



BIG SKY SUPPLIES - THE THIRD PLATE (UPDATE OCTOBER, 2016):

The legislation is covered by the Vehicle Registration & Licensing Act and the Vehicle Registration & Licensing Regulations – SI 427/1999 (Regs).

This area is administered by the Central Vehicle Registry (CVR), who can be contacted on (04) 759743/5.

PLACEMENT OF THE THIRD PLATE:

Vehicles: Until recently, every vehicle fitted with a windscreen must display the Third Plate **behind the windscreen**. However of good news to motorists is the gazetting of Statutory Instrument 43 of 2016 (effective 15 April, 2016), which provides the option of placement on the **quarter glass or side window**. Unfortunately, the wording of the SI is imperfect but the intention is clearly there to allow these options and ZRP are accepting the new options. (A copy of SI 43/2016 is available to download from www.bigsky.co.zw/files).

(For ease of viewing and roadside safety, we recommended displaying the Third Plate on the left-hand side of the vehicle).

Trailers and motorcycles: must display the Third Plate **“in a conspicuous position in a waterproof holder”**. (Regs) Section 11 (4).

“TAMPERING” WITH THE THIRD PLATE:

On the issue of “tampering”: (Act) Section 10 (2) states “An owner of a vehicle who fails to display or maintain his vehicle’s registration mark and number... (is) liable to a fine not exceeding level three” (currently set at \$20.00).

<i>Deposit fines:</i>	
<i>c.s 11(4) Tampering with third number plate or deface third number</i>	<i>\$20</i>
<i>c.s 11(4) Fail to maintain third plate in its self-adhesive laminate</i>	<i>\$20</i>
<i>c.s 11(4)(b) Fail to affix third plate in a water proof holder</i>	<i>\$20</i>

MOTORISTS’ EXPERIENCES – BIG SKY’S VIEW:

Motorists can expect to get into trouble when:

- A Third Plate is removed from a previous windscreen and stuck to the replacement windscreen, or quarter glass or side window, and
- Any circumstance other than its original state.

However, a motorist can legitimately argue where the Third Plate is:

Displayed on the windscreen, quarter glass or side glass, is the original Third Plate and has never been moved. Slight lifting of the edges due to general wear and tear, and fading due to exposure to the elements, in our understanding **does not amount to “tampering”**.

MOTORCYCLES:

The requirement for motorcycles to display the Third Plate in a clear, waterproof holder has been challenging to comply with, however products were recently introduced into the market which satisfy the requirements of SI 427/1999. The first is a rigid plate with a flexi-plastic cover, and the second is a flexible cover for wrapping the Third Plate on the motorcycles forks, tank, etc.

TRAILERS:

Trailer owners are successfully using a **clear licence disc holder**, available from good spares outlets, including Big Sky Supplies. (The holder must be clear to allow the rectangular shaped Third Plate to be visible). Given that clear licence disc holders are readily available, we advise against alternative methods (e.g. using clear glass or Perspex, and sealed with silicone, or laminating the Plate) as these methods usually result in lengthy roadside debates. In all cases the Third Plate must be placed on the trailer in a conspicuous position, preferably on the left hand side for ROADSIDE SAFETY.

If a motorist feels they have been unfairly treated involving the Third Plate, the advice contained in our Cubbyhole Notes, applies. Download from <http://www.bigsky.co.zw/cubbyhole-notes> The current list of ZRP Traffic Contacts can be downloaded from <http://www.bigsky.co.zw/emergency-numbers>

REPLACEMENT OF THE THIRD PLATE:

“Where a third plate is lost or damaged, the Registrar may issue a duplicate upon payment of an appropriate fee”. (Regs) Section 10 (7). “Where the registration plate is lost or damaged, the Registrar shall allocate a new registration mark and number for the vehicle...” (Regs) Section 10 (8).

Therefore, a Third Plate can be replaced without the need for a new registration number and book, however this is required if the Registration Plate is lost or damaged.

Replacement of the Third Plate costs \$35.00 (in cash) at Central Vehicle Registry offices, the Harare and Bulawayo municipalities, and at post offices in the main centres. Documents required:

- CVR 4 Form (Note this form has been updated and now includes a section for Third Number Plate duplicate under Section 10 (c).
- Copy of I.D.
- Copy of vehicle registration book (NOTE: **Must be copied back to back**).

We understand that besides CVR, in Harare only Southerton and Causeway Post Offices’ can process the Third Plate. Replacements should be ready for collection in three working days from date of the receipt.

If applying from outside of Harare:

- CVR 4 Form
- Copy of I.D.
- Copy of vehicle registration book (NOTE: **Must be copied back to back**).
- 2 x 'registered' envelopes (with postal stamps and return address)

Drop-off and collections can be done from any Zim Post around the country. The post office may charge a small stationary fee. The Third Plate will be ready for collection between 7 and 14 working days from date of the receipt.

As the document requirements vary from office to office, we suggest readers **use the above as a guideline.**

ROADSIDE CHECKS: NOTES FOR THE CUBBY HOLE

Our Cubbyhole Notes cover the most frequently encountered issues at roadside checkpoints. This is available as an easily printed .pdf document, downloadable from <http://www.bigsky.co.zw/cubbyhole-notes> or email us at info@bigsky.co.zw

This information is provided for guidance only. Any comments, corrections or queries are welcome, please email info@bigsky.co.zw or follow us on Facebook.com/BigSkySupplies and www.bigsky.co.zw/cubbyhole-notes

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