



403-1 Vehicles

Supersedes:	FAIM 403-1; 05/01/00
References:	ARM 37.78.102; .401;
Overview:	<p>GENERAL RULE--The equity value of all vehicles owned by filing/assistance unit members must be evaluated when determining the amount of the household's countable resources. If the title of the vehicle lists only one name, the vehicle belongs to that individual, regardless of accessibility. Leased vehicles are not owned by the individual and therefore only need to be documented.</p> <p>Vehicles which generally provide a means of transportation (e.g., boat, airplane, car, truck, motor home, motorcycle, snowmobile or three/four wheeler) are entered, even if they are not in operating condition.</p>
JOINTLY OWNED VEHICLES	If the title lists more than one name, the vehicle is considered jointly-owned. A jointly-owned vehicle is always assumed accessible to the applicant/participant unless he/she can thoroughly explain and verify why it cannot be sold.
DETERMINING ACCESSIBILITY	<p>The following guidelines should be used.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. If the applicant/participant has possession of his/her jointly-owned vehicle, the equity value is countable in full to the filing unit regardless of whether or not the other owner(s) agrees to sell the vehicle. <p>NOTE: If a jointly-owned vehicle's ownership is being considered in a legal proceeding and the owners are prohibited from selling the vehicle, it is considered inaccessible and, therefore, excluded until such time as the applicant/participant can legally sell the vehicle. (Legal prohibition includes, but is not limited to, court injunction and probate which might occur during a divorce action.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. If the individual does not have possession, he/she must demonstrate why he/she cannot access the value of the vehicle. For example, the joint-owner's location is unknown, the co-owner refuses to sell, or legal action is taken to prevent sale of the vehicle. Verification of the circumstances should be obtained, if at all possible. If the applicant/participant cannot give a thorough and convincing argument as to its accessibility, the vehicle is considered accessible and countable
DUPLICATE VEHICLE	<p>If the joint-owners of an accessible vehicle are required filing unit members, enter the vehicle information (year, make, FMV, amount owed, etc.).</p> <p>Joint-owners who are not required filing unit members. If the vehicle is considered inaccessible, the case note must include what verification was used to support inaccessibility.</p> <p>The following vehicles require verification from a knowledgeable source such as a county assessor or car dealer.</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A new vehicle which is not yet listed in the NADA guide. 2. A vehicle which is no longer listed in the NADA guide and the applicant/participant's estimate of the value is questionable. 3. The owner does not agree with the NADA guide value. 4. A vehicle is considered an antique/classic or is custom built.
EXCLUDED VEHICLES	<p>The following vehicles are considered excluded resources in the eligibility determination.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vehicles considered inaccessible 2. One vehicle being used as a home 3. Vehicles whose primary use is to produce income; e.g., taxi, semi-truck, fishing boat; 4. Vehicle previously used for self-employment; e.g., logging truck; but is no longer income producing because the participant is no longer engaged in that business. The exclusion is only allowed if the individual intends to use the vehicle for self-employment within one year from the date the self-employment business was terminated 5. One vehicle with the highest equity value.
COUNTABLE VEHICLES	The equity value of all non-excluded accessible vehicles owned by a filing unit member will be counted against the \$3000 resource limitation.
Date Revised	July 1, 2002