

## COSTA RICA plates by Jean-Emmanuel Chevy (2006)

I had the chance to visit this wonderful country between february 5 and 23, 2006 and travelled in 6 of these seven regions : Alajuela (A code), Cartago (C), Guanacaste (G), Heredia (H), Limon (L), Puntarenas (P), San Jose (SJ).

(a) Current normal series (blue on white background) reached 620000. As in Mexico last year, I saw two cars with european size plates instead of 300 x 150 mm regular size. More than 100 cc Motorcycle plates have an M now followed with up to 6 digits. I never saw any motorcycle with a BM registration, as reported in (g) for up to 100 cc mopeds.



(b) I saw other classes as mentionned in RPW4 : Many : C for Camion (heavy truck) red on white, CL for Carga Liviana (light truck) red on white, EE for special equipement red on white, MI for International Mission (d), S for semi-trailers, SM for Servicio Municipal, on cars or motorcycles two, T for regular trailers, Just a few : EXP for Export (actually on several trucks exporting fruits and plants to neighbouring countries), PEN for Pensioner (f) , PJ for judiciary, TUR for Tourist minibus (not rental car).



In addition to these known prefixes, I also discovered : ZFE plates (black on yellow) standing for : Zonas-Francas-Exportacion, SR plates for Servicio Regional on trucks, and an unreported R prefix on a semi-trailer. More interesting is the DH code, for the organization "la defensoria de les habitantes" see [www.dhr.go.cr](http://www.dhr.go.cr), in charge of improving the rights of the citizens by helping access to the public information.



(c) Plates for buses and minibuses (Region code + B) still have a black lettering on a white background, with smaller letters for SJB when followed with 6 digits:



The P code for Public Transport was used in the past for Taxi, and I saw only 3 with this former type, in Alajuela and Limon towns :



Now taxi have nice colored plates, starting with T + Region Code, as you can see on these photographs, from Alajuela (black on red), Cartago (red on blue), Guanacaste (red on green), Limon (green on white), Puntarenas (orange on white) or San Jose (red on white) - Just Heredia is missing :







(e) No change for the Legislative Assembly plates

(k) Red Cross have also new plates all over the country CRC standing for Cruz Roja Costarricense :



I saw only one Special Project plate, green lettering on a white background, in the town of Jaco, on a pickup of the MECO private company (7 digits).

And finally, the variety of "Usó Oficial" plates is still very large : They can be seen on Police cars or motorcycles, Electricity and Telecommunication utility company (ICE) vehicles, Parks vehicles, etc..., the first digits being links to the entity or administration (103 for ICE, 260 for Police, ...), and the last digits being a serial. Most of them now have an orange on white coloring :





Parks :

and others :



Jean-Emmanuel Chevy, for Europlate publication - March 2006 - See <http://plaque.free.fr/la/cr.html> Francoplaque website.