

How to fill out REG 256 — Statement of Facts

sellmycarhub.com

California · written against REG 256 (Rev 8/2008), issued under California Vehicle Code 4750.5, 9257 and Revenue /forms/california/reg-256-statement-of-facts/ and Taxation Code 6285

One sheet of tick-box declarations covering the things a transfer needs explaining. For a private seller two sections matter: A, which claims the use tax exemption on a family transfer or a gift, and B, which claims the smog exemption. The rest of the form is for other situations entirely.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank REG 256 from the California Department of Motor Vehicles at <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/file/statement-of-facts-reg-256-pdf/> — always take the current revision from the agency rather than a copy. Print this and keep it beside you while you complete theirs.

Every line, in the order you meet it

1	YOU	The vehicle strip	Plate or CF number, VIN and year/make, at the top of each page you use. Watch out: The instruction at the head of the form is to complete the appropriate sections in full including the vehicle description. A section without it is not usable.
2	YOU	Section A, family transfer	Tick it where the car is moving between a parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, spouse, domestic partner, or siblings who are both minors related by blood or adoption. Watch out: That list is closed. An aunt, an uncle, a cousin, and adult siblings are all outside it, however much it feels like a family transfer.
3	YOU	Section A, gift	For a genuine gift with nothing given in return. Watch out: The form's own parenthesis excludes vehicles traded between individuals, transfers of contracts and other valuable consideration. If money moved, this is not the box.
4	YOU	Current market value	A dollar figure under section A. Watch out: Required even on a gift, and it is the number the exemption is measured against. It also cannot be claimed at all where the relative sells that kind of vehicle for a living.
5	YOU	Section B, smog exemption	Why no smog certificate is attached - a certification obtained in the last 90 days, an electric or diesel vehicle, a car outside California, or one of the listed relationships. Watch out: Every one of the relationship options carries an asterisk meaning it still needs a certificate if biennial smog is due. And Nevada and Mexico are named exceptions to the outside-California box.
6	YOU	Section C, transfer only or title only	For a car that has not been driven, moved, towed or left standing on a California highway. Watch out: Ticking it certifies exactly that. Do not use it to dodge a fee on a car that has been on the road - it is a statement of fact under penalty of perjury.
7	YOU	Section D, window decal	Wheelchair lift and carrier decals. Watch out: Nothing to do with a sale. Left empty.
8	YOU	Sections E and F on side two	Market value, cost of changes, and the boxes for a change of unladen weight, motive power, body type or number of axles. Watch out: These are for a vehicle that has been altered, not sold. Skip them unless something on the car has actually changed.
9	YOU	Section G, name statements	One and the same person, a misspelled name, or a change of name. Watch out: Useful when the title spells your name differently from your licence - which is a surprisingly common reason a transfer stalls.
10	YOU	The undersigned states	A large free-text block for anything the tick boxes do not cover. Watch out: Write in plain sentences. Whoever reads it is deciding whether to accept the transaction on the strength of it.
11	YOU	Section H, printed name	Last, first and middle name, with an area code and phone number. Watch out: One signature block covers every section you completed, whichever page they were on.
12	YOU	Section H, signature and date	Sign and date, under penalty of perjury. Watch out: The form tells you to sign section H and nowhere else. An unsigned statement of facts states nothing.

What gets this one rejected

- Claiming the family exemption for an aunt, uncle, cousin, niece or nephew. The list on the form is closed, and adult siblings are not on it either.
- Claiming a family use tax exemption where the relative sells that kind of vehicle for a living. The note under section A blocks it explicitly.
- Ticking gift where money or a trade changed hands. The form's own parenthesis excludes vehicles traded between individuals, transfers of contracts, and other valuable consideration.
- Ticking one of the asterisked smog relationships when biennial smog is due anyway.
- Ticking a box in section B for a car outside California when it is in Nevada or Mexico - the form names both as exceptions.
- Completing a section and forgetting section H. An unsigned statement of facts states nothing.

☐ Amber is what you write ☐ Grey is a block somebody else completes The completed example follows overleaf.

Read off REG 256 (Rev 8/2008) and the California Department of Motor Vehicles's own pages, current as of 2026-08-23. Plain-language help with a sellmycarhub.com form, not legal advice — where this and the agency differ, the agency governs.



STATEMENT OF FACTS

Complete the appropriate section(s) in full (including vehicle description) and sign Section H.

LICENSE PLATE/CF NUMBER	VEHICLE/VESSEL ID NUMBER	YEAR/MAKE
7BXX492	4S4BRBCC1D3241785	2013 Subaru

A. STATEMENT FOR USE TAX EXEMPTION

This transfer is exempt from use tax because it is a:

- ☒ Family transfer sold between a parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, spouse, domestic partner, or siblings (if both are minors related by blood or adoption).
- ☐ Addition or deletion of family member (spouse, domestic partner, parent[s], son/daughter, grandparents, grandchildren).
- ☐ Gift (does not include vehicles traded between individuals, transfer of contracts or other valuable consideration).
- ☐ Court Order ☐ Inheritance

NOTE: The Use Tax Exemption cannot be claimed if the vehicle/vessel being transferred was purchased from an otherwise qualifying relative who is engaged in the business of selling the same type of vehicle/vessel.

The current market value is: \$ 6,850 .

B. STATEMENT FOR SMOG EXEMPTION

The vehicle does not require a smog certification for transfer of ownership because:

- ☒ The last smog certification was obtained within the last 90 days.
- ☐ It is powered by: ☐ electricity ☐ diesel ☐ Other .
- ☐ It is located outside the State of California. (Exception: Nevada and Mexico)
- ☐ It is being transferred from/between:
- ☐ The parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother, sister, spouse, or domestic partner (as defined in Family Code §297) of the transferee.*
 - ☐ A sole proprietorship to the proprietor as owner.*
 - ☐ Companies whose principal business is leasing vehicles. There is no change in lessee or operator.*
 - ☐ Lessor and lessee of vehicle, and no change in the lessee or operator of the vehicle.*
 - ☐ Lessor and person who has been lessee's operator of the vehicle for at least one year.*
 - ☐ Individual(s) being added as registered owner(s).*

* Does not require smog certification unless Biennial Smog is required.

C. STATEMENT FOR TRANSFER ONLY OR TITLE ONLY

This vehicle has not been used or parked on a street or highway or off-highway. I am applying for a:

- ☐ Transfer Only ☐ Title Only

The vehicle is not currently registered. It has not been driven, moved, towed, or left standing on any California public highway to cause registration fees to become due. It was not transported over any California public highway or operated within California to cause off-highway fees to become due. Appropriate registration will be obtained before the vehicle is operated.

D. WINDOW DECAL FOR WHEELCHAIR LIFT OR WHEELCHAIR CARRIER

Enter your Disabled Person License Plate, or Disabled Veteran License Plate, or Permanent Disabled Person Parking Placard number below:

DISABLED PERSON PLATE	DISABLED VETERAN PLATE	PERMANENT DISABLED PERSON PLACARD

The vehicle to which my Window Decal will be affixed is:

LICENSE NUMBER	VEHICLE MAKE	VEHICLE ID NUMBER

Mail to:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP



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E. STATEMENT FOR VEHICLE BODY CHANGE (OWNERSHIP CERTIFICATE REQUIRED)

The current market value of the vehicle or vessel is: \$.

Changes were made at a cost of \$ on this date .

This is what I changed: **Check all that apply:**

- ☐ Unladen Weight changed because (Public Weighmaster Certificate is required. Exception: Trailers)
- ☐ Motive Power changed from to .
- ☐ Body Type changed from to .
- ☐ Number of Axles changed from to .

F. NAME STATEMENT (OWNERSHIP CERTIFICATE REQUIRED)

Please print

- ☐ I, and are one and the same person.
- ☐ My name is misspelled. Please correct it to: .
- ☐ I am changing my name from to .

G. STATEMENT OF FACTS

I, the undersigned, state:

H. APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

PRINTED LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER
RAMAN	PRIYA	N	(510) 555-0148
SIGNATURE			DATE
X Priya Raman			08/19/2026



Print

Clear Form

REG 256 (REV. 8/2008) www