



Note no. A409/14

Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office presents its compliments to all diplomatic missions and international organisations has the honour to refer to the abolition of the tax disc for UK registered vehicles from 1 October 2014.

From 1 October 2014, the paper vehicle tax disc no longer needs to be displayed on the windscreen of UK registered vehicles. This also includes the V306 tax disc which is used for official vehicles displaying a 'flag' registration number.

The historic reason for displaying a tax disc has been to show that vehicle tax has been paid in the UK. However, the benefit of a paper tax disc has become redundant over time, as the UK Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and the police now rely on the DVLA's electronic vehicle register to confirm that vehicle tax has been paid.

### **How the changes affect 'flag' vehicles**

Currently a V306 tax disc is issued to a diplomatic vehicle displaying a 'flag' registration number. The V306 tax disc expiry date is 5 years from the date the vehicle is registered on DVLA's database.

From 1 October 2014 diplomatic missions are longer required to send a request to DVLA to renew the 'flag' number application.

From now on, when a record is created for a 'flag' registration number on DVLA's database, no expiry date will be set. Instead, expiry will be triggered upon receipt of a form TX22 or TX23 when the vehicle is disposed of. Diplomatic missions and international organisations must continue to send this notification to the Specialist Registration team at DVLA.

### **Changes to DVLA forms and booklets**

As a result of the abolition of the tax disc, the following forms and booklet have been amended to remove any wording relating to the issuing or renewal of a tax disc:

- V117/1 (Application for Diplomatic Registration Document).
- V117 (Vehicle Registration Document).
- V772 (Diplomatic and Consular vehicle registrations and driver permits information booklet).

### **Do the changes affect other 'standard' diplomatic vehicles?**

There is no change in respect of 'standard' diplomatic vehicles and the DVLA will continue not to issue a tax disc. When a record is created for a 'standard' diplomatic registration number on DVLA's database, no expiry date will be set. As with 'flag' registrations, expiry will continue be triggered following receipt of a form TX22 or TX23 when the vehicle is disposed of. Diplomatic missions and international organisations must continue to send this notification to the Specialist Registration team at DVLA.

### **Important points to remember**

- Tax discs will not be issued for applications being processed on or after 1 October 2014.
- There is no need for vehicles to display a tax disc on or after 1 October 2014.
- Diplomatic missions and international organisations must ensure that the DVLA are notified using the relevant TX form when a vehicle is disposed of. Diplomatic missions and international organisations must ensure that the DVLA are notified of any changes to a vehicle status as soon as possible.
- Diplomatic missions and international organisations must notify the DVLA if a 'flag' registration number has transferred to a different vehicle, or is no longer being used.
- Vehicle tax, where applicable, is no longer transferable from 1 October 2014.

## **Driving UK registered vehicles in the EU**

Member State missions will wish to be aware that UK registered vehicles being driven in the EEA will no longer display tax discs. Whilst some motorists may wish to continue to display a current tax disc after this date, there will be no legal requirement to do so under UK law.

### **Further information**

A summary of the changes along with further information can be found at [www.gov.uk/dvla/nomoretaxdisc](http://www.gov.uk/dvla/nomoretaxdisc).

If diplomatic missions and international organisations have any queries/concerns about the abolition of the tax disc they should write to DVLA at: [aotdanddirectdebit@dvla.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:aotdanddirectdebit@dvla.gsi.gov.uk).

Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office avails itself of this opportunity to express to all diplomatic missions and international organisations the assurances of its highest consideration.

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