

Black & Silver number plate regulations ... DVLA confirms the new rules



New rules were introduced on 1 January 2021 affecting the ability of vehicles registered in the historic class to display old style pre-1973 black & silver number plates.

Following the change in definition of an historic vehicle for vehicle tax exemption purposes in 2015, an issue was identified in the regulatory requirements for the valid display of a black & silver number plate. This resulted in an unintended consequence where any vehicle over 40 years old and registered in the historic tax class would be permitted to display an old style black & silver number plate. This was despite the law previously requiring all vehicles first registered after 1 January 1973 to only display yellow & white number plates with black characters.

As this was never the intention, the DVLA has sought to rectify this through a legal correction which prevents any vehicle constructed after 1 January 1980 from displaying a black & silver number plate despite being recorded in the DVLA's historic tax class. Those vehicles with a construction date prior to 1 January 1980 will continue to be able to legally display black & silver number plates to avoid any undue costs of replacement.



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