

FORGERY OF A VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
(Knowingly Destroys, etc.,
Vehicle Identification Number on Vehicle)
Penal Law § 170.65(1)
(Committed on or After April 1, 1971)

The (*specify*) 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.

The following terms used in that definition have a special meaning:

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:

1. That on or about _____ (*date*), in the

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.

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.

If you find the People have proven beyond a reasonable doubt both of those elements, you must find the defendant guilty of this crime.

If you find the People have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt either one or both of those elements, you must find the defendant not guilty of this crime.