

FAQs Regarding Motor Vehicle Excise

1. Why am I still getting an excise tax bill when I no longer have that car?

You must always either transfer or cancel your plates when you no longer have a vehicle. As long as your plate is active you will receive an excise tax bill.

REMEMBER: It is important that the bill for a vehicle you no longer own should NOT BE IGNORED. Interest and fees may accumulate and result in non-renewal of license and/or registration.

2. When am I entitled to an excise tax abatement?

You are entitled to an abatement on your excise tax when you either cancel your plates or transfer your plates to a new vehicle. The Assessors Office requires that you present either a cancel plate receipt or a copy of the new registration as proof for an abatement to be granted. If the plate is lost, you must file for a lost plate receipt ([Form C19](#)).

REMEMBER: Excise bills are prorated by the month, thus the owner is responsible for the excise tax accrued through the month to which the car was last registered to him/her.

3. Who is entitled to an excise tax exemption?

Chapter 60A, Section 1 of the Massachusetts General Laws provide excise tax exemptions for vehicles owned by certain disabled individuals and veterans, ex-prisoners of war and their surviving spouses and certain charitable organizations. Please contact our office for further details on eligibility.