



Registration of a vehicle in South Africa: requirements in terms of the National Road Traffic Act (NRTA), Act 93 of 1996

This advice note is created following the comment by the Gauteng Premier that "*any vehicle from another province being in the province for more than 30 days would legally need to make the change to the new number plate system*".

There is no basis in current legislation to require this to be done, nor to force owners of vehicles to reregister vehicles that were out of the province of registration for no other reason other than the owner having changed their permanent residence.

The NRTA notes that individuals and businesses are required to register their vehicle(s) at **the appropriate registering authority**. This is defined as:

“appropriate registering authority” means -

- (a) subject to the provisions of paragraphs (b), (c) and (d), in relation to any matter referred to in these regulations -
 - (i) in relation to a person, the registering authority in whose area of jurisdiction such person permanently resides;
 - (ii) in relation to a person carrying on a business, which for the purposes of these regulations includes farming activities, the registering authority in whose area of jurisdiction such business is situated: Provided that every branch of such business shall be deemed to be a separate business;

Registration and licensing of motor vehicles

Regulation 3: Motor vehicle to be registered

Subject to the provisions of regulations 4 and 5, every motor vehicle in the Republic shall, whether or not it is operated on a public road, be registered by the title holder thereof, in accordance with the provisions of this Part, with the appropriate registering authority.

Regulation 32: Procedure on change of appropriate registering authority due to owner moving

If the address of the owner of a motor vehicle changes and the registering authority at whose office such motor vehicle is licensed, is no longer the appropriate registering authority due to such change, such owner shall be liable to apply for the licensing of such motor vehicle in the manner referred to in regulation 24 to the new appropriate registering authority on the date of expiry of the licence of such motor vehicle as contemplated in regulation 26.

Comment: this means that the premier of Gauteng **cannot demand** that vehicle

registered in other provinces (where vehicle registration has been done at the appropriate registering authority as described above) must be registered in the Gauteng Province, due to the fact the vehicles have been in the Gauteng Province for 30 (or more) consecutive days.

The Premier further noted that *“the province’s new number plates support a national plan which still needs to be finalised by the National Department of Transport.*

The National Department of Transport has developed a draft legislative proposal for the harmonisation of national plates, which includes the security features we want on Gauteng’s new number plates”.

This should not be confused as the intention to roll out the same 30-day reregistration plan across the country. Apart from creating huge chaos for owners as their vehicles will continuously need to reregister as they spend 30 days (or more) in each province, the registration systems of the provinces would be overloaded – and this could not be the intention of the “draft legislation”.

The draft legislation would most probably be focused on standardisation of number plate requirements in terms of security – and is most likely the revival of the “smart number plate” mooted long before the advent of the e-tag.

Members are welcome to forward queries to gm@savralla.co.za