

WisDOT: License plate combinations running out, April debut expected for new license plates with seven characters

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Wisconsin Department of Transportation Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) anticipates the supply of regular Wisconsin license plates with six characters (123-ABC) will run out at the central office and new vehicle license plates with seven characters will be issued beginning mid April. Local DMVs and 3rd party vendors will continue to issue the 6-character plates until their inventory is exhausted.

“There’s been a lot of interest as we near the end of the alphabet and the license plate series,” said Jeremy Krueger, supervisor, License Plate Issuance Unit. “All of the number combinations have been used, and we needed to find a large range of plate numbers to use into the future.”

He calculated that the additional character will yield 100 million combinations; the six character plates yielded about 20 million combinations since they debuted in 1986. “This should last awhile,” he added.

The combination on the current design reversed from letters to numbers (WRZ-999 to 123-ABC) in 2000. The new configuration will return three letters beginning with AAA- then followed by four numbers (AAA-1001). The plate artwork will stay the same.