

DETERMINING AD VALOREM FEE LEVEL

[MCL 257.801(1)(p)]

The law which establishes ad valorem fees also provides an original fee level and three levels of depreciation which are used as the vehicle ages. Normally, the "0" level is used for new or current model year vehicles. The "1" level is used for one-year-old vehicles. The "2" level is used for two-year-old vehicles, and the "3" level is used for three-year-old vehicles. Once the license plate fee reaches the "3" level, it no longer changes as the vehicle continues to age.

There is one important variation in determining the plate fee level. If a vehicle owner transfers their license plate to a vehicle at the time of purchase, then only the \$8 transfer fee is collected. When the vehicle owner renews the license plate at a later date, they pay the fee level that would have been due on the date the plate was transferred. Thus, the level of depreciation may be delayed.

For a vehicle purchased as new, fees must be paid at the "0" level before fees are collected at the "1" level, and must progress to the "3" level. A transfer of vehicle ownership breaks this formula. (See used vehicle fee levels on the next page.) The Department's computer always keeps track of the next level due.

Examples of what happens with the levels of new vehicles:

- 1) An owner buys a new 2017 model in November, 2016. Her birthday is in June so the plate is issued for 8 months at the "0" level. When she renews in June, 2017, the owner pays the "1" level fee. The computer keeps track of the next level due. The method of determining the level changes only if ownership is transferred. (If she sells the car in July, the new owner pays the "0" level. See Used Vehicle instructions on the next page.)
- 2) An owner buys a new 2016 model in December, 2016. His birthday is in April so the plate is issued for 17 months at the "0" level. When he renews in April, 2018, the owner pays the "1" level, not the "2" level.
- 3) An owner buys a new 2016 model in early 2017. He transfers a plate expiring 02-12-2018. When the plate is renewed in 2018, the "0" level fee is paid even though the vehicle is already two model years old. (The owner never paid the "0" or "1" level fees on the new vehicle.)

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DETERMINING AD VALOREM FEE LEVEL (cont.)

Used Vehicles and Vehicles From Out-of-State

[MCL 257.801(1)(p)(iv)]

When ownership is transferred or when a vehicle subject to ad valorem fees is brought to Michigan from another state, use the following formula:

Subtract the Model Year from the Calendar Year. This is the level of the plate fee. If the model year is newer than the calendar year, use the "0" level.

Examples: 2017 calendar year – 2015 model year = 2 level

2017 calendar year – 2012 model year = 5 (3 level), etc.

Chart for Used Vehicles and Vehicles from Out-of-State:

1984-2014 Used Models

Sold in 2017 or later = 3 level

2015 Used Models

Sold in 2017 = 2 level

Sold in 2018 or later = 3 level

2016 Used Models

Sold in 2017 = 1 level

Sold in 2018 = 2 level

Sold in 2019 or later = 3 level

2017 Used Models

Sold in 2017 = 0 level

Sold in 2018 = 1 level

Sold in 2019 = 2 level

For renewals, the Department's computer always keeps track of the next level due. The ad valorem fee at the proper level is printed on the TR-3 registration renewal form.

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