

Grace period for unregistered vehicles in Dubai extended

RTA has extended the grace period for another three months for writing off vehicles with registration expiry of more than two years

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Dubai: Motorists will face heavy penalties and risk having their vehicles confiscated if they fail to renew their vehicles' registration within two years after the registration has expired, the Roads and Transport Authority said.

The Dubai Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has extended the grace period until January 1, 2011 to allow motorists to renew their vehicle's registration if it expired less than two years ago.

The previous deadline was October 1.

The three-month extension to the grace period was granted to motorists on the instructions of Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the RTA.

"Failure to meet the deadline of the extended grace period will lead to writing off vehicles with registrations that have been expired for two years," said Ahmad Hashim Behroozian, CEO of the RTA's Licensing Agency.

There are now more than 100,000 vehicles with expired registrations compared to 80,000 last year. There are 1.1 million registered vehicles in Dubai.

Non-existent

He said that "writing off" vehicles meant that traffic files would be closed with the RTA and those vehicles would become non-existent in the RTA's records.

"Such vehicles will be confiscated and motorists will be fined if found driving on the road," he added.

Behroozian said drivers currently faced fines and temporary confiscation of their vehicles if they drove a car with an expired registration.

But the punishment would be higher if a car's records were wiped out by the RTA.

"Failure to have a vehicle [registered], which is constantly being used, fully checked up for two years or more makes it an unsafe means of mobility and accordingly poses a danger to the driver, passengers and goods on board, besides constituting a serious hazard to other road users," said Behroozian in a statement released by the RTA.

He said by taking this action, the RTA was targeting the large proportion of motorists who did not bother to renew their vehicle registration, even if it had expired a long time ago.

"The law allows us to write off a vehicle's records after one year if the registration is not renewed," he said.

"However, we are being lenient and asking drivers whose vehicle registrations expired two or more years ago, and giving them until the end of October to renew the registration before we start writing them off."

Car town: Delinquents on the road

- January 1 - New deadline for registration of vehicles with expired permits
- 100,000 - estimated number of vehicles with expired registration

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