



BUREAU CENTRAL FRANÇAIS

INSURANCE COMPANIES COVERING AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS

Subject: New vehicle
registration system in France
Encl: One appendix

All the Offices

Paris, 16 April 2009

Dear Director,

From 15 April 2009 a new vehicle registration system, called "SIV", is being introduced in France.

It is based on a permanent number, attributed in a single series and managed by a centralised system: when the vehicle is registered for the first time, it is identified by a registration number that it keeps until it is destroyed.

❶ The format of the registration plate is changing.

► It will now be a series of nine characters including:

2 letters, dash, 3 figures, dash, 2 letters

e.g.: **AA-123-AA**

The characters are black on a white background, both on the front and the rear of the vehicle.

► Vehicle registration plates must include the European Union symbol on the left with the letter F, on a blue background that must be reflective.

► Moreover, this new format **no longer includes the number of the French *département***. The owner of the vehicle must however display the number of the *département* of his choice on the right hand side of the plate on a blue background, which does not have to be reflective, with the logo of the region in which this *département* is situated placed above it. But it no longer has any link with the address of the vehicle owner. Therefore, in no case is it an element used to identify this vehicle.



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▶ Vintage vehicles will have their own system to preserve their historic character. They can, exceptionally, use a plate with a black background in the original format with an SIV number.

Vehicle plates of the Diplomatic Corps, in particular, will retain their current features but will be registered in the SIV.

▶ Mopeds will retain their previous registration (in force since 2004), composed of one or two letters, 3 figures, one letter (A 111 A up to ZZ 999 Z).

Examples of plates with a territorial identifier are appended to this circular.

② The new registration format will be introduced progressively.

▶ From 15 April 2009, only new vehicles will be registered under this new format.

▶ From 15 June 2009, used vehicles will be re-registered, for any event involving a modification of the *carte grise* (registration document) (change in owner, address, etc).

At this stage, no date has been set for incorporating currently registered vehicles into the SIV.

③ Investigations

Concerning investigations, the current system will continue for old plates for a certain period of time. During this transitory period, the length of which is unknown, you will continue to receive our responses in their usual form.

Concerning new plates, we will consult the new file. We draw your attention to several elements.

- 1) **the dashes featuring in the format are an integral part of the registration.** If the dashes do not appear in the investigation request, the registrations file will not recognise the plate as a French plate. We therefore recommend that you circulate this information widely, as compliance with this format is very important for the investigations: if the format is non-compliant, BCF will receive a rejection message.

This observation also applies to investigation requests that **are sent to the information organisation (AGIRA).**



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- 2) **The time of the claim** is one of the fields that must be completed on the enquiry form. You are therefore requested to specify it whenever possible.
- 3) **We will not have access to all the information that we have received until now:** we will have at our disposal the name of the holder of the registration document and his/her address and the vehicle features, but the information on the vehicle's administrative status will be less precise: the only fact that will be shown is whether the status is in order or not.

Please contact BCF if you require any further information,

The Director

Françoise Dauphin