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Mass. RMV Contacts:

Mass. RMV Title Dept Supervisor:

Antonio Decisto – Title Review Officer – office: 857-368-7491

Alternate Supervisor: Betty

APPLUS Motorist Assistance Center, Shrewsbury Supervisor:

John Morrissey – Mobile (617) 549-2831

Registering a VW Pan-Based Speedster/Spyder in Massachusetts

This paper outlines the procedure for registering a Replica Speedster in Massachusetts if it is currently registered in Mass. as a VW chassis (with a VW VIN) built between the years 1954 and 1974. This includes any replica build completion year – That means that I completed and registered my kit car in 2001. Therefore, it is considered to have a manufacturer's (you) completion date of 2001.

If your car is not on a VW chassis, has a manufactured frame and a factory/builder Certificate of Origin (COA), Reference, "Massachusetts Registration Process" written by Prarit Barqhava to cover new-build cars. The Titling/registration process for those cars is very different than this.

Prarit wrote a terrific process to register a new build Replica when you have either a factory-provided VIN (9 to 15 digits) or Certificate of Origin (COA) or both. His process will not entirely work for those replicas built from an existing, earlier car with its own VIN, like an earlier VW Beetle.

If your car is built on a VW pan/chassis:

There are two dates to remember:

For the pan/chassis, the magic cut-off year is 1973. In 1973, Volkswagen began to implement emissions equipment, including catalytic converters. If your pan is from Jan – April, 1973 or older, you will be emissions test exempt.

After May of 1973 you must comply with the emissions regs. of your chassis/engine year, meaning that you'll need OEM or equivalent catalytic converters, etc. **That means you want a pan/VIN BEFORE 1973.**

The second date to know is 2011. On any car built after 2011, Massachusetts requires full emissions and diagnostic capabilities. That means a working OBD II port providing at least engine data. Also, if the car has a *new* engine and not the original engine case and serial number from the donor car, you may have to comply with the emissions requirements for the engine in the year that it was built.

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That means that if the engine was built in 2017 and assembled to a pan/chassis from 1972, it must still meet emissions requirements for a 2017 engine.

That is what the DMV says, but here it begins to get murky, in that not everyone in the DMV or Motorist Assistance Center (MAC) offices see it the same way. For instance, if the new engine was built to the same specifications as the original engine as a replacement (let's say that the donor engine had blown up, making the case un-useable so you bought a new long block), would it be accepted as a 1972 and emissions exempt?

The answer is.....Maybe. Your replacement engine must be *no larger in displacement* than the original engine in that donor's year (engine displacement seems to be the only criteria they look at in this instance). You would need some sort of invoice to back up your claim of what the new engine is and because the original donor was no more than 1,600 cc's, and that is what your new engine paperwork must say.

In this case, it would be best to plead your case with the MAC people to see if you can get grandfathered in or have to go the route of buying a salvage car to use its' salvage title applied to your newer car or just have no hope at all. My suggestion would be to start with the MAC - John Morrissey at (617) 549-2831

Replica Registration process in 5 easy steps:

1. Retire the donor's VIN and get a new Massachusetts VIN for the Replica. This requires bringing the car to a State Police Salvage Vehicle office for inspection. Contact them at 857-368-8454 to set up an appointment. Tell them you've changed the title to a Replica vehicle and need an inspection and new VIN.
2. Get an amended title for the car as a replica using the new MA VIN. You will not get a Salvage title. Instead, you will get a "Replica" title.
3. Change your registration to reflect the new MA VIN and title
4. If this is a first-time replica registration, it will save time to go get it inspected at a Massachusetts "Motorist Assistance Center" (MAC) before going to get it inspected at any Mass. Vehicle Inspection Station and get a rejection sticker.
5. If you already have a valid inspection sticker (Pass or Fail), call the Massachusetts "Motorist Assistance Center" (MAC) and schedule an inspection where they may do a safety/equipment inspection based on your Replica title and registration and waive your emissions testing for life. If you have had your replica on the road prior to 2011, the MAC may elect to "Grandfather" you in and eliminate the emissions tests for your vehicle VIN.

Step 1 - Getting a new Mass. VIN:

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THIS process should be used for an existing, VW VIN registered car, and begins by obtaining and applying a new VIN for the replica from the Massachusetts DMV and State Police. The old VIN you had identifies a specific older car/model that the replica no longer looks like, so the new MA VIN will be used to identify the new, replica car as looking like whatever it now is.

Complete instructions from the RMV website are here:

<https://secure.rmv.state.ma.us/PolicyBrowserPublic/PB/default.htm?url=WordDocuments%2Fspecialtyvehicles.htm&ga=2.216603030.1255779380.1513277667-1520515875.1445361897>

1-a. The customer must visit an RMV Full Service Center (Preferably, the main office in Quincy, but major satellite offices should be OK) and present the following:

1-a-1. 2 completed "Application for Replacement of Vehicle Identification Number"

<http://www.massrmv.com/Portals/30/docs/20176.pdf>

1-a-2. \$50 Fee for Affixing a Massachusetts-Assigned Vehicle Identification Number by the Mass. State Police. Please see the Title Fees section for the applicable fee. Do Not Lose the receipt for this fee! You will need it for the State Police to affix the VIN label in the next step.

1-a-3. You will then have a new Mass. VIN for your replica vehicle "in the system". The next step is to get it applied to your replica.

Note: The local RMV office will probably have no experience processing this transaction. It is best to request a supervisor or get someone who has done a Mass. VIN before. Since they see very few of these in a year (maybe less than 20 state-wide) few RMV people know what's required. This step will get your application for a Mass. VIN into the system – the State Police inspector (next step) will do the actual assignment of the number and affix the label to your car. In my case in filling out the form, The MFRS Model year was the year I completed the kit (2001), the Make was "Replica", the Manufacturer was "Porsche", the Model Year was "1957", Body Style was "Conv't". You will also need to present your original donor car title (what it has been registered under) but make sure they understand that you are amending the VIN and title to reflect a replica car, not the original.

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1-b. Applying a Massachusetts-Assigned Vehicle Identification Number to your Replica

Massachusetts-Assigned Vehicle Identification Numbers are affixed to the driver or passenger door frame (your choice) of the vehicle by the State Police at any Massachusetts salvage inspection site by appointment only. The State Police will inspect the vehicle to ensure the vehicle and any parts used to restore/replicate the vehicle are not stolen and whether the vehicle is eligible for a Massachusetts-Assigned Vehicle Identification Number. You must provide bills of sale, invoices, etc. for all major components (see below). This information will also be needed for the Motorist Assistance Center (MAC) inspection in the next step, so make three (3) copies of everything and keep one for yourself.

To make an appointment to have a Massachusetts-Assigned Vehicle Identification Number affixed to a vehicle, a customer should call the Massachusetts State Police Salvage Title Section for an appointment near you.

Massachusetts State Police Salvage Title Section

Telephone:

Scheduling: 857-368-8454 9am – 3pm

Staffing: 857-368-8445 9am – 3pm

At the time of the scheduled appointment, the customer **must** bring the following documentation to the inspection site:

- Two copies of the approved "Application for Replacement of Vehicle Identification Number" (Step 1-a-1, above)
- The original receipt of fee payment from the RMV Service Center
- (2) Copies AND the originals of Ownership documents, including:
 - Manufacturer's Certificate of Origin and/or Manufacturer's VIN for the body, if the kit is new
 - The kit list of parts making up the kit delivered to you.
 - Certificate of Title for the Donor vehicle if the vehicle is used or if chassis is used. It would be prudent to bring along a Bill of Sale showing the purchase of the donor car to prove that it was not stolen.

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- If applicable, receipts showing proof of acquisition (Invoice or bill of sale) for all major component parts used to restore the vehicle. In the case of used vehicle parts, the receipts must contain the Vehicle Identification Number of the vehicle from which the parts were taken. If the parts were part of the original Donor car, just show that.

For new, replacement components, such as:

- Engine
- Transaxle

You'll need the invoice for the sale.

All of this is to prove the ownership path of all major parts so that the State Police Inspector can ascertain that nothing used in the build was stolen parts.

NOTE: In order to waive the emissions testing on your engine, it MUST be of the same displacement as the original donor car. In other words, if your donor car had a 1,600cc engine, you can only declare (with backup paperwork) a 1,600cc engine in your replica. If it is larger, you will be subject to the process outlined by Prarit, requiring you to buy a salvage vehicle, get it crushed and apply the salvage title to your car.

- Inspection Site Locations

There are several walk-in inspection sites located throughout the Commonwealth. Inspection hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the days* indicated.

***Please Note:** Due to State Police staffing constraints, sites may not be open on some posted dates and times. Before visiting any of these sites, please call 857-368-8445 to verify that a site is open on that day.

Inspection Policies

From the Mass DOT site: At the time of the inspection, any restorations/modifications to the vehicle must be complete, and the vehicle needs to be operational. On all 1987 and newer model year vehicles, the manufacturer's label, as required by the Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Standard, must be attached to the major parts of new car models designated as high theft vehicles and to replacement parts for these models.

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For replicas completed after 1987 through 2011, the car will NOT need a working OBD II port. ALL replicas completed AFTER 2011 WILL need a working OBD II port showing, at a minimum, engine info. If this is not available, you must use the "New Build Replica" process written by Prarit and will need to buy a "crush car" to get an emissions waiver.

Although this is not an emission/safety inspection (mine did not get checked for any safety items, only proof of ownership), the vehicle must have all of the equipment required by Motor Vehicle Regulations 540 CMR 4.06 to qualify for a Massachusetts Assigned VIN. If a vehicle does not meet the requirements, the inspector will give the customer guidance on the next steps. If you pass inspection, the Mass. State Police officer will affix the new, Mass. VIN to the car's doorframe (it's a stick-on). It is prudent to seal the edges of the label with something like clear nail polish to avoid water intrusion and make it more permanent.

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Step 2 – Obtain an amended title for your Replica

Once the new VIN is established for the replica, you can then apply for a new, replica title.

Preliminary Info:

From the Massachusetts Title website:

https://secure.rmv.state.ma.us/PolicyBrowserPublic/PB/default.htm?url=WordDocuments%2Fspecialtyvehicles.htm&_ga=2.216603030.1255779380.1513277667-1520515875.1445361897

Go to:

<https://secure.rmv.state.ma.us/PolicyBrowserPublic/PB/default.htm?url=WordDocuments%2Fspecialtyvehicles.htm>

Replica Vehicles

A replica vehicle is a reproduction of an early vintage vehicle built on a custom frame or *chassis from another manufacturer*.

Massachusetts explicitly distinguishes between a model year and manufacturer's model year on the title and registration and both the title and registration must match. When registering the vehicle you must title it correctly on the Massachusetts title as,

MFRS. MODEL YEAR: The year your vehicle was manufactured in or, the year your vehicle was completed. This is NOT the model year that the replica represents.

MODEL YEAR: The year the car represents as a replica (i.e. 1957)

MAKE: REPLICIA (or REPLI if required to be shortened.)

MODEL NAME: Factory brand your vehicle is a model of (Ford, Porsche, Tucker, etc.)

For example, my vehicle was MFRS. MODEL YEAR: 2001, MAKE: REPLICIA, MODEL NAME: PORSCHE. MODEL YEAR: 1957

This information must be correct on the Massachusetts title regardless of the information on a previously existing title. Incorrect information on the Massachusetts title will result in the MAC inspector (see last step) sending you back to the RMV to correct the information.

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Step 2-a: To title a replica vehicle,

A customer must present **all** of the following documents, preferably at the Mass. RMV Quincy Title office:

Mass. RMV Title Office
25 Newport Avenue Extension #2, Quincy, MA 02171
Ask for Antonio Decisto – Title Review Officer – 857-368-7491

You will need to bring with you:

- 2-1. A completed RMV-1 form from your insurance company (with their stamp and signature – An original, NOT a copy)

https://www.massrmv.com/rmv/forms/RMV1_fillable.pdf

Showing that the car is insured as a replica

This should be filled in with the information for your replica if you wish to change your registration to reflect the new title info that same day.

- 2-2. Completed “**Application for Replacement of Vehicle Identification Number**” with the Massachusetts assigned Vehicle Identification Number written on it (if applicable). See #Item I-b above. This you should have gotten from the State Police Inspection.

- 2-3. Mass. “**Amending a Title or Adding a Lien form**”. They should have this at the Title office, or look here: <http://www.massrmv.com/Portals/30/docs/20065.pdf>

- 2-4. A Notorized letter of Title Amendment Changes showing title certificate changes requested and why.

- 2-5. Certificate of Title from the donor vehicle of the chassis (what you have for your replica, now). If the kit includes a frame and it is listed on the Certificate of Origin, no prior Title is needed, just the CoA, but you will still need the new Mass. VIN.

You may also need, depending on your circumstances:

- Certificate of Origin from the manufacturer of the replica body kit
- Bill of Sale or invoice for the replica kit

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- 2-6. It doesn't hurt to have the bill of sale for the original (donor) car, even though you already have a title for the car in your name. At the very least, it will remove any questions of ownership of the donor car. The title officer said it wasn't necessary, but if you have all the other bills of sale you should include the donor, too.
- 2-7. Bring along sales receipts for the engine and transaxle, if new, to prove ownership.

This should be enough for the RMV to provide you with a new Replica title for your car. The next step is changing your registration to reflect the new Mass. VIN and replica description. The Central Title Office can do this while you wait when you apply for the new title – fee is \$50

If you plan on getting it registered while at the Title Office:

- 2-8. Bring along a prepared RMV-1 form from your insurance company (see Step III, below) showing that your car is insured as the replica that it is. All they will need to issue this is the new description (Make sure it is the same description as what is on the title) and new Mass. VIN and they should be able to transfer your old over to your new. This form should be an original and MUST include the agent's stamp and signature.

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Step 3. Change your registration to reflect the new MA VIN and title

Note: If you have the following info complete and a new RMV-1 form from your insurance company when you amend your title, the title office in Quincy can amend your registration in the same visit used to change your title. You will go home with a new title certificate and registration form.

- 3-1.** Contact your car insurance company. Tell them you are changing your registration from the VW it has been to a replica of a 195X Porsche Speedster (or other model). Ask how they wish to handle this change. They may cancel your existing policy and issue you a new one for the new VIN and Title description, or they may just amend your current policy, or they may drop you entirely (like mine did). They may require you to get an appraisal for your car or you must negotiate an “Agreed Upon Value” with your insurance person for the coverage level you wish. Make sure that they understand this is a REPLICA vehicle and not an original – the agreed upon value will be significantly different. They should provide you with a new proof of insurance form (an RMV-1) to take with you to the RMV.
- 3-2.** Armed with your new VIN, Inspection results, Title and Insurance form, return to the RMV local office.

Ask them to amend your existing registration to your newly identified Replica using the same terminology used for your new VIN and title (take along the Mass. VIN application and your new title certificate).
- 3-3.** If you do not have a valid inspection sticker, go to any Mass. vehicle inspection station for a safety/emissions inspection to fail the “Visual Emissions Inspection”.
- 3-4.** If you already have a valid inspection sticker, call your local MAC office and schedule an inspection appointment. If you have trouble finding a local office, call John Morrissey at the Shrewsbury office (508) 452-8520 to find a representative close to your locale.
- 3-5.** Go get your car inspected at the MAC. – They will provide a permanent emissions waiver for your car IF the car donor was a pre-1974 model. This will be done by them entering info into the state-wide RMV database for your car’s VIN. Then, when your car VIN comes up as part of an inspection, the inspection tech, anywhere in the state, will see it flagged as a “Waive Emissions Test” vehicle. There is no sticker for your car for this.

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3-6. It doesn't matter if you get the car inspected at a regular state inspection station and get a reject sticker before you go for your MAC inspection, or if you get the MAC inspection first and then go get the normal inspection. Personally, I believe it is prudent to visit the MAC first, tell them that you're trying to be pro-active to get the paperwork done properly before the state inspection and go from there. It is much easier to get through the state inspection with the system properly recognizing your vehicle for what it is than to run around, jumping through hoops after you get rejected somewhere along the way. In my case, with a 1969 donor and having completed the car in 2001, well before the 2011 cut-off, and being the original replica owner, I was "Grandfathered" in and did not need a MAC inspection. Once their waiver was applied to my new VIN, it went straight through the state inspection without incident.

Once both inspections are done, you'll have a legally registered Replica in Massachusetts AND have an emissions test waiver for life.