

## Vehicles with attractive registration numbers

Not all registration numbers are transferable. Check your Registration Document/Certificate first. If it is transferable you may wish to check with DVA **before** carrying out any alterations/conversions, in case entitlement to the mark is lost. For further information see V317(NI) Application to transfer a Vehicle Registration Mark form. The V317(NI) is available from DVA Local Vehicle Licensing Offices, DVA, Coleraine or from [www.dvani.gov.uk](http://www.dvani.gov.uk)  
For further advice you should contact your nearest DVA Local Vehicle Licensing Office.

## Vehicle identification number

**There is a legal requirement for all registered vehicles to carry a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). This may be lost when a vehicle is substantially rebuilt, particularly in the case of kit vehicles where the chassis/bodyshell may not have been stamped by the manufacturer. In such circumstances the DVA Local Vehicle Licensing Office will allocate a replacement VIN.**

The DVA Local Vehicle Licensing Office will issue an authorisation letter and registration will not take effect until the Agency receives confirmation that the vehicle has been stamped with the correct identity.

## Registration of vehicles without identity

**The following procedures must be followed when making an application for the registration and first licensing of a vehicle without identity:**

- You should use your nearest DVA Local Vehicle Licensing Office.
- You will be asked to produce documentation confirming your name and address. Further information can be found in leaflet INF148(NI); available for download from [www.dvani.gov.uk](http://www.dvani.gov.uk) or from any DVA Local Vehicle Licensing Office.
- You will be asked to produce official receipts from identifiable suppliers for the components used in a rebuild. The authenticity of receipts may be checked. They will be stamped by the DVA Local Vehicle Licensing Office before return;
- All vehicles without identity (VIN and registration mark) will be inspected by DVA and referred to the police.

These arrangements have been introduced in an effort to combat vehicle crime. Applicants who rebuild vehicles and can prove the origins of the components need not be concerned. However, if the police believe a vehicle to be stolen DVA will refuse to register and it may be impounded.

Prospective purchasers of vehicles without identity are advised to exercise caution. If a vehicle is suspected of being stolen both it and the money paid for it may be lost. Advice for prospective purchasers of used vehicles is available from [www.dvani.gov.uk](http://www.dvani.gov.uk)

## Documents required for registration

- Form V55/5
- Licensing fee (where appropriate)
- Form V627/1(NI) (for completion prior to inspection)
- ESVA/SVA/MSVA certificate (if required)
- MoT certificate (if required)
- Insurance certificate
- Certificate of Newness (kit cars)
- Registration Fee (if required)
- Receipts
- Documentation confirming your name and address (Please refer to leaflet INF148(NI), available for download from [www.dvani.gov.uk](http://www.dvani.gov.uk) or from any DVA Local Vehicle Licensing Office)
- Vehicle Registration Document/Certificate (if donor vehicle used).

**IMPORTANT – it is the responsibility of the vehicle keeper to ensure that their vehicle complies with Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999 (as amended) and Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (as amended) if used on the road.**

## Vehicles that are allocated alternative registration numbers

Where registered vehicles are allocated alternative numbers, they will have to pass one of the following, an Enhanced Single Vehicle Approval (ESVA) test, a Single Vehicle Approval (SVA) test or a Motorcycle Single Vehicle Approval (MSVA) test in order to register. The level of test required will depend on the SVA class the vehicle aligns to. For further information on these tests please contact DVA (Testing) or [www.dvani.gov.uk](http://www.dvani.gov.uk)



INF26(NI)

# Driver & Vehicle Agency Guidelines for the registration of **rebuilt or radically altered vehicles and kit cars**

For more information go to [www.dvani.gov.uk](http://www.dvani.gov.uk)

## Introduction

**Before a vehicle is used or kept on the road it must be properly licensed and registered. When a vehicle is first registered, the Driver & Vehicle Agency (DVA) allocates a registration mark which has to be properly displayed and this remains with the vehicle until it is broken up, destroyed, permanently exported or transferred to another vehicle in what is known as a “cherished transfer”. (See page 4 – ‘Vehicles with Attractive Registration Numbers’)**

Sometimes, however, a vehicle needs to be rebuilt and this can call the identity of the vehicle into question. Is it the original which has been repaired, or have so many new or different parts been used in the rebuilding process that the original vehicle has been effectively broken up?

In allocating a registration mark to a rebuilt vehicle, the Agency’s main interest is to establish whether or not the vehicle is newly constructed with no previously registered identity (in its present form). Vehicles which have been substantially rebuilt need to be examined by DVA. A Vehicle Identity Check (VIC) will apply to those vehicles notified to the DVA as being within Insurance Salvage Categories A, B or C on or after 7 April 2003. For further information please contact DVA (Testing). Information is also available from [www.dvani.gov.uk](http://www.dvani.gov.uk)

If a vehicle fails a VIC because its identity cannot be confirmed, it will not be entitled to retain its original registration mark. It may be possible to register the vehicle with DVA (Licensing) if evidence of British National Type Approval in the form of a Minister’s Approval Certificate can be produced. This may be obtained by applying to DVA (Testing) for a Single Vehicle Approval (SVA) Inspection (please note that the ‘Enhanced’ category may apply).



However before doing so, you will need to obtain an alternative vehicle identification number (VIN) from a DVA Local Vehicle Licensing Office.

Following a successful SVA inspection and DVA Local Vehicle Licensing Office assessment, a 'QNI' prefix registration mark will be allocated.

### Vehicles that have been rebuilt using a mix of new/used parts

In order to retain the original registration mark:

#### Cars and car-derived vans must use:

- The original unmodified chassis or unaltered bodyshell (i.e. body and chassis as one unit – monocoque); or
- a new chassis or monocoque bodyshell of the same specification as the original supported by evidence from the dealer/manufacturer (e.g. receipt)

**AND** two other major components from the original vehicle – i.e.

- Suspension (front and back)
- Axles (both)
- Transmission
- Steering assembly
- Engine

If a second hand chassis/monocoque bodyshell is used, the vehicle must pass an Enhanced Single Vehicle Approval (ESVA) or a Single Vehicle Approval (SVA) test (see page 5 “vehicles that are allocated alternative registration numbers”) after which a 'QNI' prefix registration mark will be allocated.

#### Motorcycles MUST USE:

- Unmodified frame (original or new)  
**AND** two other major components from the original vehicle – i.e.
- Forks
- Wheels
- Engine/gearbox

If a second-hand frame is used, the vehicle must pass a Motorcycle Single Vehicle Approval (MSVA) test after which a 'QNI' prefix registration mark will be allocated.

#### N.B. Vehicle Identification Check (VIC)

All vehicles that are categorised by an insurance company as being within a Salvage Category A,B or C or declared scrapped by their owners due to accident damage will have to be notified to DVA.

**VIC** has been introduced to deter criminals from disguising stolen vehicles with the identity of written off or scrapped ones. The check is designed to help confirm that the vehicle being returned to the road has been repaired following accident damage and has not been stolen.

For further information please visit [www.dvani.gov.uk](http://www.dvani.gov.uk)

### Radically altered vehicles

**This covers vehicles which are substantially altered from their original specification, but which are not kit conversions.**

In these cases the vehicle components used from the original vehicle will be given a numerical value and, in order to retain the original registration mark the vehicle must score eight or more points.

If less than eight points are scored or a second-hand or modified chassis/frame or altered monocoque bodyshell is used an ESVA/SVA/MSVA certificate will be required to register the vehicle and a 'QNI' prefix registration mark will be allocated.

**The following values will be allocated to the major components used:**

- Chassis or bodyshell (body and chassis as one unit – monocoque) (original or new)\* \_\_\_\_\_ 5
- Suspension (front & back) \_\_\_\_\_ 2
- Axles (both) \_\_\_\_\_ 2
- Transmission \_\_\_\_\_ 2
- Steering assembly \_\_\_\_\_ 2
- Engine \_\_\_\_\_ 1

\*Direct replacement from the manufacturers

**N.B. Where there is evidence that two vehicles have been welded together to form one (i.e. “Cut and Shut”) a 'QNI' prefix registration mark will be allocated. ESVA/SVA/MSVA will be required.**

### Kit cars

**This is where all the parts of a vehicle are supplied new by the manufacturer. Subject to the provision of satisfactory receipts and a Certificate of Newness these vehicles will be registered under a current series registration mark.**

Kit cars which have been built using **not more than one** reconditioned component will also be registered under a current series registration mark. This is subject to the provision of satisfactory evidence that the component has been reconditioned to an “as new” standard. An ESVA/SVA/MSVA test will be required.

### Kit conversions

**This is where a kit of new parts is added to an existing vehicle or old parts are added to a kit comprising a manufactured body/chassis/monocoque bodyshell. The general appearance of the vehicle will change and result in a revised description on the Registration Certificate.**

A vehicle will retain its donor registration mark if either the original unmodified chassis or unaltered monocoque bodyshell **and** two other major components from the donor vehicle are used.

If a new monocoque bodyshell or chassis from a specialist kit manufacturer is used (or an altered chassis/bodyshell from an existing vehicle) together with two major components from a donor vehicle, a current series registration mark will be assigned. The year of manufacture for the vehicle will be based on the age of the donor vehicle.

An ESVA/SVA/MSVA test will be required to register the vehicle.

Where there are insufficient parts from a donor vehicle or in cases where the original registration mark is unknown, an ESVA/SVA/MSVA certificate will be required to register the vehicle and a 'QNI' prefix registration mark will be allocated.

### QNI prefix registration marks

**'QNI' prefix registration marks are issued to vehicles of indeterminate origin, where the age or identity of the vehicle is in doubt. Although seen by many enthusiasts as a seal of disapproval, since their inception they have proved to be a useful consumer protection aid.**

**The display of a 'QNI' prefix is a visible sign to a prospective purchaser of a vehicle's uncertain origin.**