

ID Tags - (1/1/1970 to present)

These are called ADR tags and can only be affixed by the vehicle manufacturer at the time of compliance to certify that the described VIN and vehicle complies with all Federal Australian Design Rules at the time of completion of vehicle build.

Under the Federal Transport Act it is an offence to reproduce, affix or reattach any ADR tag except at original vehicle build. Points to note:

1. You do not require an ADR tag to register a vehicle
2. You cannot fit an ADR tag from a different vehicle
3. You cannot legally have a new ADR tag made and fitted to your vehicle
4. Newer ADR tags are stickers that self destruct when you try to remove them
5. If you have removed your ADR tag for safekeeping and now wish to reattach it to the vehicle you may have to prove to the transport or police department that it is the same vehicle.

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(Prior to 1/1/1970)

ID tags are not covered by the Federal ADR legislation but are covered by individual state legislation (detailed at the end of the post) for ALL ID Tags for ALL years.

Body Shells

When a vehicle is involved in a significant accident or suffers from major rust damage there are a number of options to reinstate the vehicle onto the road that you need to be aware of. The advice of your panel beater may not be the best when you have problems at the Transport department.

“Rebody” the running gear and valuable components from the damaged vehicle are transferred into a complete undamaged vehicle without altering any of the identifying numbers or tags on the undamaged donor car. This may require advising the transport department of the new engine number and approvals if the donor vehicle wasn’t built to the same level as the damaged vehicle (eg. V8 in 6 cylinder body). The original damaged vehicle then ceases to exist.

“New Shells” were originally supplied by Ford without full VIN numbers as a replacement part in order to “Rebody” (see above) damaged vehicles with the same vehicle type and built in the same year of ADR compliance as the original damaged vehicle. They were not fitted with ADR tags or full VIN numbers and could only be legally stamped by the state transport authority with a surrogate identifier in the form SYNNNNP where -

“S” is the state of the authorised Transport representative

“YY” is the year of the stamping by the authority

“NNNN” is a sequential number for that State and Year

“P” is for Police number.

No state authority or other person can legally stamp a “JG” number which is reserved for the Ford Broadmeadows assembly line. CAMS race cars that required a new shell had the surrogate number applied to the vehicle and entered into the CAMS race car log book and were reinspected.

“New Shells” by any other manufacturer require a surrogate number and full compliance with ADR’s and Euro emission compliance as applicable to the year of manufacture of the new shell under the Individually Constructed Vehicle (ICV) federal scheme and state transport department approvals. Eg. A dynacorn shell must have euro4 compliance and ADR2010 tag fitted.

The original damaged vehicle then ceases to exist.

NB. It is not and has never been legal to fit the original ID tags or stamp “JG” numbers onto ANY of new shell.

“Cut/Shut” is the practice of cutting the cabin floor and supporting pillars of the damaged vehicle and the equivalent cabin floor and pillar cut from another vehicle with an overlap to allow the welding of the undamaged portions together. This practice is legal in all states and the identity of the front portion with identifying numbers and tags left intact continues to represent the vehicle. The rear of the vehicle is always considered to be a donor and not the vehicle identifier that then ceases to exist. Some states may require a surrogate identifier after a cut/shut. “Grafting” of vehicle aprons, shock towers or any identifying numbers from another vehicle is not legal in any shape or form and is totally different to a cut/shut of the cabin floor and cabin pillars.

“Rebirthing” is the illegal practice of altering, removing, grafting or stamping of the identifying “JG” chassis numbers to a vehicle body shell after the vehicle has left the assembly line. Police and Transport authorities are then required to impound the vehicle and determine the status of the vehicle to see if it has been stolen or is encumbered. The original vehicle has ceased to exist.

If they are unable to ascertain the original vehicle identity the vehicle will generally be deregistered.

Engine Numbers

Engine numbers represent an identifying component of the vehicle and are subject to the same penalties as chassis number alteration. Any original engine numbers cannot be removed from the engine block and only authorised state transport authorities are permitted to stamp engines with an identifying number that is an approved surrogate identifier (see above). This includes blank and imported blocks.

The State legislation is included here as an example so check with your Transport authority if you have a question.

Same Victorian legislation as in the link below -

73 Offence to alter, deface or place number on engine of motor vehicle

A person is guilty of an offence if that person—

(a) without the permission in writing of the Corporation alters or defaces any number on the

engine of a motor vehicle purporting to be the number of that engine; or
(b) places on the engine of a motor vehicle any number purporting to be the number of that engine without previously forwarding to the Corporation a notice in writing stating that a number is to be placed on that engine and containing particulars of the number and the registered number of the motor vehicle.

Penalty: 10 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 months.

Victoria Police Stolen Vehicles squad are also happy to discuss these issues with people, anonymously if you prefer. Contact (03) 9611 8601.

State Acts

[Victorian Road Safety Act 1986 - No. 127 of 1986](#)

Version 96 incorporating amendments as at 11 October 2006

Part 6—Offences and Legal Proceedings

72 Forgery etc. of documents and identification marks

(1A) A person is guilty of an offence if that person—

(a) forges; or

(b) fraudulently alters or uses; or

(c) fraudulently lends or allows to be used by any other person—

any vehicle identifier, engine identification number, identification plate, manufacturer's build plate or any other plate, label or mark that uniquely identifies a vehicle and sets it apart from similar vehicles.

Penalty: 60 penalty units or imprisonment for 6 months.

[NSW Road Transport \(Vehicle Registration\) Act 1997 No 119](#)

Part 3, Section 21A - Offences relating to identification numbers of engines and other parts of motor vehicles or trailers:

A person must not:

(a) if the person is not the manufacturer—stamp or affix or cause or permit any person to stamp or affix any identification number on or to the engine, engine block or any other part prescribed by the regulations of a motor vehicle or trailer without the written authority of the Authority and except as prescribed by the regulations, or

(b) except as required or permitted by or under this Act—alter, deface, remove or obliterate any identification number stamped on or otherwise affixed to the engine, engine block or any other part prescribed by the regulations of a motor vehicle or trailer, or

(c) without lawful authority or excuse, have in the person's possession any engine, engine block or other prescribed part of a motor vehicle or trailer knowing that the identification number stamped on or otherwise affixed to it has been altered, defaced, removed or obliterated otherwise than as required or permitted by or under this Act. Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units or imprisonment for 6 months, or both.

[Queensland Transport Operations \(Road Use Management\) Act 1995](#)

Part 9, S134 - Altering, defacing or removing identifying numbers

Any person who—

- (a) alters, defaces, or removes an identifying number on a motor vehicle without the permission in writing of the commissioner; or
 - (b) places on a motor vehicle a number purporting to be, or which is likely to be taken to be, an identifying number, without previously—
 - (i) delivering to the commissioner a notice in writing signed by such person and stating that the number is to be placed on the motor vehicle and containing particulars of such number and the registration number of the vehicle under this Act; and
 - (ii) receiving permission in writing from the commissioner to place the identifying number on the motor vehicle; or
 - (c) without lawful excuse, the proof of which shall lie upon the person, has in the person's possession or under the person's control any motor vehicle upon which an identifying number has been altered, or defaced, or from which an identifying number has been removed, or upon which any number has been placed in contravention of this section;
- shall be guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units or 1 year's imprisonment.

[South Australia Road Traffic Act 1961 v4.9.10](#)

Part 3A S110C - Offences

- (5) A person must not place on a motor vehicle or trailer a plate that could be taken to be a vehicle identification plate approved or authorised for placement on that motor vehicle or trailer by—
- (a) the Commonwealth Minister under the Commonwealth Act; or
 - (b) an authorised officer under the regulations; or
 - (c) an approved authority under a law of another State,
- knowing that it is not such a vehicle identification plate.

Maximum penalty: \$10 000 or imprisonment for 2 years.

- (6) A person must not place on a motor vehicle or trailer a number that could be taken to be a vehicle identification number allotted to that motor vehicle or trailer by—
- (a) the manufacturer of that motor vehicle or trailer; or
 - (b) an authorised officer under the regulations; or
 - (c) an approved authority under a law of another State,
- knowing that it is not such a vehicle identification number.

Maximum penalty: \$10 000 or imprisonment for 2 years.

- (7) A police officer or authorised officer may remove from a motor vehicle or trailer a plate or number that he or she reasonably suspects has been placed on the motor vehicle or trailer in contravention of subsection (5) or (6).
- (8) A person must not, except in prescribed circumstances, remove, alter, deface or obliterate a vehicle identification plate or vehicle identification number lawfully placed on a motor

vehicle or trailer.

Maximum penalty: \$5 000 or imprisonment for 12 months.

(9) A person must not, without the approval of the Minister, manufacture or sell or offer for sale a vehicle identification plate.

Maximum penalty: \$5 000 or imprisonment for 12 months.

(10) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, be in possession of a vehicle identification plate.

Maximum penalty: \$2 500 or imprisonment for 6 months.

(11) A person must not—

(a) place on the engine block of a motor vehicle a number other than the engine number allotted to the engine of that motor vehicle by—

(i) the manufacturer of the engine; or

(ii) an authorised officer under the regulations; or

(iii) an approved authority under a law of another State; or

(b) without reasonable excuse, remove, alter, deface or obliterate an engine number lawfully placed on the engine block of a motor vehicle.

Maximum penalty: \$5 000 or imprisonment for 12 months.

(12) A person must not—

(a) place on the chassis of a motor vehicle or trailer a number other than the chassis number allotted to the chassis of that motor vehicle or trailer (as the case requires) by the manufacturer of the chassis; or

(b) without reasonable excuse, remove, alter, deface or obliterate a chassis number lawfully placed on the chassis of a motor vehicle or trailer.

Maximum penalty: \$5 000 or imprisonment for 12 months.

Tasmanian Vehicle and Traffic Act 1999 (No. 70 of 1999)

S64 - Offences of Dishonesty(1) A person must not –

(d) dishonestly alter or display a document, plate or device issued under this Act, a corresponding law, or the law of another country, in a way calculated to deceive; or

(e) dishonestly have in his or her possession a document, plate or device issued, or apparently issued, under this Act, a corresponding law, or the law of another country, in circumstances in which it is likely to deceive; or

(f) dishonestly pass off a document, plate or device that has not been issued under this Act, a corresponding law, or the law of another country, as if it were such a document, plate or device; or

(g) alter or deface an identification number on a vehicle without the consent of the Registrar.

Penalty: In the case of –

(a) a first offence –

(i) for a body corporate – a fine not exceeding 200 penalty units; and

(ii) for an individual – a fine not exceeding 40 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or both; and

(b) a second or subsequent offence –

(i) for a body corporate – a fine not exceeding 400 penalty units; and

(ii) for an individual – a fine not exceeding 80 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or both.

[West Australian Road Traffic Act 1974 Version 08-b0-00](#)

Section IV R128 - Engine Identification Marks

(6) Except with the approval, in writing, of the Director General, a person shall not —

(a) alter, deface, obliterate or remove an identification mark from the engine of a motor vehicle; or

(b) stamp on or affix to the engine of a motor vehicle any mark, number or letter purporting or intended to be, or that is a colourable imitation of, an identification mark of that engine.

A person committing a breach of any of these regulations, except regulations 31(1) and (2) and 32(2) and (3), is liable, for a first offence, to a fine not exceeding four penalty units (4 PU) and, for a subsequent offence, to a fine not exceeding eight penalty units (8 PU).

[NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA MOTOR VEHICLES ACT](#)

As in force at 1 July 2010

S101 - Vehicle Identification Number(4) A person shall not:

(a) except in accordance with the Regulations or an approval in writing by the Registrar, remove from a motor vehicle the vehicle identification number, or alter or interfere with the vehicle identification number, marked on a motor vehicle; or

(b) mark on a motor vehicle a vehicle identification number referred to in subsection (1)(c) other than in accordance with a direction of the Registrar given under subsection (3).

A person who commits an offence against, contravenes or fails to comply with any provision of this Act, may be prosecuted summarily before any court of competent jurisdiction, and that court may, where no other penalty is expressly provided, impose in respect of any such offence, contravention, or failure, a penalty not exceeding, in the case of a natural person, \$2,000 or imprisonment for 6 months or, in the case of a body corporate, \$10,000
