



State of South Carolina

Department of Motor Vehicles

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SCDMV TITLE VERIFICATION SYSTEM

Blythewood, S.C. – September 28, 2009 - The South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (SCDMV) announced today their participation in the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS). This system allows agencies like SCDMV to quickly verify a paper title with electronic data obtained from the state that issued the title. The project, which will be implemented in two phases, will help reduce fraudulent titles and improve title information services to customers.

“We are pleased to announce our participation in NMVTIS,” said SCDMV Executive Director Marcia Adams. “Customers will be able to research a vehicle and that will give them greater assurance that the vehicle they purchase is represented and marketed correctly.”

In October 2009, SCDMV will begin sending all current vehicle title records to the NMVTIS database maintained by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. These records will include vehicle information only, not owner information. Once this phase of the system is in place, SCDMV will begin clearing out-of-state titles through NMVTIS before issuing a new title. Customers with out-of-state titles will be able to obtain South Carolina vehicle registrations, but new South Carolina titles will not be issued until the title verification process is complete.

In January 2010, SCDMV will begin verifying all titles through NMVTIS before issuing a new title. The agency will be able to verify vehicle mileage, lien data and any vehicle brands associated with the vehicle. Vehicle title information from other states will also be reported to SCDMV through NMVTIS.

By verifying title information, NMVTIS will help reduce the number of fraudulently titled stolen vehicles. Odometer discrepancies and vehicle identification number or VIN cloning will be more easily detectable. The system will also help reduce brand washing, which occurs when a junked, flood or salvage brand vehicle title is changed when a new title is issued in another state.

“This system will give buyers another way to protect themselves,” said Adams. “It can help them avoid purchasing a vehicle that is potentially unsafe to drive or pay more for a vehicle than it is worth.”

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