

Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

R33 – Infringement Notices and Joint Vehicle Owners

Effective Date: 1 September 2007

Territory Infringement Notice Schemes

The Northern Territory (NT) *Traffic Regulations* provide for the operation of Infringement Notice Schemes for certain traffic and parking offences. The Traffic Infringement Notice Scheme is mainly enforced by the NT Police and Transport Inspectors. The Parking Infringement Notice Scheme is mainly enforced by local councils and other competent authorities, eg, Darwin and Alice Springs Airports; Royal Darwin Hospital and Charles Darwin University etc.

Infringement notices issued by police on apprehending an offending driver are handed directly to the driver, whose identity is established by police at the time.

By contrast, when a traffic infringement is detected by camera (red light or speed camera), only the offending vehicle is identified. This provides (through Motor Vehicle records) the identity of the vehicle's registered owner – not necessarily the offending driver.

Infringement Notices and joint vehicle owners

In situations where there are joint (or multiple) registered owners of an offending 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 Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) record shows that a vehicle is jointly owned by ADAM JONES and ZENA JONES, any infringement notice will be sent to ADAM JONES.

Where the registered owner is not the offending driver

The NT Infringement Notice Scheme makes allowance for circumstances where the person or body corporate on whom an infringement notice is served is not the offending driver by providing the opportunity to make a declaration which, in effect gives the registered owner the opportunity to identify the offending driver (to whom the infringement notice will then be redirected). A declaration form and requirements are included on all Infringement notices for the information and convenience of registered owners of offending vehicles. Where any uncertainty exists as to the requirements, the registered owner should contact the authority that issued the notice (eg NT Police) without delay.

Recording or updating joint vehicle owners' details

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 joint owners wish to change the name order of a jointly registered vehicle, 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 change.

MVR Form [M2 - Application for Change of Details](#) (which includes an Agent's Authority form) must be completed. An updated Certificate of Registration (for which there is a fee) must then be issued by MVR to reflect the legally registered status of the vehicle.

Registered operators

Registered owners of all vehicles of 4.5 tonne or more Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) must nominate a registered operator when the vehicle is registered. This is a requirement in all states/territories under the National Heavy Vehicle Registration Scheme. A registered owner can nominate a person or body corporate to be a registered operator to be 'responsible' for the day to day operation of the vehicle. In some cases, registered owners of light vehicles (those under 4.5t GVM) have also elected to nominate a registered operator.

Under the NT Infringement Notice Scheme when only the offending vehicle is identified and there is a registered operator recorded for that vehicle, the registered operator will receive any infringement notices. If the registered operator was not the offending driver then he/she should declare the fact to avoid the infringement penalty and any applicable demerit points.

Body corporate registered owners

With the introduction of a Demerit Points Scheme in the NT, bodies corporate with vehicles registered in the body corporate name are advised 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.

For further information see the NT Police Traffic Infringement Notice or MVR Information Bulletin [L30 – NT Demerit Points Scheme](#).

In addition to existing fines, Demerit Point Offences also carry demerit points for the driver. Registered owners/operators receiving traffic infringements are advised to be aware of this and ensure that they deal appropriately with any infringements. For further information see MVR Information Bulletin [L28 – NT Demerit Points Scheme – How it Affects You](#).

Where can I find out more?

For further information concerning vehicle registration and registered owner/operator please contact MVR. For further information concerning NT Infringement Notice Schemes please contact the appropriate issuing authority.

Contact Details	
Motor Vehicle Registry	
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