

Appendix 1 - VIN Plate Standards

The BC Forest Safety Council has completed research finding the criteria below to provide for superior readability, durability and functionality; we recommend the following VIN plate standards as best practice.

Specifications for VIN Plate Manufacture:

Plate Material	12 gauge aluminum, rounded corners preferred.
Plate Size	10 inch x 10 inch
Background	Engineering grade, 7 year durability, yellow reflective vinyl background. (e.g. 3M Engineering Grade 3200 Scotchlite Reflective Sign Vinyl Yellow No. 3271)
Border Width	¼ inch
Border Inset	¼ inch
Border Color	Black
Font	ClearviewHwy 4B
Font Size	3 inch
Font Placement	Centered horizontally.
Top Line Text	3 alphabet characters - consider readability when selecting characters.
Bottom Line Text	3 numeric characters - consider readability when selecting characters.
Hole Placement	Dependent on needs, do not have a hole through a character.

Mounting the VIN Plate:

Key criteria to consider when mounting a VIN plate are visibility (readily visible to oncoming traffic) and durability (strength of mount, low susceptibility to damage). Thus, the preferred VIN plate mounting location is on the front of the vehicle centered on the bumper and mounted with (immediately above or below) the license plate. When ordering your VIN plates, consider specifying that mounting holes are drilled to line up with existing license plate bolt holes / mounts, providing for a straightforward “plug and play” solution.

If a suitable location can't be found on the bumper, some have successfully mounted VIN plates to the vehicle grille, or to the log truck cab guard (forward-facing, and avoid obscuring VIN plate due to exhaust stack).

Example drawings on the next page show options for plate size and the number of characters. When deciding which letters to use, consider that 3 letters are more readable and memorable than 4 or 5 letters. Using 3 letters that form an acronym or abbreviation of your company name, or are distinct letters in your company name helps distinguish your vehicles from those of others. If you do choose to use more than 3 letters, consider using a letter combination that is recognizable as a word, rather than random letter combinations.

Please contact BC Forest Safety Council Transportation Safety at 1-877-741-1060 for clarification or further information regarding recommended best practices.



10 X 10

12 X 10

Best Practice.

Note smaller letters. *This option is not preferred practice.*



12 X 10

Larger plate accommodates 3 inch letters and numbers. *This option is a good second choice.*