

WHY DOES MY TITLE SAY “EXEMPT”?

“Exempt” means the vehicle is **not required by federal law** to have an odometer reading listed on the title. Under **49 CFR § 580.17**, vehicles that reach a certain age no longer require odometer disclosure during ownership transfers.

WHEN DOES A VEHICLE BECOME EXEMPT?

- **Model year 2010 and older:** exempt **after 10 years**
- **Model year 2011 and newer:** exempt **after 20 years**

Once a vehicle reaches that age threshold, the title will show **“Exempt”** in the odometer section.

DOES “EXEMPT” MEAN THERE’S A PROBLEM WITH THE MILEAGE?

No. “Exempt” **does not mean** the mileage is unknown, inaccurate, or altered. It simply means the vehicle is **old enough that mileage reporting is no longer required by federal law**.

IS “EXEMPT” THE SAME AS “TMU” (TRUE MILEAGE UNKNOWN)?

No — they mean very different things.

Term	Meaning	Impact
Exempt	Vehicle is legally excluded from odometer disclosure (due to age).	<i>Not a negative brand.</i> Does not affect vehicle history or valuation.
TMU (<i>True Mileage Unknown</i>)	Mileage cannot be verified as accurate.	<i>Considered a negative brand.</i> May affect valuation.

WHY DOES IT MATTER FOR RESALE OR FINANCING?

Some lenders or valuation systems may confuse **“Exempt”** with **“TMU.”** In fact, **“Exempt” is a neutral legal status and does not reduce vehicle value.** Buyers, dealers, and lenders should treat an “Exempt” title as compliant with federal odometer rules.

WHY DO SOME TITLES STILL SHOW MILEAGE?

Some states may still print mileage even on exempt titles, but **all states are required to honor the federal exemption.** The **“Exempt”** status is what legally applies.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- “Exempt” = meets the federal age exemption for odometer disclosure
- **Not** a negative brand
- **Does not** affect value or history
- Applies to **2010 and older after 10 years**, and **2011 and newer after 20 years**
- All states must **honor the federal exemption**