

Michigan Department of State

Vehicle Uniform Surety Bond

Instruction Sheet

1. Before you can title or register a motor vehicle, trailer, trailer coach, watercraft or snowmobile that has no clearly established record of ownership, you must file a *Vehicle Uniform Surety Bond* (TR-121) with the Michigan Department of State along with your title or registration application.
2. The bond's amount must equal twice the value of the vehicle, watercraft or snowmobile. A bond may not be needed for Michigan-titled vehicles six or more years old valued at \$2,500 or less, or for watercraft or snowmobiles not titled or registered in another state and worth \$2,500 or less.
3. The person applying for the title or registration, whether an individual, partnership, firm or corporation, and a representative of the insurance company or bonding agency must sign the surety bond. Applicants are named as the "Principal" and must include their complete residence or business address.
4. The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs must license the surety company. A duly authorized agent of the surety company must issue the bond. If the agent is a licensed nonresident agent, a licensed resident agent must countersign the bond.
5. The effective date of the bond must be no later than the date of application for the title or registration.
6. A surety bond is issued for three years. If no claims are made against it at the end of three years, the department will return the bond.