

[LTO MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. AHS-2008-953, March 14, 2008]

PROHIBITION AGAINST ASSIGNMENT AND STAMPING OF NEW ENGINE NUMBER, REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES WITH DEFACED ENGINE NUMBER OR UNNUMBERED ENGINE BLOCK, AND STAMPING OF ADDITIONAL CHARACTER TO AN ENGINE'S SERIAL NUMBER IN DUPLICATION TO THE ONE ALREADY REGISTERED OR REPORTED

Section 5(d), Article 1, Chapter II "Registration of Motor Vehicles" of the Republic Act 4136 which states that:

Change of motor number prohibited - No repair or change in the motor vehicle involving the exchange, elimination, effacing, or replacing of the original or registered serial or motor number as stamped or imprinted, shall be allowed, and any motor vehicle with a trace of having its motor number altered or tampered will shall be refused registration or re-registration, unless such is satisfactorily explained and approved by the Commissioner (now the Assistant Secretary)- (emphasis supplied)

was amended by Batas Pambansa Bilang 74, which provides that:

Unless satisfactorily explained to and approved by the Director of Land Transportation (now Assistant Secretary), no repair involving the restoration of the original or registered serial number as stamped on the engine shall be allowed. No change involving an alteration of or tampering with the original or registered engine serial number of a motor vehicle shall ever be allowed, and any motor vehicle with a trace of having its engine serial number altered or tampered with shall be refused registration or re-registration, (underscoring supplied)

In view of the above-cited provisions of the law, the following guidelines are hereby promulgated;

1. Assigning and stamping of new serial number to a defaced engine or motor is prohibited;
2. No registration or re-registration shall be allowed to a motor vehicle with a trace of having its engine serial-number altered or tampered.
3. No registration, re-registration, or processing of stock reporting shall be allowed to an engine whose serial number does not include its model/series e.g. 7K-12345 (7K is the engine's model/series which also identifies the engine's manufacturer);
4. Restoration of the original or registered serial number of the engine shall only be allowed if the request for such is properly supported with the necessary documents