

How to fill out MV20 — Level 1 Vehicle/OHV Identification Number Inspection

Montana · written against MV20 (12/24), issued under prescribed by the Motor Vehicle Division; certified by the inspecting officer under MCA 45-7-203

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Montana runs no emissions programme and no periodic safety inspection, so this is the only inspection in the titling system - and it inspects the number, not the car. A law enforcement officer physically compares the VIN on the vehicle against the ownership paperwork and certifies where they found it and what they found it on. An ordinary sale between two Montanans on an existing Montana title never triggers one. It comes out for vehicles arriving from another state or country, for break/bond applications on a vehicle ten years old or newer, for a rebuilt salvage vehicle going back on the road, and any time a county or the division wants a number verified.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank MV20 from the Montana Department of Justice, Motor Vehicle Division, Vehicle Services Bureau at <https://mvdmt.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/MV20-1.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	Section 1: the applicant's half	Plate, expiration date, state of registration, and the owner's name and address. Watch out: Write N/A rather than leaving anything blank. On a vehicle with no plate and no registration that is three N/As in a row, and the instructions ask for them.
2	VERIFIER	The number itself	The officer records the vehicle or vessel identification number after physically comparing it with the paperwork. Watch out: This is the whole transaction. If it does not match the ownership document, everything downstream stops here rather than at a county counter later.
3	VERIFIER	Where the number was, and what it was on	Step 1 describes the location; step 2 lists the identifiers - public VIN, federal standards label, firewall, NHTSA label. Watch out: Two independent identifiers are what makes an inspection persuasive. A single dash plate on a thirty-year-old vehicle often is not enough on its own.
4	VERIFIER	The officer signs and identifies their agency	Signature, date, badge number where applicable, printed name, department or agency and state. Watch out: Any law enforcement officer can do a Level 1, but the agency and badge have to be legible. An unreadable inspection is a rejected inspection, and the form has to be redone rather than corrected.

What gets this one rejected

- A blank box. The instructions say it twice: if a box has no information, you must indicate N/A in that box.
- A correction. The instructions are unforgiving - if a mistake is made, the form must be discarded and a new form used - and the manual bars a statement of fact from fixing an error on a VIN inspection.
- Missing photographs on a 1981-or-newer vehicle. Both pictures are required, printed and attached, and normal paper is acceptable if the image is readable.
- An incomplete odometer section. The instructions require it to be filled out completely, which means the odometer or kilometer tick and the digit count as well as the reading.
- An illegible form. Forms which are not complete, inaccurate, or unreadable will be rejected - the instruction page says so in those words.

☒ Amber is what you write

☐ Grey is a block somebody else completes

The completed example follows overleaf.



Level 1 Vehicle/ OHV Identification Number Inspection

Page 1 of 2

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PLEASE PRINT P.O. Box 201431 Helena, MT 59620-1431 • Phone (406) 444-3661 • Fax (406) 444-0116 • mvdtitleinfo@mt.gov • mvdmt.gov

This inspection form is needed for authenticating a vehicle's identification number for the purpose of titling the vehicle. This form is used for: This inspection may be requested by any county or the Motor Vehicle Division for any reason for verification of the vehicle.

Section 1: Must Be Completed by the Applicant

License Plate Number N/A	Expiration Date N/A	State of Registration N/A	
Owner/Applicant Name Delphine R. Kowalchuk			
Address 612 W Broadway St	City Lewistown	State MT	Zip 59457

Section 2: Must Be Completed by the Inspecting Officer

Year 1998	Make/Manufacturer Jeep	Model Cherokee Sport	Color Green	Body Style Sport Utility	Length N/A
Vehicle/Vessel Identification Number 6M3TVB4E7PN219478					

The vehicle has (check one): ☐ an odometer ☐ a kilometer

(check one): ☐ five digits ☐ six digits

213,884

Step 1: Describe where the vehicle/OHV identification number was located:

Public VIN visible through the windshield on the driver side dash; Federal Standards label on the driver door jamb

Step 2: List what Identifiers you found (Public VIN, federal standards, firewall, NHTSA, etc.):

Public VIN under windshield; federal certification label, driver door frame

Under penalty of law (§ 45-7-203, MCA), I certify that I have physically inspected this vehicle/OHV and determined that the information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Remarks (use reverse side if more space is needed):

Numbers agree. No sign of alteration to the public VIN plate or its rivets.

Signature of Inspector Cordell A. Trueblood	Date 05/26/2026	Badge Number (if applicable) 447
Printed Name of Inspector Cordell A. Trueblood	Law Enforcement Department or Agency Fergus County Sheriff's Office	State MT



Level 1 Vehicle/ OHV Identification Number Inspection Instructions

Page 2 of 2

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This inspection form is used when completing a Vehicle Identification Inspection. The following instruction will outline how to complete this form correctly.

- Section 1 must be completed by the applicant. The form allows for electronic input of information, and it is highly recommended that this be used. If a box has no information, you must indicate N/A in that box.
- For vehicles 1981 and newer - the applicant must attach a clear picture of the public VIN, found on the driver's side of the dash, viewable from the outside through the vehicle windshield. They must also have a clear picture of the Federal Standards Label found in the driver's door area. These pictures must be printed and attached to this form. The pictures may be printed on normal paper if the image is readable.
- Section 2 must be completed by the inspection officer. A Stage 1 inspection can be completed by any law enforcement officer. All fields must be filled in with the correct information and must be legible. If a mistake is made, the form must be discarded and a new form used. If a field has no information, it must indicate N/A in that box.
- Year Make/Manufacturer, Model, Color, Body Style must be completed for all vehicles being inspected. Length is used for a trailer that is being inspected.
- The odometer section must be filled out completely.
- Step 1: Describe where the identification number is located. Example: "located on the driver's side dash visible through the windshield" or "under the hood on the emissions label affixed to the radiator core support," etc.
- Step 2: The identifiers must be listed in the appropriate section. Identifiers will be what the VIN was located on. Example: public VIN under windshield, federal label on driver's door, emission label under the hood, stamped into firewall, etc.
- Any other remarks about the inspection need to be listed in the Remarks section.

The inspector must sign and print their name as well as list the date, agency, state and badge number. The inspection needs to be legible. Forms which are not complete, inaccurate, or unreadable will be rejected.