.0100 Year of Manufacture (YOM) License Plate program

California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Article 3.3, §§205.00-205.14

Year of Manufacture (YOM) License Plates were originally issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). YOM License Plates will be authenticated by DMV personnel and:

- Must be supplied by the vehicle owner.
- Must display legible and unaltered characters.
- May be restored/painted but **cannot** deviate from the original colors or configurations.
- Validation year-stickers or tabs corresponding to the model year of the vehicle **must** be attached to the license plate prior to authentication by a DMV employee.
- 1963 and newer configurations **must** be assigned to the specific vehicle for which it was intended (for example, auto plates to autos, commercial plates to commercial vehicles, trailer plates to trailers, and motorcycle plates to motorcycles).
- 1963–1969 year model automobiles **must** have black license plates with yellow characters within the alpha-numeric series of AAA000–YYY999.
- 1963–1969 year model commercial vehicles or pickups **must** have black license plates with yellow characters within the alpha-numeric series of A00000–Z999999 or 00000A-99999Z.
- 1970–1980 year model commercial vehicles or pickups **must** have blue license plates with yellow characters within the alpha-numeric series of 00000A–999999Z.
- 1975-1980 year model commercial vehicles or pickup trucks **may** also utilize blue license plates with yellow characters within the alpha-numeric series of 1A00001 to 3Z999999.
- 1970-1980 year model automobiles vehicles **must** have blue license plates with yellow characters within the alpha-numeric series of 000AAA-999ZZZ.
- 1980 year model automobiles vehicles autos **may** also utilize blue license plates with yellow characters within the alpha-numeric series of 1AAA000 to 1SZZ999.
- 1970-1980 year model motorcycles **must** have blue license plates with yellow characters within the alpha-numeric series of 0A0000-9Z9999.

Additional information on the YOM program:

- License plate colors may vary slightly due to age and exposure.
- License plates issued prior to 1956, when license plates were standardized, may vary in length and width by up to 1/8 of an inch.
- Environmental License Plates and Special Recognition License Plates are restricted from the YOM program.

• Each YOM license plate application is reviewed for authenticity and acceptability which is determined on a case-by-case basis.

The following charts contain information for license plates issued between 1914 and 1980.

.0105 Automobile License Plates

Year	Plate Color	Character Color	Comments	Plate Data	Plate Material
1914	Brick Red	White	No tab or sticker issued.	Plates were	Porcelain
1915	Yellow	Black		16" x 5 ½"	enameled
					steel (1914
					may have
					been
					porcelain enameled
					iron).
1916	White	Blue	Symbols were issued to	Plates were	Porcelain
1917	winte	Dide	affix to the license plates	$13" \times 41/2"$	enameled
1918			as evidence of		steel.
1919			registration:		
			• 1916- a bear made of		
			lead.		
			• 1917- a poppy made		
			of lead.		
			• 1918- a mission bell		
			made of lead.		
			• 1919- a star made of tin.		
1920	Black	White	No tab or sticker issued.	Plates were	Embossed
1921	Yellow	Black		13 7/8" x 4	steel.
1922	White	Blue	-	7/8"	
1923	Black	White	4		
1924	Green	White	4		
1925	Yellow	Black			
1926	Blue	White			
1927	Maroon	White			
1928	Blue	Yellow			
1929	Black	Orange	No tab or sticker issued.	Plates were 14 ? $= 6.1/8$?	Embossed
1930	Orange	Black		14" x 6 1/8"	steel.
1931	Black	Orange			
1932	Orange	Black			
1933	Black	Orange			

Character Plate Year Plate Color *Comments* Plate Data Color Material 1934 Black No tab or sticker issued. Plates were Embossed Orange 1935 Black Orange 14" x 6 1/8" steel. 1936 Orange Black 1937 Black Orange 1938 Lemon Black Yellow "California World's Fair 1939 Blue Yellow 39" is embossed at the top of the license plate. 1940 Mustard Black No tab or sticker issued. Plates were Embossed 13 7/8" x 6 Yellow steel or Black 1/8" with aluminum. 1941 Mustard rounded Yellow 1942 Black Mustard A long steel strip was corners. Note: Due to issued for use with the the need for Yellow steel during 1941 license plates that was painted yellow with WWII and the raised or indented black Korean characters. The steel strip Conflict, aluminum for the top of the plate had the number 19 on the left, temporarily replaced steel "CALIFORNIA" in the middle, and the number as the license plate material. 42 on the right. In 1942, for original registrations, new base license plates similar to the 1941 license plates were issued. A 1941/1942 base plate 1943 and a steel lithographed tab, white background with red letter "V" for use on upper right corner of the plates.

Year	Plate Color	Character Color	Comments	Plate Data	Plate Material
1944	Black	Mustard	A paper sticker measuring	Plates were	Embossed
		Yellow	attached inside the	13 7/8" x 6	steel or
			windshield was issued for	1/8" with	aluminum.
			use with 1941 or 1942	rounded	
			license plates. The sticker	corners.	Note: Due to
			measured 3" by x 2 $1/2$ ",		the need for
			contained blue and white		steel during
			scrollwork, and the		WWII and the
			number 1944, split by a		Korean
			golden yellow Great Seal		Conflict,
			of California. Below the		aluminum
			seal were red numbers		temporarily
			and below the numbers		replaced steel
			were the words		as the license
			"Department of Motor		plate material.
			Vehicles" in blue and		
10.15	D1 1	****	white.		
1945	Black	White	No tab or sticker issued.		
			Only one plate issued and		
1946			required.		
1940			A 1945 base plate and a steel lithographed tab,		
			chrome yellow		
			background with a black		
			number "46" for use on		
			upper right corner of		
			plate.		
1947	Yellow	Black	No tab or sticker issued.		
1948	• •		A 1947 base plate with an	1	
			aluminum tab, natural		
			background with a red		
			number "48" for use on		
			the upper right corner of		
			plate.		
1949			A 1947 base plate with an]	
			aluminum tab, natural		
			background with a black		
			number "49" for use on		
			upper right corner of		
			plate.		

Year	Plate Color	Character Color	Com	nents	Plate Data	Plate Material
1950	Yellow	Black	A 1947 base plate with an aluminum tab, natural background with a red number "50" for use on upper-right corner of plate.		Plates were 13 7/8" x 6 1/8" with rounded corners	Embossed steel or aluminum. Note: Due
1951 1952	Black	Chrome Yellow	No tab or stic A 1951 base steel tab, chro background v number "52" lower-right c plate.	plate with a ome yellow vith a black for use on		to WW II and the Korean conflict efforts and the need for steel, aluminum
1953			A 1951 base steel tab, whi background v number "53" lower-right c plate.	te with a black for use on		temporarily replaced steel as the license plate material.
1954			A 1951 base steel tab, red with a white for use on low corner of rear	background number "54" wer-right		
1955			A 1951 base steel tab, pea background v number "55" lower-right c plate.	plate with rl grey vith a black for use on		
1956	Yellow	Black	No tab or sticker issued.1957-1962 license plates are a 1956 base plate with the corresponding validation year sticker.StickerCharacter Color		A standard license plate size of 12" x 6" for autos established in 1956. <i>Placement of</i> <i>sticker</i>	Embossed steel.
1957 1958 1959 1960 1961 1962			RedGreenWhiteBlue-GreyRedWhite	Black White Black Silver Silver Green	To the right of the embossed "California".	

Year	Plate Color	Character Color	Com	Comments		Plate Material
1963	Black	Yellow	No tab or sticker issued.			
1963	1963-1969 lic	cense plates	1964-1969 li	cense plates		Embossed
	are black bac	kground with	are a 1963 ba	ase plate with		steel.
	chrome yellow	w characters.	the correspon	nding		
			validation year sticker.			
	Configuration	n series for	Sticker Character			
	1963-1969 au	to plates:	Color	Color		
1964	AAA000-YY	Y999	White	Black	In the right	
1965			Orange	Black	sticker well	
1966			Yellow	Black	of the base	
1967			Blue Black		license plate.	
1968			Pink Black			
1969			White	Black	1	

Year	Plate Color	Character Color	Sticker Color	Character Color	Placement of Sticker	Plate Material
1970	1970-1980 lio	cense plates	Orange	Black	Year stickers	1970-1972:
1971	are blue back	ground with	Green	Black	are placed in	embossed
1972	yellow charac	cters and a	Yellow	Black	the sticker	steel or
1973	corresponding	g year	Red	Black	well to the	aluminum.
1974	sticker.		White	Black	right of	
1975			Light Red	Dark Red	"California".	1973 forward:
1976	A small numl		Light Blue	Dark Blue		embossed
1977	and yellow at		Light Red	Dark Red	Month	aluminum
1978	license plates		Green	Black	stickers are	only.
1979	until 1970 to	-	White	Black	placed in the	
1980		ly. These are	Orange	Black	well to the	
	acceptable.				left of	
	In 1076 ann				"California".	
	In 1976, conv year-round re					
	introduced th	•				
	expiration sti					
	expiration su	CKCI.				
	Configuration	n series for				
	1970-1980 au					
	000AAA-999	1				
	*See addendu	um for				
	restricted lice	ense plate				
	series.	I I				
	In 1980, seve					
	were introduc	-				
	series license	plates.				
	A . 11					
	Acceptable an					
	plate series fo					
	1AAA000 to	1SZZ999				

.0110 Commercial License Plates

For commercial license plates, use the automobile license plate chart and the additional information below to verify license plates issued from the 1930s through 1980.

Beginning in 1970, along with blue and yellow license plates, a small number of black and yellow commercial license plates continued to be issued to commercial vehicles until 1973 to deplete the existing supply.

Year Plate Symbols					Comments		
During	the i	1930s an	d 1	940s, Commercial	l Vehicles Used the Following Symbols:		
1930-1946 BE			Solid tires on a c	ommercial vehicle operating on a Board of			
	SC 7890		0	Equalization (BC	Equalization (BOE) Permit.		
		BE		Pneumatic tires of	on a commercial vehicle operating on a BOE Permit.		
		PC 543	2				
		Р		Commercial vehi	icle with pneumatic tires.		
		C 7890	1				
		S		Commercial vehi	icle with solid tires.		
		C 2345	6				
Year	Plat	e Color	C	haracter Color	Comments		
1947	Yell	ow	Bl	ack	No tab or sticker issued. Stacked COM on left side.		
1948-					A 1947 base plate with an aluminum tab, natural		
1950					background with the corresponding year metal tab		
					on upper right corner of plate.		
1951	Blac	:k	Cł	nrome Yellow	No tab or sticker issued. Stacked COM on left side.		
					Commercial configuration has 1 letter and 5		
1050	-				numbers.		
1952-					1952-1955 are a 1951 base plate with a steel tab		
1955					and corresponding year for use on lower-right corner of rear plate.		
1956	56 Yellow Black		ack	No tab or sticker issued.			
		uen	The the of shorter issued.				
1957-					1957-1962 license plates are a 1956 base plate with		
1962					the corresponding validation year sticker.		

.0110 Commercial License Plates, continued

Year	Plate Color	Character Color	Con	Comments		Plate Material
1963	1963-1969 lic	cense plates	No tab or st	icker issued.		Embossed
	are black back	kground with	1964-1969	license plates		steel.
	chrome yellow	w characters.	are a 1963 b	base plate with		
			the correspo	onding		
	Configuration	n series for	validation y	validation year sticker.		
	1963-1969 co	ommercial	Sticker	Character		
	plates:		Color	Color		
1964	A00000–Z999	999 or	White	Black	In the right	
1965	00000A-9999	99Z	Orange	Black	sticker well	
1966			Yellow	Black	of the base	
1967			Blue	Black	license plate.	
1968			Pink	Black		
1969			White	Black		

Varm	Plate Color	Character	Sticker	Character	Placement of	Plate
Year	Plate Color	Color	Color	Color	Sticker	Material
1970	1970-1980 license plates		Orange	Black	In the right	Embossed
1971	are blue background with		Green	Black	sticker well	aluminum.
1972	yellow charac	cters.	Yellow	Black	of the license	
1973			Red	Black	plate.	
1974	A small num		White	Black		
1975	and yellow co		Red	Dark Red		
1976	license plates		Blue	Dark Blue		
1977	until 1973 to	-	Red	Dark Red		
1978		ly. These are	Green	Black		
1979	acceptable.		White	Black		
1980	In 1976, conv year-round re introduced th expiration stic Configuration 1970-1974 co plates: 00000 A00000-Z999 1975-1980 m utilize comme configuration 1A00000 to 2 1974-1975 co	egistration e month of cker. n series for ommercial A-999999Z or 999 ay also ercial series 22999999.	Orange	Black		

.0115 Motorcycle License Plates

Year	Plate Color	Character Color	Comments	Plate Data	Plate Material
1914	Red	White	Stacked single letter	Plates were	Porcelain
1915	Yellow	Black	with two or three	9 1/2" x 2	enameled
			numbers. No tab or	3/4" or 10"	steel.
			sticker issued.	x 3" and	
1916	White	Blue	Symbols were issued	concave in	
1917			to affix to the license	shape.	
1918			plates as evidence of		
1919			registration:1916 – a bear		
			• 1910 – a bear made of lead.		
			 1917 – a poppy 		
			made of lead.		
			 1918 – a mission 		
			bell made of lead.		
			• 1919 – a star made		
			of tin.		
1920	Black	White	No tab or sticker	Plates were	Embossed
1921	Yellow	Black	issued.	4" x 7 1/2"	steel.
1922	White	Blue		with three	
1923	Black	White		or four	
1924	Green	White		numbers.	
1925	Yellow	Black	_		
1926	Blue	White	_		
1927	Maroon/Red	White	_		
1928	Blue	Deep Yellow	_		
1929	Black	Orange	_	Plates were	
1930	Yellow/Orange	Black	4	4 1/8" x 7	
1931	Black	Orange	4	1/4" with	
1932	Orange	Black	4	rounded	
	Black	Orange	4	corners and four or five	
1934	Orange	Black	4	numbers.	
1935	Black	Orange	4	numbers.	
1936 1937	Orange Rhock	Black	4		
1937	Black Lemon Yellow	Orange Black	4		
1938	Blue	Yellow	4		
1939	Mustard	Black	-		
1740	Yellow	DIACK			

Year	Plate Color	Character Color	Comments	Plate Data	Plate Material
1941	Black	Yellow	No tab or sticker issued.	Plates were	Embossed
1942				4 1/8" x 7	steel.
1943	Yellow	Black		1/4" with	
1944				rounded	
1945	Black	White		corners and	
1946			A 1945 base plate with a	five	
			1946 metal tab.	numbers.	
1947	Yellow	Black	No tab or sticker issued.		
1948			1948-1950 license plates		
1949			are a 1947 base plate		
1950			with corresponding year		
			metal tab.		
1951	Black	Yellow	No tab or sticker issued.		
1952			1952-1955 license plates		
1953			are a 1951 base plate		
1954			with corresponding year		
1955			metal tab.		

.0115 Motorcycle License Plates, continued

Year	Plate Color	Character Color	Sticker Color	Character Color	Plate Data	Plate Material
1956	1956-1962 lie	cense plates	No tab or sti	cker issued.	1956 and	Embossed
1957	are yellow ba	ckground	Red	Black	1963 base	steel.
1958	with black ch	aracters.	Green	White	plates are 5"	
1959			White	Black	x 8" with six	
1960	1957-1962 lio	cense plates	Blue/Gray	Silver	numbers	
1961	are a1956 bas	1	Red	Silver		
1962	corresponding	g year	White	Green	-	
	sticker.				_	
1963	1963-1969 lio	cense plates	No tab or sticker issued.			
1964	are black bac	kground with	White	Black		
1965	yellow charac	cters.	Orange	Black		
1966			Yellow	Black		
1967	1964-1969 license plates		Blue	Black		
1968	are a 1963 base plate with		Pink	Black		
1969	corresponding	g year	White	Black		
	sticker.					

Year	Plate Color	Character Color	Sticker Color	Character Color	Plate Data	Plate Material
1970	1970-1980 license plates		Orange	Black	Plates were	Embossed
1971	are blue back	ground with	Green	Black	5" x 8".	steel.
1972	yellow charac	cters and	Light Red	Dark Red		
1973	corresponding	g year	Light	Dark Green		
	sticker.		Green			
1974			Light	Dark		
	A small numb		Orange	Orange		
1975	<i>and yellow</i> m		Light	Dark		
	license plates		Purple	Purple		
1976	until 1970 to	-	Light Blue	Dark Blue		
1977		ly. These are	Light Red	Dark Red		
1978	acceptable.		Green	Black		
1979	~ ~ .		White	Black		
1980	Configuration series for 1970-1980 motorcycle plates: 0A0000-9Z9999		Orange	Black		Embossed aluminum.
	plates. 0A000	JU-7 L 7777				

.0115 Motorcycle License Plates, continued

.0120 Trailer License Plates

License plates specifically identifying commercial trailers were introduced in 1918.

Year	Plate Color	Character Color	Comments	Plate Data	Plate Material
1914	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1915					
1916					
1917					
1918	White	Blue	"TRAILER" appears at	Plates were	Porcelain
1919			 the top of the plate. 1918 – A mission bell made of lead. 1919 – A red star made of tin 	4 1/2" x 13".	enameled steel.
1920	Black	White	No tab or sticker issued.	Plates were	Embossed
1921	Yellow	Black		4 x 7/8" x 13	steel.
1922	White	Blue		7/8".	
1923	Black	White	1		
1924	Green	White	No tab or sticker issued. Stacked "TLR" "CAL 24"		
1925	Yellow	Black	No tab or sticker issued. Stacked "TLR" "CAL 25"		
1926	Blue	White	No tab or sticker issued. Stacked "TLR" "CAL 26"		
1927	Maroon/Red	White	No tab or sticker issued. Stacked "TLR" "CAL 27"		
1928	Blue	Yellow	No tab or sticker issued. Stacked "TLR" "CAL 28"	-	
1929	Black	Yellow/ Orange	No tab or sticker issued. Stacked "TLR" "CAL 29"	Plates were 6 1/8" x 14".	
1930	Yellow/ Orange	Black	No tab or sticker issued. "PT" followed by five		
1931	Black	Orange	numbers.		
1932	Orange	Black	1		
1933	Black	Orange	1		
1934	Orange	Black	1		
1935	Black	Orange	No tab or sticker issued.		
1936	Orange	Black	Stacked "PT" followed		
1937	Black	Orange	by five or six numbers.		
1938	Lemon Yellow	Black]		

Year	Plate Color	Character Color	Comments	Plate Data	Plate Material
1939	Blue	Yellow	"California World's Fair" is embossed at the top of the plate. Stacked "PT" followed by five or six numbers.	Plates were 6 1/8" x 14".	Embossed steel.
1940	Mustard Yellow	Black	No tab or sticker issued. Stacked "PT" followed by five or six numbers.	Plates were 6 1/8" x 13 7/8" with	Embossed steel or aluminum.
1941	Black	Yellow	No tab or sticker issued. Stacked "PT" followed by five six numbers.	rounded corners.	Note: Due to WWII and
1942			A long steel strip for the top of the plate was issued to use with the 1941 plates. The strip was painted yellow with raised black characters, the number 19 on the left, "CALIFORNIA" in the middle, and the number "42" on the right.		the Korean conflict efforts, and the need for steel, aluminum temporarily replaced steel as license plate material
1943			In 1942, new base plates similar to the 1941 plates were issued for original registrations. A 1941 or 1942 base license plate and a steel lithographed tab, white background with red letter "V" for use on upper right corner of the plates.		

Year	Plate Color	Character Color	Comments	Plate Data	Plate Material
1944	Black	Yellow	A 1941/1942 base plate and a paper sticker measuring 3" by x 2 1/2", containing blue and white scrollwork, the number 1944, split by a golden yellow Great Seal of California was attached inside the windshield. Below the seal are red numbers and below the numbers are the words Department of Motor Vehicles in blue and white.		
1945	Black	White	No tab or sticker issued. Stacked "PT" followed by five numbers.		
1946			A 1945 base plate with a metal (of unknown type) lithographed tab, chrome yellow background with a black number "46" for use on upper-right side of license plate.		
1947 1948	Yellow	Black	No tab or sticker issued. Stacked "TLR" followed by six numbers. A 1947 base plate with an aluminum tab, natural background with a red number "48" for use on upper-right side of		
1949			A 1947 base plate with an aluminum tab, natural background with a black number "49" for use on upper- right side of license plate.		

Year	Plate Color	Character Color	Comments	Plate Data	Plate Material
1950	Yellow	Black	A 1947 base plate with		
			an aluminum tab, natural		
			back-ground with a red		
			number "50" for use on		
			upper-right side of		
			license plate.		
1951			No tab or sticker issued.		
			Stacked "TLR" followed		
			by six numbers.		
1952			A 1951 base plate with a		
			steel tab, chrome yellow		
			background with a black		
			number "52" for use on		
			lower-right corner of		
			plate.		
1953			A 1951 base plate with a		
			steel tab, white		
			background with a black		
			number "53" for use on		
			lower-right corner of		
1071			license plate.		
1954			A 1951 base plate with a		
			steel tab, red background		
			with a white number		
			"54" for use on lower-		
			right corner of license		
1055			plate.		
1955			A 1951 base plate with a		
			steel tab, pearl grey		
			background with a black		
			number "55" for use on		
			lower-right corner of		
1055			license plate.		
1956			No sticker issued.		
			1957-1962 license plates		
			are a 1956 base plate		
			with the corresponding		
			validation sticker.		

Year	Plate Color	Character Color	Sticker Color	Character Color	Plate Data	Plate Material
1957	Yellow	Black	Red	Black		
1958			Green	White		
1959			White	Black		
1960			Blue-Grey	Silver		
1961			Red	Silver		
1962			White	Green		
1963			No sticker is	sued.		
			1964-1969 li	-		
				ase plate with		
			the correspon	0		
			validation sti	icker.		
1964			White	Black		
1965			Orange	Black	-	
1966			Yellow	Black	-	
1967			Blue	Black	-	
1968			Pink	Black		
1969			White	Black		
1970	1970-1980 lie	cense plates	Orange	Black	_	
1971	are blue back	0	Green	Black		
1972	yellow charac		Yellow	Black		
1973	correspondin	g year	Red	Black		
1974	sticker.		White	Black		
1975			Red	Dark Red		
1976	Configuration		Blue	Dark Blue		
1977	trailer plates:		Red	Dark Red		
1978	AA000-ZZ99	199	Green	Black		
1979	1000 1	1	White	Black		
1980	1980 plates n seven charact 1AA0000-2Z	ters:	Orange	Black		