

26th of September 2011, St Petersburg



LICENSE PLATE AS A SOURCE OF
VALUABLE DATA

STATE LICENSE PLATE

State registration plate is a unique identifier of a vehicle (car, motorcycle, trailer, etc).

The plate with the number is appropriated to the vehicle after it is registered in

[State Traffic Safety Inspectorate](#) (GIBDD).

The registration plate should be fixed in front and at the back of the vehicle.

STADARD REGISTRATION PLATES



The current Russian format of car registration plates utilizes a letter followed by 3 digits and two more letters; the region number, the letters "RUS" and the national flag are placed to the right edge of the plate.

Only 12 letters of Cyrillic characters that look like characters of a Latin alphabet are used: A, B, E, K, M, H, O, P, C, T, Y, X. The registration plate includes the digits that signify the car number directly and the letters that signify the "series"¹. Some of the series are reviewed below.

The most distinctive features are region code and series of a license plate.

If the registration plate with the letter B is fixed in the vehicle, it means the vehicle belongs to a corporate body.

Setting your eyes on the letter combination on registration plate can determine what agency does this or that vehicle belong to. Here are some of them:

State agencies	www	The group
Higher authorities: Federal Assembly, The Government, , bodies of Supreme and Constitutional Court, law enforcement agencies		A***MP (only 97 region)
City Administration and state agencies		A***AA, O***AO, O***OA, O***AA, A***OO, A***OA, A***AO
State security agencies		O***CM, O***OO, O***CA
Ministry of Internal Affairs	http://mvd.ru/	O***OO, O***MO, O***MM, O***MP, O***OM, O***TT, O***PP, O***BO
Bodies of Supreme and Constitutional Court		O***KC
Federal Migration Service	http://www.fms.gov.ru/	O***TT, O***PP

¹ The 3-letter group

State agencies	www	The group
Federal Bailiff Service	http://www.fssprus.ru/	O***KO
Committee of inquiry, Prosecutor's office	http://www.sledcom.ru/	O***KO, O***CK
State Traffic Safety Inspectorate (GIBDD)	http://www.gibdd.ru/	O***CA
Federal Drug Control Service	http://sfo.fskn.gov.ru/	O***OH

OTHER TYPES OF REGISTRATION PLATES

1. MIA (Ministry of Internal Affairs)



These registration plates include one white letter and four white digits on the blue background. The numbers on the right edge traditionally specify the region, except "77", which defines belonging to the MIA RF. The flag on the right edge is absent. These registration plates are installed only on the vehicles with a special body color scheme. Apart from the blue plates MIA also uses numbers «A *** MP 97».

2. Diplomatic



These registration plates have white characters (3 numbers, 2 letters, 1 number) on a red background. The flag on the right edge is absent.

3. Armed forces



These registration plates have 4 white digits and 2 white letter on a black background. The two numbers on the right edge are a code for the Military district or the Armed forces branch or service and go with a certain letter combination. The flag on the right edge is absent.

4. Public transport

Some means of public transportation are considered «high-risk» - for example some shuttle bus drivers tend to drive aggressively, passengers can be getting in or out of the bus, so it is recommended to exercise caution around those vehicles.



These registration plates include black characters on a yellow background: 2 digits and 3 letters. The flag on the right edge is absent. Additionally, some of the yellow license plates are used on penitentiary vehicles, they can be distinguished by the marking «ФСИН» (stands for the Federal Service for Execution of Punishment)

5. The cars exported from RF



These registration plates have black characters on a white background, the format is: letter T on the left edge in the separate section, 2 letters and 3 numbers. The flag on the right edge is absent.

6. The trailers



The registration plates for trailers have black characters on a white background: 2 letters and 4 digits. There is a Russian flag on the right edge.

7. The transit (temporary) registration plate



The transit (temporary) registration plates are used for vehicles that are removed from the register or are not registered yet. The format is: 2 letters, 3 numbers, 1 letter and a yellow right edge with a region number and a flag. They are made of paper and then laminated.

THE WARNING BEACONS

Russian road laws assume some privileges to be given to certain vehicles. It's well-known that the ambulance cars and fire trucks can ignore the stoplight if the special signal (alarm) is on. The necessary requirement to get the advantage is the usage of both sound and light alarms – the siren and the warning beacon, named in Russian «migalka». A permit issued by [State Traffic Safety Inspectorate](#) (GIBDD) is needed to use the alarms.



In Russia the warning beacons are installed at the roofs of the

- **cleaning, repairing, building vehicles and the vehicles transporting dangerous materials.** The warning beacons in this case are **orange** and these vehicles have no privileges in road traffic.
- **cars of law enforcement agencies, ambulance cars, tow trucks and fire trucks.** In this case the warning beacons are **blue**, and the car has special privileges:
 - If the special signal (alarm) is off, it is **preferable** for all the road users to give way to the car with blue warning beacon.
 - If the special signal (alarm) is on, it is **obligatory** for all the road users to give way to the car with blue warning beacon.
 - When driving closer to the car with blue warning beacon turned on it is **obligatory** to slow down.

THE LEGISLATION

Russian Federation has ratified the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic, the full text can be found here.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vienna_Convention_on_Road_Signs_and_Signals

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vienna_Convention_on_Road_Traffic