

# FACT SHEET

## VIN VERIFICATION

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this fact sheet is to explain when a vehicle identification number (VIN) verification is required and who is authorized to verify the VIN of a vehicle in connection with an application for certificate of title where it is impossible to obtain either a legible tracing or a photograph (signed and dated by a certified Pennsylvania inspection mechanic) of the vehicle identification number, as required by 75 PA.C.S. §1103(e) (relating to application for certificate of title).

### **WHEN VERIFICATION IS REQUIRED**

Visual verification shall be required in the following situations when it is impossible to obtain a legible tracing or photograph of the vehicle identification number:

- (1) When a Pennsylvania resident acquires a new or used vehicle from a nonresident for use in this Commonwealth.
- (2) When a nonresident brings into this Commonwealth, in connection with establishing a Pennsylvania residence, a vehicle previously titled or registered in another state or country.
- (3) When the application for initial certificate of title is for a truck, truck-tractor, or motor home, regardless of source of ownership.

### **WHO MAY VERIFY A VIN**

The following persons shall be authorized to inspect and visually verify that the vehicle identification number conforms to the description given in the application:

- (1) A certified Pennsylvania inspection station mechanic.
- (2) A notary public employed by one of the following:
  - (i) A person to whom manufacturer or dealer registration plates have been issued under 75 PA.C.S. §1335 (relating to registration plates for manufacturers and dealers).
  - (ii) An authorized full agent, as defined in Title 67, Chapter 43 (relating to temporary registration cards and plates).
- (3) If the vehicle is located outside of this Commonwealth one of the following:
  - (i) A police officer.
  - (ii) A mechanic employed by a dealer.
  - (iii) An armed forces installation provost marshal or motor officer.

August 2012



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