VEHICLES TITLED AS RECREATIONAL VEHICLES (RV)

Motor homes, campers, and travel trailers that meet the statutory definition of recreational vehicle are REQUIRED to be titled as recreational vehicles.

RV titled vehicles are classified under the “taxed when tagged” category. The property taxes are based on the age and weight of the recreational vehicle. The “age and weight” based tax value, CANNOT be adjusted for condition or mileage of the vehicle.

Kansas law defines a “recreational vehicle” as a vehicular-type unit that has been built on or has been built for use on a chassis; and has been designed primarily as living quarters for recreational, camping, vacation or travel use; and which has its own motive power or is mounted on or drawn by another vehicle; and which has a body width not exceeding 102 inches (8½ ft.) and a body length not exceeding 45 feet; AND HAS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING FEATURES:

- an electrical system which operates above 12 volts;
- provisions for plumbing;
- heating;
- and, any other standard feature/component adopted in the uniform standards code for RVs.

RV-Titled vehicles, like other taxed when tagged vehicles, have registration years which are based on parts of two calendar years. When an RV changes age categories the calculation for taxes will be split between two age categories for the registration period. The number of months in each calendar year, will be determined by the primary owner’s name.

If the recreational vehicle meets ALL of the criteria listed in the statute, it will be registered as a “RV-Titled” recreational vehicle.

CALCULATING THE RV TAX

The following scale is used to calculate the taxes. Age Prior to the Calendar Year of Registration Tax Calculation:
➢ 5 years or less $70.00 plus $.90 per 100 pounds of weight
➢ 6 years to 10 years $50.00 plus $.70 per 100 pounds of weight
➢ 11 years or more $30.00 plus $.50 per 100 pounds of weight
➢ 1981 & older models $30.00 flat rate (do not add for weight)

The weight used to calculate the taxes for RV-titled vehicles is the “curb weight” or “shipping weight”. The Manufacturer’s Certificate of Origin (MCO) typically lists the shipping weight. The GVW (gross vehicle weight), cannot be used to calculate RV-titled vehicle taxes. If the shipping weight is not reflected on the MCO or the title, the vehicle must be weighed on a certified scale and the taxpayer must provide a certified weight ticket showing the weight of the vehicle.

If the vehicle cannot be weighed and an accurate weight is not available, the N.A.D.A. Recreational Vehicle Appraisal Guide may be used. The weight listed in the N.A.D.A Guide is the unloaded weight of the vehicle up to 9,999 lbs. Vehicles with an unloaded weight of 10,000 lbs. or more are reflected in the N.A.D.A. Guide with an erroneous weight of 9,999 lbs. As a result, the N.A.D.A. Guide should not be used for RVs listed with a weight of 9,999 lbs. (10,000 lbs. or more). The N.A.D.A. Recreational Appraisal Guide also does not list weights for motor homes. Another resource that may be used to find the weight of a RV (including some motor homes) is the Recreational Vehicle Blue Book.

TRAILERS AS RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

Trailers that meet the classification of recreational vehicles, regardless of weight, must be titled and registered. There is no optional exception for RV trailers under 2,000 pounds.

Trailers which are Recreational Vehicles do not qualify to be registered under the Five-Year Registration Program due to the annual taxation requirement.

SHIPPING WEIGHT

If a current title of recreational vehicle does not reflect a
correct shipping weight, (the title is not branded as Recreational Vehicle or is an out-of-state title) the owner must have the RV weighed at a certified weight scale. For new RV’s using a Manufacturer’s Statement of Origin (MSO), Manufacturer’s Certificate of Origin (MCO) as the ownership document, use the listed empty weight from the MSO/MCO.

**REGISTRATION**

Recreational vehicles are REGISTERED BY VEHICLE TYPE and can be issued any type of license plate (registration type) for which the vehicle type qualifies. The only changes for the recreational vehicle are the renewal period for heavy trucks, buses and trailers, and the property taxes which are due based on age and empty weight at registration.

Speciality plates (National Guard, Veteran, Ex-POW, Personalized, etc.) can be issued to a recreational vehicle that is a vehicle type of auto, light truck or heavy truck, up to 20M. Trailers that qualify as Recreational Vehicle can be issued the speciality plate types of Veteran and In God We Trust.

An “RV” decal will be issued for all recreational vehicles. The decal will be located on the lower right side of the license plate.

Regular vehicle registration fees will be charged in addition to the RV tax fees on a recreational vehicle. Recreational vehicles, regardless of vehicle type (light truck, heavy trucks or trailers) are registered under the staggered tag and tax statute, KSA 79-5101 through 5108. Recreational vehicles with a vehicle type of heavy truck or trailer **MUST** be registered with a registration weight that will cover the vehicles actual gross operating weight. A recreational vehicle that is a semi-truck (heavy truck) must be registered at a weight that will cover the gross weight of the semi and any trailer and load that may be in tow*.

The gross weight of a trailer that meets and is titled as RV’s is **NOT** to be factored into the registration weight of the towing vehicle.

* **Semi trucks that are classed as RV’s cannot be registered as auto. They must be registered as truck tractors, minimum of 24M.**
REFUNDS

Refunds will be processed in the same manner as vehicles on the staggered system, however, only the unused portion of taxes remaining in the registration year will be refunded. UNUSED RECREATIONAL TRAILER REGISTRATION FEES WILL NOT BE REFUNDED. If an owner has established residence in another state, unused taxes will be refunded provided proper documentation is submitted (registration in new state and copy of new valid driver’s license and surrender of the Kansas plates). No amount less than $5.00 will be refunded.

REMOWING THE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE BRANDING FROM THE TITLE

Changes from recreational vehicle back to a regular auto or truck will require a title change. An affidavit by the owner or owners will also be required. Affidavit must state that vehicle no longer qualifies as a recreational vehicle.
RECREATIONAL VEHICLE

AUG. 2013; NEW

PROCEDURE

The procedure for Recreational Vehicles is accomplished in DMVS Transactions by selecting the “Usage” of Recreational Vehicle Within Each Transaction for an Eligible Vehicle.

For RV Titled records converted into DMVS it will be necessary for the system user to select the Usage of Recreational Vehicle in the Registration Renewal Transaction.

If a RV titled vehicle converted as a title only it would be necessary for the system user to select the Recreational Vehicle usage in the Update Registration transaction.

For all qualified Recreational Vehicles being titled or re-titled in DMVS, the selection of Recreational Vehicle as usage is required in order for the correct calculation of property tax to be made by the applicable weight and age rules, the correct staggered registration period to be selected for the transaction, and the correct RV notation to appear on the new title document.