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# Govt toughens stand on high-security number plates

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From Thursday, the traffic police here would begin a crackdown on all new vehicles plying without high-security registration plates (HSRPs). Those found guilty would have to pay a stiff penalty of ₹2,000, and failure to pay the penalty may result in the vehicle being impounded.

Between May and September, about 1,62,000 new vehicles were registered in Delhi, with only about 76,000 affixing the HSRPs. As vendor Rosmerta Technologies and dealers and blame each other for delays in the affixation of HSRPs, vehicle owners suffer due to the lack of clarity in the procedure.

Sattvik Mishra, who bought a Hyundai Verna on August 7, says, "When I bought my car, I was told I would get a call from the authorities when the HSRP was ready. I waited for about one and a half months, before enquiring at the Pushp Vihar centre on Monday. The plate had been issued. If I had not checked, I would have to pay a fine of ₹2,000."

While dealers claim the transport authority has not



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PHOTO: SANJAY K SHARMA

issued the requisite number of HSRPs, vendor Rosmerta (which is mandated to manufacture the HSRPs and affixing these on vehicles) alleges vehicle distributors are not cooperating. U K Kapoor, managing director (operations), Rosmerta Technologies, says, "Previously, dealers registered vehicles for ₹500 or ₹1,000. Now that they have lost their business to us,

they are not cooperating."

According to the new norms in place since May 1, all new vehicles plying on Delhi roads have to affix HSRPs. It is mandatory for the transport authority to issue a new plate within six days of receiving a cash receipt from the dealer. However, Kapoor says often, car dealers do not send cash receipts to the manufacturing company after a

car purchase, which leads to delays in handing over high-security number plates to the authority. "They do not send cash receipts for every vehicle upon a purchase. They wait for 8-10 files to come in before coming to us," Kapoor adds.

Yesterday, at a hearing before the Delhi High Court, the state government's standing counsel, Najmi Waziri, said about 70,000

plates had already been made by the manufacturing company, while the transport authority was yet to issue those. He added the dealers concerned hadn't collect these.

After the decision to seize vehicles without HSRPs from October 1 (this was deferred to October 3), compliance has risen substantially says Kapoor. "Earlier we were affixing 500 plates a day. On September 27, this rose to 2,700." Capacity constraints have also eased over the last few months. While commencing operation on May 1, the vendor had a single outlet. Over the next 45 days, 11 additional centres were commissioned adjacent to regional transport offices. Meanwhile, the transport department is considering issuing a notification making it mandatory for dealers to hand over new vehicles affixed with high security number plates for full compliance with the HSRP initiative.

The new registration plates are meant to enhance security. These have aluminum plates to reflect light, as well as a hologram issued by the state government hot-plated into the sheet.