

**CHAPTER 14**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL INSIGNIA  
DECALS FOR VEHICLE RESTORATION**

**REVISED DECEMBER 2025**

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## CHAPTER 14

### USE OF OFFICIAL CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL INSIGNIA DECALS FOR VEHICLE RESTORATION

#### 1. GENERAL.

- a. Many vehicle enthusiasts desire to restore early model departmental vehicles to their original condition and appearance to create exhibition vehicles or show cars resembling official departmental vehicles. People often want to use the official CHP insignia decals to make these vehicles more authentic. This policy applies to vehicles registered prior to 1979 and other vehicles.
- b. The Commissioner's Office must approve the use of any official CHP insignia decals. Departmental employees will monitor the use of official insignia decals bearing the Department's name and logos to ensure they are being used in a manner consistent with the Department's organizational values. If employees discover Department decals are being used in a manner inconsistent with the Department's organizational values, departmental employees will notify Community Outreach and Marketing Section (COMS) to address the inconsistent use with the vehicle owner.
- c. Official CHP insignia decals must not be used to depict a departmental policy or procedure violation or any unlawful, immoral, racist, sexist, or reckless act. The Department has the exclusive rights to these trademarks.
- d. California Vehicle Codes (CVC) 27605 and 27606 generally make it unlawful to own or operate a vehicle in a manner that resembles a vehicle used by a peace officer for law enforcement purposes, except in specific and limited circumstances.
- e. Both the CVC and Department policies and procedures will govern the policy contained in this chapter.

2. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to establish departmental policy governing the use of official CHP insignia decals in the authentic restoration or reproduction of CHP patrol vehicles. This chapter aims to provide the information and procedures necessary to ensure the proper protocol is followed for the acquisition of insignia decals.

3. POLICY. The use of official CHP insignia decals is authorized at the discretion of the Commissioner and only under the following conditions:

- a. The decals may only be used for the purpose of authentic reproduction or restoration of early model CHP patrol vehicles.
- b. Vehicles bearing official CHP insignia decals shall only be utilized in compliance with Sections 27605 and 27606 CVC.
- c. All CHP-restored vehicles shall be towed when on the roadway and when not complying with Sections 27605 and 27606 CVC. All CHP insignia, lights, and equipment shall be covered when the vehicle is transported on the streets or highways.
- d. Officers considering and/or approving vehicles to be restored shall ensure that the vehicle and its registered owner fully comply with Sections 27605 and 27606 CVC.

#### 4. PROCEDURES.

- a. The COMS is responsible for ensuring that official insignia decals bearing the Department's name and logos are used in a manner consistent with the organizational values established and supported by the Department (refer to General Order 0.1, Departmental Mission Statement, and Organizational Values).
- b. Any employee who receives a request for official insignia decals shall refer the requester (registered owner) to COMS. Requests sent to COMS shall be in writing and from the vehicle's registered owner.
- c. Upon receiving a written request, COMS shall ensure that the vehicle and registered owner meet all the requirements under Sections 27605 and 27606 CVC. If approved, this request shall be submitted through channels via CHP 51WP, Confidential Memorandum, to the Commissioner's office. If denied, the COMS commander shall draft a denial letter to the requester explaining the reasons (refer to Annex B).
- d. If approved by the Commissioner's office, COMS will draft a cover letter (refer to Annex C), along with the CHP 404, Permission to Use Official CHP Vehicle Insignia Decals for Vehicle Restoration, informing the registered owner of the prerequisites and procedures for obtaining CHP vehicle decals from the local CHP Area office. Community Outreach and Marketing Section shall also provide the registered owner with General Order 0.1, along with the definitions of California Vehicle Codes 27605 and 27606. The registered owner shall only work with one CHP Area office during this process, and the vehicle shall be fully restored before obtaining the requested CHP vehicle decals. The registered owner shall ensure that the vehicle to be restored will comply with all applicable laws and CHP policy. They shall sign the CHP 404 and ensure it is returned to the CHP Area office with which

they are working. If approved, the CHP Area commander will sign the CHP 404 and ensure the original is returned to COMS.

e. Once the vehicle restoration is completed, not including the CHP decals, the registered owner will contact the local CHP Area office and arrange an inspection of the restored vehicle.

f. The Area Public Information Officer shall inspect the vehicle and ensure the following:

1. The vehicle conforms to all requirements for restored law enforcement vehicles in Sections 27605 and 27606 CVC.
2. The vehicle has valid registration, and the requester, as identified in the CHP 404, is the registered owner.
3. The owner has a valid driver's license.
4. The owner understands and fully complies with the CHP 404 terms and conditions.
5. The vehicle restoration is complete and at an acceptable level to be viewed by the public.

g. If the vehicle complies with applicable laws and CHP policy, the Area office will photograph the vehicle's front, back, driver, and passenger sides, and forward the photographs to COMS for review.

h. If approved, COMS will forward the photographs and the original CHP 404 through channels to the Commissioner's office for review and approval.

i. If the vehicle to be restored is not approved, COMS will inform the Area office of the discrepancies and continue working with the CHP office Area representative to address all issues before approval.

j. The original CHP 404 containing all signatures will be filed at COMS, and a copy will be sent to the original Area office for their records. The original Area office shall hold the completed CHP 404 until final approval of the fully restored vehicle is obtained, with decals applied. Both COMS and the originating Area office shall retain their respective copies for the life of the decal.

k. The original Area office will request and provide the agreed-upon decals to the vehicle's registered owner. Once the decals have been applied, the registered

owner shall arrange a final vehicle inspection before receiving a copy of the signed CHP 404.

l. If approved, the CHP Area office shall take photographs of the completed vehicle's front, back, driver, and passenger sides, and forward the copies to COMS for their review and records. The Area office shall hold the completed CHP 404 until they have verified approval from COMS that the vehicle meets all acceptable standards. Only then may an Area office give the signed copy of the CHP 404 to the registered owner to keep in a secure area of the restored vehicle.

m. In addition to maintaining a file of all approved CHP 404s and photographs, COMS shall maintain a current roster including the current name, driver's license number, address, and phone number of all individuals who have been issued decals under this policy.

n. Violations of the terms specified on the CHP 404 will be referred to the CHP Area office nearest to where the vehicle is believed to be stored for investigation and/or prosecution.

NOTE: Official CHP insignia decals will remain the property of the CHP. Further, CHP reserves the right to confiscate and remove the decals should it be determined the insignia decals are being used in violation of applicable statutory provisions, including, but not limited, to Sections 27604, 27605, and 27606 CVC, provisions of the CHP 404, and/or are being used negatively or inappropriately. Violation of the CVCs listed above are infractions punishable by fine.

## 5. DISPLAY OF VEHICLE AT SPECIAL EVENTS.

a. Under no circumstances shall the vehicle be used at or in conjunction with an event where one reasonably assumes that CHP supports or endorses a political or social cause that is not directly related to the mission of CHP.

b. The Area commander is responsible for approving or denying requests to display said vehicle at special events. Upon receiving written request from the registered owner to attend event, the Area commander shall request additional information regarding event such as, but not limited to, flyers, invitations, and social media advertisements to ensure the venue conforms with the Department's Mission Statement and Organizational Values. Additionally, the Area commander shall ensure the registered owner understands the terms and conditions listed on the CHP 404.

- c. The Area commander is responsible for notifying their Division when approval to display said vehicle is granted or denied.
- d. Departmental employees are not to operate these vehicles.
- e. The vehicle may occasionally be utilized for CHP special events if the registered owner is available and willing to transport the vehicle.
  - 1. The commander shall make the inquiry, in writing, to the registered owner, establishing why the vehicle is needed for the event.
  - 2. The commander shall provide the event name, location, date, duration, and expected audience to the registered owner.
  - 3. The Department will not transport or compensate the registered owner for transporting the vehicle to any event.

6. VEHICLE OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

- a. The registered vehicle owner is responsible for being familiar with and fully compliant with Sections 27605 and 27606 CVC, and the CHP 404. Official CHP insignia decals will remain the property of the CHP. Failure to follow these laws and CHP policy will result in the removal and confiscation of CHP decals.
- b. If the registered owner violates the terms agreed upon on the CHP 404 and has failed to comply with CHP requests to remedy the matter, they will be sent a Cease and Desist Letter (refer to Annex B). This letter will direct the registered owner to remove all CHP insignia from the vehicle, to make arrangements with the local CHP Area office to have the vehicle inspected for removal verification, and to return the insignia.
- c. If the registered owner has a change of address, they shall inform COMS immediately and forward a copy of the new vehicle registration to COMS.

7. CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP.

- a. If the registered owner sells or transfers the restored CHP vehicle, they must inform COMS of their intention.
- b. The COMS will contact the current registered owner and request the following information: name, address, and phone number of the intended purchaser/new owner. Additionally, COMS will inform the current registered owner that the vehicle shall not be transferred to a new owner until a new CHP 404 is completed and

signed by the CHP Commissioner. If the original owner does not comply with this procedure, they shall remove all CHP decals from the vehicle and return them to their local CHP Area office before transferring the vehicle to another party.

c. The COMS will contact the intended purchaser and follow the above procedures, not including the steps for obtaining CHP decals if decals are to be left on the vehicle (see paragraph 4. of this manual).

d. If decals are removed from the vehicle before transfer, COMS will work with the new owner to complete the CHP 404 and obtain new decals for the restored vehicle by following the above-mentioned procedures (see paragraph 4. of this manual).

## ANNEX A

### CHP 404, PERMISSION TO USE OFFICIAL CHP INSIGNIA DECALS FOR VEHICLE RESTORATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

#### PERMISSION TO USE OFFICIAL CHP VEHICLE INSIGNIA DECALS FOR VEHICLE RESTORATION

CHP 404 (Rev. 12-25) CPI 035

New Request  Transfer of Vehicle

I, John Otto, (*Registered Owner*), request permission from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to use an official set of CHP vehicle insignia decals to ensure authentic restoration or reproduction of the CHP patrol vehicle listed below. I understand the completed, restored vehicle shall not be operated until I receive a copy of this form signed by the Commissioner of the CHP.

Upon request, I agree to provide the following documentation to the CHP:

- Copies of the vehicle registration and a valid driver license.
- A photograph of the vehicle's front, rear, driver, and passenger sides to be restored.
- An original letter on official letterhead showing affiliation with one of the agencies listed in Section 27604 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC).

Upon approval, I agree to adhere to the following policies. If at any time it is determined that I do not adhere to these policies, I understand the CHP has the authority to cancel my permission to utilize the CHP vehicle insignia decals, and the CHP may request their return.

- The CHP commander at the nearest Area office will be informed of the vehicle's location, and the vehicle may occasionally be utilized for CHP special events if the registered owner is available and willing to transport the vehicle to the event.
- The vehicle is only to be utilized in compliance with Sections 26704, 27605 and 27606 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) and policy contained in Highway Patrol Manual 22.8, Community Outreach Manual, Chapter 14, Use of Official California Highway Patrol Insignia Decals for Vehicle Restoration.
- The CHP commander at the nearest area office shall be informed in advance when the vehicle will be utilized for public events.
- All CHP insignias, lights, and equipment will be completely covered when the vehicle is transported on the streets or highways.
- The CHP commander at the nearest Area office shall be informed if the vehicle becomes inoperable.
- Any changes in vehicle ownership will result in the revocation of the permission granted for using CHP vehicle insignia decals. Upon change of ownership, the registered owner shall contact and inform Community Outreach and Marketing Section (COMS) of the intent to change ownership of the vehicle and shall furnish COMS with the name, address, and phone number of the intended person to take ownership of the vehicle.
- If the vehicle is transferred to a new party, the vehicle shall not be operated until a new CHP 404 is completed, with the current registered owner's information, and signed by the current CHP Commissioner.
- The vehicle will always be used in a manner consistent with promoting a positive image of the CHP and shall be maintained in excellent condition.
- A copy of this form shall always be carried in a secure location of the restored CHP vehicle. If this form is misplaced, the owner shall immediately contact COMS and request a new copy.
- Upon complete restoration of the vehicle (CHP vehicle insignia decals applied), a photograph of the vehicle's front, rear, driver, and passenger side shall be furnished to the CHP Area office before the vehicle's registered owner receives approval of this request. The restored vehicle shall not be utilized before receiving the approved CHP 404, signed by the Commissioner.

*NOTE: Official CHP insignia decals will remain the property of the CHP. Further, the CHP reserves the right to confiscate and remove the decals should it be determined the insignia decals are being used in violation of applicable statutory provisions, including but not limited to Sections 27604, 27605, and 27606 of the CVC, provisions of the CHP 404, and/or are being used negatively or inappropriately.*

**ILLEGAL USE OF THE RESTORED VEHICLE AND/OR THE CHP INSIGNIA DECALS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED AND MAY RESULT IN CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.**



**ANNEX B**  
**DENIAL LETTER**



**CALIFORNIA  
HIGHWAY PATROL**

601 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA 95811 |  
800-735-2929 (TT/TDD)  
800-735-2922 (Voice)

CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

December 13, 2025

File No.: 035.18169.A15129.2025-01051

Mr. John Doe  
ABC Designs  
123 Ranch Road  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Doe:

We would like to thank you for your correspondence and recent request to use the California Highway Patrol logo on your 1993 Jeep Cherokee. After careful review of the project the Department must respectfully deny your request. Should you have any questions, please contact the Community Outreach and Marketing Section at (916)843-3210.

Sincerely,

B. A. HARDCASTLE, Captain  
Commander  
Community Outreach and Marketing Section

*Safety, Service, and Security*

CHP 49 (Rev 4-25) OP1003



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**ANNEX C**  
**COVER LETTER**



**CALIFORNIA  
HIGHWAY PATROL**

601 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA 95811 |  
800-735-2929 (TT/TDD)  
800-735-2922 (Voice)

CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

December 13, 2025

File No.: 035.18169.A15129.2025-01051

Mr. John Doe  
ABC Designs  
123 Ranch Road  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Doe:

We would like to thank you for your correspondence and recent request to use the California Highway Patrol logo on your 1993 Jeep Cherokee. Please complete the attached CHP 404. After careful review of the project, you will be notified of a decision granting or denying your request. Should you have any questions, please contact the Community Outreach and Marketing Section at (916)843-3210.

Sincerely,

B. A. HARDCASTLE, Captain  
Commander  
Community Outreach and Marketing Section

*Safety, Service, and Security*  
CHP 49 (Rev 4-25) OPI003



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## ANNEX D

### CEASE AND DESIST LETTER



**CALIFORNIA  
HIGHWAY PATROL**

601 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA 95811 |  
800-735-2929 (TT/TDD)  
800-735-2922 (Voice)

CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

December 13, 2025

File No.: 035.18169.A15129.2025-01051

Mr. John Doe  
ABC Designs  
123 Ranch Road  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Doe:

The Department of California Highway Patrol ("Department" or "CHP") owns the CHP Insignia you were granted permission to affix to your restored vehicle. You violated the terms agreed upon on the CHP 404 and have failed to comply with CHP requests to remedy the matter. As a result, you are required to remove all CHP insignia from your vehicle, arrange a meeting with your local Area CHP office to verify removal, and return the CHP insignia.

Failure to comply with direction above will result in a citation for violating California Vehicle Code sections 27605 and 27606, both infractions.

If you have any questions, please direct them to the Community Outreach and Marketing Section at (916)843-3210.

Sincerely,

B. A. HARDCASTLE, Captain  
Commander  
Community Outreach and Marketing Section

*Safety, Service, and Security*

CHP 49 (Rev 4-25) OPI003

AN INTERNATIONALLY  
ACCREDITED AGENCY 

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