN package, along with mounting equipment and instructions directly to the DIF. You may have to pay a fee for this installation.

How do I register my vehicle once the VIN has been installed?

Once the VIN tag has been attached to and/or stamped on your vehicle, you must take your support documents (including the passed inspection report), a copy of the B.C. Assigned VIN letter sent to you by ICBC and your vehicle to your Autoplan agent to sight the VIN and register the vehicle.

What if I require a B.C. Assigned VIN as the result of an insurance claim?

The application fee and cost of installation may be reimbursed to you in a claim situation. You will first have to pay the related costs and submit your receipts to your adjuster for reimbursement. ICBC claims staff are unable to waive fees or complete the application on your behalf.

What if my B.C. Assigned VIN gets damaged or removed?

If your B.C. Assigned VIN is damaged or removed, you will have to apply for a replacement VIN and pay the \$25 application fee.



building trust. driving confidence.

The information in this publication is intended to provide general information only and is not intended to provide legal or professional advice. We have used plain language to summarize some of the terms of the policy that is the topic of this publication or help readers understand some of the laws affecting the topic of this publication at the date it was written. You should follow the more detailed wording and requirements of current applicable statutes and regulations or policy, even if they contradict the wording and requirements set out in this publication.

MV3223 (012014)