

Title 11
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Subtitle 15 MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION—VEHICLE
REGISTRATION

11.15.14 Certificates of Title

Authority: Transportation Article, §§12-104(b), 13-106, 13-108.1, and 13-110, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[25-222-P]

The Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Administration proposes to:
amend .02, .04 —.06, and .08 under COMAR 11.15.14 – Certificates of Title

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to amend current regulatory language to clarify the definition of “certificate of title”, to allow the acceptance of an “electronic record” as an ownership document, and to update existing regulatory language to match the current statute for the issuance of certificates of titles for a vehicle with a Mechanic’s Lien.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Tracey C. Sheffield, Regulations Coordinator, MVA, 6601 Ritchie Highway N.E. Room 200 Glen Burnie, MD 21062, or call 4107687545, or email to tsheffield@mdot.maryland.gov. Comments will be accepted through January 1, 2026. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

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Chapter 14 Certificates of Title

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.02 Definitions.

A. (text unchanged)

B. Terms Defined.

(1) —(4) (text unchanged)

(5) Certificate of Title.

(a) "Certificate of title" means a document *or electronic record* evidencing ownership and commonly associated with motor vehicles.

(b) (text unchanged)

(6) —(8) (text unchanged)

.04 Used Vehicles Sold by a Dealer.

A. An applicant for a certificate of title to be issued for a used vehicle sold by a dealer shall provide the Administration with:

(1) A properly assigned certificate of title or other acceptable ownership document *or electronic record* from the jurisdiction in which the vehicle was last registered;

(2) —(6) (text unchanged)

B. —C. (text unchanged)

.05 Used Vehicles Sold or Transferred from Someone Other Than a Dealer.

A. An applicant for a certificate of title for a used vehicle transferred from someone other than a dealer shall provide the Administration with a:

(1) Properly assigned certificate of title or other ownership [documentation] *document or electronic record* acceptable to the Administration from the jurisdiction in which the vehicle was last registered; and

(2) (text unchanged)

B. (text unchanged)

.06 Used Vehicles Transferred from Another Jurisdiction to Maryland.

A. An applicant for a certificate of title for a used vehicle presently titled in the applicant's name in another jurisdiction and who is now applying for a Maryland certificate of title shall provide the Administration with an:

(1) Out-of-State title or other acceptable ownership document *or electronic record* from the jurisdiction where the vehicle was last registered; and

(2) (text unchanged)

B. The Administration shall refuse to issue a certificate of title if:

(1) (text unchanged)

(2) The out-of-State title or other acceptable ownership document *or electronic record* is held by a lien holder and the lien holder refuses to relinquish the title or other ownership document to the Administration;

(3) —(13) (text unchanged)

.08 Vehicles Being Titled Because of Mechanic's Lien.

A. An applicant for a certificate of title for a vehicle being titled due to a mechanic's lien shall provide the Administration with:

(1) (text unchanged)

(2) A certification by the garage owner or the person having the lien, [and the auctioneer,] including the odometer disclosure as required by COMAR 11.13.06[,] on a form provided by the Administration[, that the auction was held in compliance with Commercial Law Article, Title 16, Annotated Code of Maryland];

(3) *A certification on a form provided by the Administration by the auctioneer that the auction was held in compliance with Commercial Law Article, Title 16, Annotated Code of Maryland;*

[(3)](4) (text unchanged)

[(4)](5) A certification that a newspaper advertisement has run once a week for the 2 consecutive weeks immediately preceding the sale, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or city where the [vehicle was repaired or originally stored] *the sale is to be held*, with the last advertisement appearing the week immediately preceding the sale;

[(5)](6) A copy of the newspaper advertisement *as required by [§A(4)]§A(5) of this regulation;*

[(6)](7) (text unchanged)

[(7)](8) *Proof that notice was provided to the individual who left the vehicle for repairs, the vehicle owner, the lien holders, and the Administration by submitting:*

(a) Signed receipts for a certified or registered letter in a format prescribed by the Administration [sent to the individual who left the vehicle for repairs, the vehicle owner, the lien holder, and the MVA or the unopened,];

(b) *Unopened*, undeliverable certified or registered letter or letters; [and] *or*

(c) *Proof from the United States Postal Service of delivery or a refusal to sign receipt for a certified or registered letter;*

[(8)](9) The national vehicle history report;

(10) *If issued, a copy of the lienholder notice required by Commercial Law Article, §16-203, Annotated Code of Maryland, and proof that the notice was sent via registered or certified mail.*

B. The Administration shall refuse to issue a certificate of title if:

(1) —(2) (text unchanged)

(3) [The receipt for the certified or registered letter sent to the owner, lien holder, or individual who left the vehicle for repairs was signed by someone other than the person to whom the letter was addressed;

(4)] The provided national vehicle history report shows that the vehicle was stolen and the reporting police agency has not issued a recover report;

[(5)](4) —[(8)](7) (text unchanged)

[(9)](8) The vehicle was not advertised in a newspaper as specified in [§A(4)]§A(5) of this regulation;

[(10)](9) —[(12)](11) (text unchanged)

[(13)](12) The vehicle was previously salvaged in this State or another state, with a brand reflecting "Not Rebuildable — Parts Only — Not To Be Retitled" or an equivalent brand; [or]

[(14)](13) The Administration has been notified that action in accordance with Commercial Law Article, §16-206, Annotated Code of Maryland, is being taken and that the Administration has received notification of the action before the close of the business day following the action; *or*

(14) *The Administration requested the mechanic lienor send a post-auction notice to the individual who left the vehicle for repairs, the vehicle owner or lien holder and the mechanic lienor did not send the requested notice or did not provide proof of notice as specified in §A(8) of this regulation.*

CHRISTINE NIZER

Administrator

Motor Vehicle Administration

CHRISTINE NIZER
Administrator