

FORGERY OF A VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
(E Felony)
(Knowingly Destroys, etc.,
Vehicle Identification Number on Vehicle)
PENAL LAW 170.65(1)
(Committed on or After April 1, 1971)

The _____ count is Forgery of a Vehicle Identification Number.

Under our law, a person is guilty of forgery of a Vehicle Identification Number when he or she knowingly destroys, covers, defaces, alters or otherwise changes the form or appearance of a vehicle identification number on any vehicle or component part thereof, except tires.

Some of the terms used in this definition have their own special meaning in our law. I will now give you the meaning of the following terms: "knowingly" and "vehicle."

A person KNOWINGLY destroys, covers, defaces, alters, or otherwise changes the form or appearance of a vehicle identification number when that person is aware that he or she is doing so.¹

A VEHICLE means a motor vehicle [or trailer], [or semi-trailer], [or snowmobile], [or aircraft], [or any vessel equipped for propulsion by mechanical means or by sail].²

In order for you to find the defendant guilty of this crime, the People are required to prove, from all of the evidence in the case, beyond a reasonable doubt, both of the following two elements:

¹See Penal Law § 15.05(2).

²See, Penal Law §10.00(14). See also Vehicle and Traffic Law §125 for the definition of motor vehicle; VTL §156 for the definition of a trailer, VTL§143 for the definition of a semi-trailer, Parks and Recreation Law §21.05(3) for the definition of a snowmobile.

1. That on or about _____ (*date*) _____, in the county of _____ (*county*) _____, the defendant, _____ (*defendant's name*) _____, destroyed, covered, defaced, altered or otherwise changed the form or appearance of a vehicle identification number on a vehicle, or component part thereof that was not a tire; and
2. That the defendant did so knowingly.

Therefore, if you find that the People have proven beyond a reasonable doubt both of those elements, you must find the defendant guilty of the crime of Forgery of a Vehicle Identification Number as charged in the _____ count.

On the other hand, if you find that the People have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt either one or both of those elements, you must find the defendant not guilty of the crimes of Forgery of a Vehicle Identification Number as charged in the _____ count.