



State of South Carolina
Department of Motor Vehicles

SCDMV - Law Enforcement Bulletin
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Motorcycle License Plates

Please be aware that the requirements for mounting a South Carolina motorcycle license plate allow for the license plate to be mounted vertically on some motorcycles. South Carolina Code of Laws 56-3-1240, which is attached for your convenience, requires motorcycles with vertically mounted brackets to attach the license plate with the top of the plate fastened at the right vertical edge of plate as shown:



Should you have questions regarding this information, please call the SCDMV Communications Office at (803) 896-8198.

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SECTION 56-3-1240. Display of license plates; motorcycles equipped with vertically mounted brackets; missing plates.

License plates issued for motor vehicles must be attached to the outside rear of the vehicle, open to view, except that on truck tractors and road tractors the plates must be attached to the outside front of the vehicle. Every license plate, at all times, must be fastened securely in a horizontal and upright position to the vehicle for which it was issued so as to prevent the plate from swinging. However, if a motorcycle is equipped with vertically mounted license plate brackets, its license plate must be mounted vertically with its top fastened along the right vertical edge. The bottom of the plate must be at a height of not less than twelve inches from the ground in a place and position clearly visible as provided in Section 56-5-4530, and it must be maintained free from foreign materials and in a clearly legible condition. No other license plate, lighting equipment, except as permitted in Section 56-5-4530, tag, sign, monogram, tinted cover, or inscription of metal or other material may be displayed above, around, or upon the plate other than that which is authorized and issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles for the purpose of validating the plate. It is not unlawful to place a decal on the license plate if it does not obscure any letters or numbers. A motor vehicle owner may attach a trailer hitch to a motor vehicle provided the hitch does not obscure more than two inches of the license plate issued to the motor vehicle. It is unlawful to operate or drive a motor vehicle with the license plate missing and a person who is convicted for violating this section must be punished as provided by Section 56-3-2520.