

**[ LTO MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 543-2004,  
July 21, 2004 ]**

**GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES IN THE ACQUISITION OF  
OPTIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE SPECIAL PLATES (OMVSP)**

Pursuant to the provisions of Batas Pambansa Blg. 74, Republic Act No. 4136 and Administrative Order No. 009-2004 dated 03 September 2004, and in view of the impending exhaustion of combinations of alpha-numeric characters under the current format of motor vehicle plates, as well as an additional source of revenue for the government, the following guidelines and procedures in the acquisition of optional motor vehicle special plates are hereby promulgated for the observance of all concerned.

**A. Rationale for the Special Plates**

It is typical for motorists in the Philippines as it is in the other Asian countries to strike a preference towards certain alpha-numeric character combinations for personal reasons and identification purposes. Such tendency provides a good opportunity for the LTO to increase its revenue by implementing a different pricing scheme in the issuance of MV plates with 01-100 numeric characters which are to be matched with the alphas, as in three letter and two/three-number combinations.

As a revenue-raising measure, increased cost shall be collected for production of unissued motor vehicle plates with choice characters such as triple-alpha; triple numeric; numeric characters 168; any numeric combination with identical first and third characters but 0 for middle digit e.g., 101 or 707; and any other combinations which do not form part of the regular series of MV plates, when requested for production by a MV registered owner.

As a step to solve the problem of depleting alpha-numeric combinations, the letters "I", and "Q" shall be utilized. "O" shall have a different font to distinguish it from zero (0).

**B. Nature and Coverage of Special Plates**

The OMVSP is considered as a regular MV plate. As such it shall be issued in pairs and it shall be permanently assigned to a specified motor vehicle during its lifetime. Moreover, it is optional and shall be issued only upon direct application by the owner of a brand new private motor vehicle which is for

initial or first-time registration with the LTO. The MV's covered herein are as follows:

1. Cars
2. Sports utility Vehicles (SUV)
3. Asian Utility Vehicles (AUV)
4. Sports Pick-up
5. Commuter Vans

The following MV types shall be excluded from the coverage of those which can be issued special plates:

1. Public Utility Vehicles
2. Cargo Trucks (private/for hire)
3. Service Vehicle (hotel limousines, tourist vehicles, rent-a-car, ambulance and funeral hearse)
4. Vintage Vehicle
5. Government Vehicle
6. Diplomatic/OE Vehicle
7. Used/Imported/Surplus MV
8. MV with more than 4-wheel category

C. Where to Apply for Special Plates

Application can be made at the LTO Central Office or at any regional/district office which shall forward it to the OMVSP Committee Central Office (CO), for processing. The said committee reserves the right to approve or reject all applications and shall be responsible in delivering directly, by special courier, the special plates ordered by the MV registered owner.

D. How to apply for Special Plates

Since the special plates ordered shall be sent by special courier to facilitate and to secure delivery, it is important that the applicant MV owner indicates correctly and clearly his/her forwarding address as well as his/her contact/telephone number. If for any reason, he/she cannot personally receive the plates personally, the person authorized to receive in his behalf must be indicated in his application.

The following documentary requirements must be attached to the application, for transmittal to the LTO CO;

1. Duly accomplished application form;