WAC 308-56A-210 Ownership in doubt—Bonded title or three-year registration without title. (1) **What is ownership in doubt?** Ownership in doubt is when a vehicle owner(s) is unable to obtain satisfactory evidence of ownership or releases of interest as described in WAC 308-56A-265.

(2) **What options are available in an ownership in doubt situation?** When in an ownership in doubt situation, the owner may:

(a) Apply for three-year registration without title; or

(b) Apply for a bonded title described in RCW 46.12.550; or

(c) Petition any district or superior court of any county of this state to receive a judgment awarding ownership of the vehicle. This is required if ownership of the vehicle is contested after the applicant makes application for ownership in doubt and before the three-year ownership in doubt period has lapsed.

(3) **What documents are required when applying for a bonded title or three-year registration without title?** Required documents when applying for a bonded title or three-year registration include:

(a) A bonded title or a three-year registration without title affidavit completed by the applicant and signed by all persons to be shown as a registered owner.

(b) Washington state patrol inspection, unless the vehicle is specifically exempt under subsection (4) of this section. For vehicles exempt from the Washington state patrol inspection under subsection (4) of this section, the following documents are also required:

(i) A bonded title or three-year registration without title affidavit for vehicles exempt from the Washington state patrol inspection completed and signed by a person to be shown as a registered owner; and

(ii) A legible etching or photograph of the VIN as proof of the VIN.

(c) Application for certificate of ownership (title).

(d) A bond as described in RCW 46.12.550, if the applicant is applying for a bonded title.

(e) Other documents that may be required by law or rule.

(4) **Are there exemptions from the Washington state patrol inspection?** Yes.

(a) Certain vehicles are exempt from the Washington state patrol inspection if:

(i) There is a Washington record; or

(ii) There is no Washington record, but the vehicle owner has a title or registration certificate issued by Washington or another jurisdiction.

(b) Vehicles exempt from the Washington state patrol inspection include:

(i) Mopeds;

(ii) Trailers with a scale weight less than 2,000 pounds;

(iii) Not eligible for road use (NEFRU) vehicles as defined in WAC 308-56A-500 when the model year is 10 years old or older;

(iv) Travel trailers and park model trailers when the model year is 10 years old and older;

(v) Campers when the model year is 10 years old and older;

(vi) Manufactured and mobile homes are exempt at all times.

(5) **When is a bond required?** A bond is required in ownership in doubt situations when:

(a) The applicant is a Washington state licensed vehicle dealer; or

(b) The Washington record shows there is an existing lien.

(6) **How is a vehicle value determined for filing a bond?** Vehicle value may be determined from one of the following sources:

(a) The department's automated valuing system; or

(b) A published appraisal guide; or

(c) Appraisal from a licensed vehicle dealer or appraisal company. The appraisal must be on company letterhead and have the business card attached; or

(d) Insured amount; or

(e) Consideration or payment plus estimated repairs by a bona fide mechanic; or

(f) Other valuing sources approved by the department.

(7) **May I transfer ownership on a vehicle with a bonded title or three-year registration without title?** Yes.

(a) Owners releasing interest in a vehicle with a bonded title or three-year registration without title must provide a release of interest described in WAC 308-56A-265;

(b) The new owners must submit an application for title as described in this chapter and complete the time remaining on the current ownership in doubt period.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.12.635 and 46.12.680. WSR 25-19-079, s 308-56A-210, filed 9/16/25, effective 10/17/25. Statutory Authority: RCW 46.12.635. WSR 23-23-183, § 308-56A-210, filed 11/22/23, effective 12/23/23. Statutory Authority: RCW 46.01.110. WSR 07-13-082, § 308-56A-210, filed 6/19/07, effective 7/20/07; WSR 06-22-025, § 308-56A-210, filed 10/25/06, effective 11/25/06; WSR 03-05-081, § 308-56A-210, filed 2/19/03, effective 3/22/03; WSR 99-01-014, § 308-56A-210, filed 12/7/98, effective 1/7/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250(1), 46.01.110, 46.12.151 and 46.12.380. WSR 96-03-047, § 308-56A-210, filed 1/11/96, effective 2/11/96; Order MV 208, § 308-56A-210, filed 7/31/74.]