

Reclaiming 'Lost' Registrations – the V 765 Procedure.

How the Road Locomotive Society can help you.

The Road Locomotive Society, whose records are accepted as definitive for steam vehicles by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre at Swansea (DVLA), is an 'Approved Body' under the DVLA 'V765' system. This system enables owners of steam powered vehicles to reclaim the original registration mark or acquire an appropriate 'age related' mark for their engine or wagon. The Society is able in most cases to supply confirmation of the original index mark issued to steam traction engines, road locomotives and road rollers and verify applications made to the DVLA to reclaim the mark.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre (DVLC) was set up at Swansea during the nineteen seventies. The project to unify the vehicle registration system on computer took quite a long time. Vehicles then in use were automatically included. The need to secure old registrations was widely publicised and owners of vehicles that were then currently out of use were encouraged to register them on the system by sending in the original 'Log Book' (VE60), which would be returned with the new style (V5) document if requested. Many owners responded but others did not bother to comply and many other vehicles then lying derelict without documentation were not listed on the computer. The system for 'saving' old index marks closed on 30th November 1983 and any not included by that date were annulled.

For some time after the setting up of the Swansea Computer there was no mechanism to recover a lost registration and in response to this the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), in negotiation with The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs (FBVHC), introduce a procedure using a Form V765 to enable, in genuine cases, the original index marks to be restored onto the vehicles for which they were first issued on a non transferable basis. Where an original number cannot be traced or the engine is an imported engine with no UK previous registration an appropriate age related mark may be issued. This has now become known as the V765 Scheme.

The V765 scheme relies on 'Approved Bodies' which, in general are the specialist historic vehicle clubs, to check the veracity of the application and provide a dating certificate and if possible, supporting information to substantiate the claim. The RLS is an 'Approved Body' and can provide the necessary authentication. The officer who runs this service is Peter Smart and any enquiry regarding a lost registration should be addressed to him. He can be contacted by telephone on 01430 440118 or via email at smart_p1@sky.com.

Owners wishing to avail themselves of this service are recommended to first discuss their claim with Peter Smart who can advise on the procedure and the evidence required. The eventual application to DVLA has to be submitted through an Approved Body and the RLS is able to do that. This service is free to members but will incur a fee of £45 to non-members.

Peter Smart

November 2012