

761—400.13(321) Bond required before title issued. An applicant for a certificate of title who cannot provide the supporting documents required in rule 400.4(321) shall be required to file a bond as a condition to obtaining a title and registration plates.

400.13(1) Procedures. This subrule describes the procedures to be followed to obtain a “bonded” certificate of title. The procedures described are in addition to the regular procedures for titling and registering a vehicle.

a. The applicant shall submit a bond application to the office of vehicle services on a form prescribed by the department. The application shall be accompanied by a copy of the written ownership document received at the time the vehicle was acquired.

b. The department shall search the state files to determine if there is an owner of record for the vehicle and if the vehicle has been reported stolen or embezzled.

(1) If a record is found, the applicant shall complete a request for release of personal information form explaining that the applicant is the current owner and is requesting a duplicate title. The department shall mail the release by first-class mail to the owner of record, at the owner’s last-known address.

(2) If the department receives no response from the owner of record within ten days after the date of mailing or the owner of record does not want the owner’s personal information released, the department will continue processing the bond application.

c. If the department determines that the applicant has complied with this rule, that there is sufficient evidence to indicate that the applicant is the rightful owner, and that there is no known unsatisfied security interest, the department shall determine the current value of the vehicle and notify the applicant to deposit cash or file a surety bond with the department in an amount equal to one and one-half times the current value of the vehicle.

d. After the cash deposit or surety bond has been deposited, a motor vehicle investigator of the department shall examine the vehicle to verify the information submitted on the application is correct. After verifying the information, the investigator shall give to the applicant a document authorizing the county treasurer to issue a title for and register the vehicle. Should the vehicle not meet the equipment requirements of Iowa Code chapter 321, the investigator shall authorize the county treasurer to issue a title and registration but instruct the county treasurer to immediately suspend the registration until such time as the vehicle meets these equipment requirements. If applicable, the investigator shall also affix an assigned identification number to the vehicle and give to the applicant an assigned vehicle identification number (VIN) form.

e. The applicant shall then submit the authorization document and, if applicable, the VIN form to the county treasurer and make application for a certificate of title and registration.

400.13(2) Disapproval. If the department determines that the applicant has not complied with this rule, that there is sufficient evidence to indicate that the applicant may not be the rightful owner, or that there is an unsatisfied security interest, then the department shall not authorize issuance of a certificate of title or registration receipt and shall notify the applicant in writing of the reason(s).

400.13(3) Junked vehicle. A certificate of title shall not be reinstated for a vehicle that has been issued a junking certificate unless the junking certificate was issued in error, as explained in rule 400.23(321), or the vehicle qualifies as an antique vehicle under Iowa Code subsection 321.115(1).

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 321.24 and 321.52.