

Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

R8 - Have you bought a second hand vehicle?

Effective Date: 01 September 2007

You, as the new owner, are required under the Motor Vehicles Act to transfer the ownership of a motor vehicle to your name within 14 days of purchase, or a fine of \$2000 (Companies \$10 000) or 6 months imprisonment may apply.

Application for Transfer of Ownership

May be lodged at any office of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles (including Police Outstations) by providing a:

- Current registration certificate, completed and signed on the reverse side, by both former and new owner(s);
- Notice of Disposal - Application for Transfer ([MVR form R6](#)) completed and signed by both former and new owner(s);
- Notice of Disposal - Application to Transfer card (bottom portion) completed and signed by both former and new owner(s).

Please note: Signatures required to effect a transfer are as follows:

(a) Former owner:

- If single owner - signature of owner
- If joint Ownership/Business Name:
 - Signature of each person recorded on the registration certificate is required.
- If Company:
 - Only an appointed Secretary, appointed Manager or appointed Managing Director may sign transfer of ownership documents on behalf of the company.

Please Note: Signatures of Company Directors alone are not acceptable.

(b) New owner:

- If single owner - signature of owner
- If joint Ownership/Business Name:
 - Signature of each owner
- If Company:
 - Only an appointed Secretary, appointed Manager or appointed Managing Director may sign transfer of ownership documents on behalf of the company.

Joint Vehicle Owners and Infringement Notices

When first registering a vehicle in joint names customers may nominate who is to be first named on the registration certificate. If no nomination is made, MVR may record joint owners alphabetically. In situations where owners wish to jointly register a vehicle for the first time, both must attend an MVR Office or provide written authority for one to act on behalf of the other (Agent's Authority) to authorise the application.

The NT *Traffic Regulations* provide for the operation of Infringement Notice Schemes for certain traffic offences. For traffic infringements detected by camera (red light or speed camera), only the offending vehicle is identified. Motor vehicle records are then used to identify the vehicle's registered owner who is served with any infringement notice. In situations where there are joint (or multiple) registered owners of a vehicle, the NT *Traffic Regulations* require that the first person named on the registration certificate is taken to be the responsible registered owner or, if the vehicle is unregistered, the last registered owner, eg, if the MVR record shows that a vehicle is jointly owned by ADAM JONES and ZENA JONES, any infringement notice will be sent to ADAM JONES.

Body Corporate Registered Owners

Bodies corporate with vehicles registered in the body corporate name should be aware that when an infringement notice for a demerit point offence is issued against their vehicle, significantly higher penalties exist for failing to identify the driver. The same penalties also exist in the situation where a body corporate has control of a vehicle (whether as the hirer or lessee) and that vehicle is involved in a camera detected demerit points offence.

See also the NT Police Traffic Infringement Notice or MVR [Information Bulletin L30 – NT Demerit Points Scheme](#).

Proof of Ownership/Acquisition – (POA)

To register a vehicle or transfer the ownership, the customer must provide documents that identify the person from whom they acquired the vehicle. This is called Proof of acquisition/ownership (POA). For registration purposes proof of ownership is defined in the MV Act section 123 as follows:

“A certificate of registration in respect of a motor vehicle shall, in all proceedings under this Act, be prima facie evidence that the person last specified thereon as the owner or new owner, as the case may be, is the owner or the motor vehicle.

The words “prima facie” are used because there may be other evidence of ownership which in a court of law may override the registration certificate.

To show proof of ownership, for registration purposes the applicant may provide one of the following documents:

- The last certificate of Registration in the name of the registered owner, stated as such on the certificate and signed by the registered owner(s).
- A 13a certificate for registration (issued at a remote area Police Station) signed by the registered owner(s) (Please note: A 13A certificate must be checked for processing date.)
- A bill of sale from a recognised auction house or a licensed motor vehicle dealer.
- A copy of a will or probate, written advice from a solicitor, or letter from a public trustee, showing that the vehicle is bequeathed to them. In cases where a vehicle is registered in joint names and one of the parties die, then a copy of a will, probate, letters from a solicitor or public trustees is still required.
- Documents from a court of law providing ownership of a vehicle(i.e. Family Law).

- A letter, receipt, or notice of disposal from the person or organisation that last registered the vehicle, clearly identifying themselves, the vehicle, and the buyer. The letter must include the registration number, VIN or chassis number, and engine number of the vehicle.
- Homemade vehicles that have not been previously registered require the customer to provide a Statutory Declaration approved by a Supervisor or Manager from MVR, stating that they own the vehicle, eg trailers. Receipts for component parts or similar documents can be requested to assist the declaration.
- Any document presented as proof of ownership should relate directly back to the former owner in the N.T.

Please Note: Before buying any vehicle, satisfy yourself that there are no outstanding loans on the vehicle (ring REVS (02) 9600 0022), and that the seller has the right to sell the vehicle, especially if it is registered in a Business name, or Company name.

Fees

There is a prescribed fee for the transfer of ownership and Stamp Duty (if applicable) they are Payable to effect a transfer.

Stamp Duty is calculated at 3% of the purchase price. For further information contact your nearest MVR office.

Contact Details	
Motor Vehicle Registry	
Telephone	1300 654 628
Facsimile	(08) 8999 3103
Email	mvr@nt.gov.au
Web	www.mvr.nt.gov.au
Postal Address	GPO Box 530 Darwin NT 0801