

RECYCLER Information

Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Division of Enforcement, Anti-Theft and Regulations



When is a vehicle not considered to be a vehicle any longer?

A motor vehicle is considered a motor vehicle until the certificate of title or the certificate of salvage has been surrendered to the Secretary of State on a MVT-103 Part B. This includes the body or chassis of any vehicle that is acquired by a recycler to be dismantled, scrapped or rebuilt.

When is a vehicle considered to be a salvage vehicle?

When, by reason of its condition or circumstance, a vehicle for which a certificate of title has been issued by this State is declared a salvage vehicle if:

- 1) An insurer deems the vehicle to be salvage
- 2) An owner deems the vehicle to be a salvage vehicle (If an owner transfers a vehicle for which a certificate of salvage has not been issued to a recycler licensed by the Secretary of State, the vehicle is deemed declared by the owner to be a salvage vehicle regardless of condition), or;
- 3) A towing company, if the towing company makes clear that the vehicle is a total loss while claiming the vehicle pursuant to chapter 15, subchapter III. (Abandoned Vehicles)

What is a component part?

"Component part" means one of the following parts of a vehicle:

- A. Engine or motor;
- B. Transmission;
- C. Chassis, front or rear clip, frame or equivalent part;
- D. Door;
- E. Hood;
- F. Tailgate, roof, deck lid or hatchback;
- G. Quarter panel or fender;
- H. Front fork or crankcase of a motorcycle;
- I. Cargo bed, transfer case or sleeper of a truck; or
- J. Airbag.

Can a vehicle be purchased without a title?

If a title has already been surrendered to the Secretary of State then the recycler can purchase the vehicle without a title. The recycler is responsible for verifying that the title has been surrendered. It is recommended that the recycler obtain copies of the MVT-103 and the prior title with transfers.

A recycler licensed by the Secretary of State may purchase a vehicle that is model year 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 or 1999 without a certificate of title if:

1. A recycler, salvage vehicle dealer or scrap processor obtains the seller's name and the address of the seller's residence from a government-issued photo identification document or credential and maintains the seller's name and address and vehicle identification number of the scrapped vehicle for a period of at least one year; and
2. A recycler, salvage vehicle dealer or scrap processor reports the destruction of the vehicle to the Secretary of State within 30 days on a properly completed MVT-54 Form.

This subsection applies only to vehicles that are scrapped. For purposes of this subsection, a government-issued photo identification document or credential includes, but is not limited to, a current and valid United States passport, military identification, driver's license or non-driver identification card.



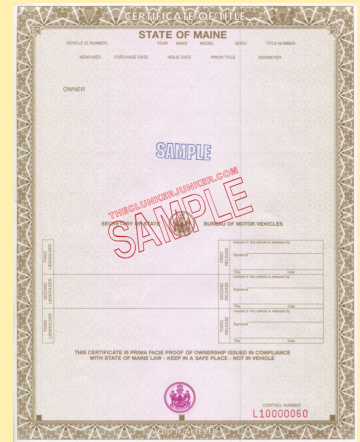
What are the title transfer requirements for a licensed recycler?

Any vehicle received by a recycler must be accompanied by a properly assigned title document for vehicles that are 1995 or newer. All transfers need to reflect a chain of ownership from the owners listed on the face of the title to the licensed recycler.

A recycler that transfers a vehicle to another recycler must ensure that the transfer is completed using a certificate of salvage, unless the title has been surrendered to the Secretary of State. It is recommended that a recycler receiving a vehicle from another recycler obtain a copy of the recycler license of the selling dealer and a copy of the applicable MVT-103 form, title, and transfers; if a title has been surrendered.

Which vehicles are required to have titles when they are acquired by a recycler?

All motor vehicles that are model year 1995 or newer are required to have a certificate of title; this includes trailers that have a GVW exceeding 3000 lbs.



Can a recycler use an MVT-16 Form?

Yes, however; the back of the accompanying Certificate of Title or Certificate of Salvage must be closed prior to using the MVT-16 form. The recycler can write "See MVT-16".

What records are required to be on file for a Recycler?

The recycler must maintain business records for five years including records of:

- 1) The year, make, model, VIN, date of purchase, and name & address of the person or company that the salvage vehicle or component part was acquired from - *regardless of the year of the vehicle*. The year, make, model, VIN, date of sale, and name & address of the person or company that the salvage vehicle or component part was transferred to - *regardless of the year of the vehicle*.
- 2) The date a vehicle was crushed or shredded, the name of the company that did the crushing/shredding, and the date that the title was surrendered to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

*Scrap processors are exempt from the first requirement but must be in compliance with the second requirement.

*Records must be maintained whether the vehicles or component parts were purchased wholesale, retail or at auction and whether the vehicles are sold, rebuilt, parted out, stock-piled or crushed.



When does a recycler need to file for a Certificate of Salvage?

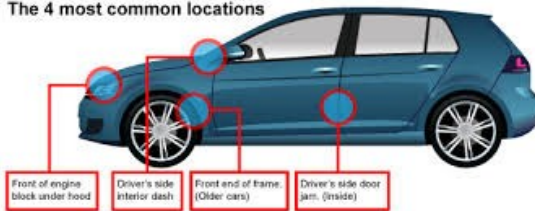
Recyclers must file for a Certificate of Salvage within 30 days of receiving a vehicle that does not have a Certificate of Salvage, unless the prior title is surrendered to the Secretary of State.

If a recycler sells a whole salvage vehicle the recycler shall file for a Certificate of Salvage on behalf of the buyer within 30 days.



Where is my VIN?

The 4 most common locations



Can a recycler be in possession of a vehicle that does not have a vehicle identification number?

No, recyclers/salvage Dealers cannot possess vehicles, or vehicle parts, from which the Vehicle Identification Number(s) have been removed.



What are the requirements for mobile crushers?

A person operating a mobile crusher in this State, whether based in or outside of the State, is subject to licensure by the Secretary of State.

The operator of a mobile crusher shall make the operator's records available in this state during normal business hours.

Mobile crushers must apply for a Mobile Crusher permit prior to conducting business within the State of Maine. The permit will be issued at no fee and must contain the date(s) and location(s) of the activity. A permit application must be submitted to the Dealer Section at least 48 hours each time prior to conducting business. The permit must be carried with the mobile crusher operator. A mobile crusher being operated at a licensed recycler site is exempt from the permit requirement.

*When conducting mobile crusher operations at an unlicensed location the mobile crusher assumes all of the responsibility for collecting and surrendering certificates of title for each vehicle that is scrapped or dismantled.

When does a recycler need to surrender a Certificate of Title or a Certificate of Salvage?

When a recycler purchases a vehicle from an owner on a Certificate of Title the recycler must surrender the Certificate of Title within 30 days or apply for a Certificate of Salvage. If a vehicle has been issued a Certificate of Salvage then a recycler must surrender the Certificate of Salvage once a component part has been removed or the vehicle is scrapped, whichever occurs first.



Who may inspect the records?

The records, the place of business, and the vehicles and vehicle parts in the possession of the licensee must be available for inspection during normal business hour by the Secretary of State, a law enforcement officer or representatives of the Office of the Attorney General.



What procedures does a recycler have to take to identify an individual?

It is recommended that all recyclers obtain photo ID from all individuals that they are acquiring vehicles from. Maine Law states that scrap metal processors shall require the seller to provide proof of identification with a driver's license, military identification card, passport or other form of government-issued photo identification. The scrap metal processor shall photocopy the form of photo identification presented and record the distinct identifying number of that photo identification. If the proof of identification contains a photograph that is faded, out of date or otherwise indiscernible, the scrap metal processor shall photograph the seller.



What are the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) requirements?

NMVTIS Reporting Requirements for Auto Recyclers, Salvage Yards, and Junk Yards:

Data To Be Reported

Auto recyclers; junkyards and salvage yards are required to provide NMVTIS with the following information on each vehicle received into inventory every month:

- ⇒ The name, addresses, and contact information for the reporting entity.
- ⇒ VIN.
- ⇒ Date the automobile was obtained.
- ⇒ Name of the individual or entity from whom the automobile was obtained (for USE BY law enforcement and appropriate governmental agencies ONLY).
- ⇒ A statement of whether the automobile was crushed or disposed of, or offered for sale or other purposes.
- ⇒ Whether the vehicle is intended for export out of the United States.

For more information visit: https://www.vehiclehistory.gov/nmvtis_auto.html

Can a recycler hold a new car/ used car license at the same licensed location?

Yes, the recycler business needs to be separated from the new car/ used car business. Any vehicles purchased under the recycler license automatically become salvage vehicles regardless of condition, and cannot be resold until a Certificate of Salvage is issued. When in doubt about the final disposition of the vehicle it is best to buy the vehicle as a used vehicle; however, the customer must be notified that the vehicle is being purchased for resale and not for junk. The dealer must obtain the incoming disclosure form from the seller in accordance with Title 10 (Used Car Information Act).

What is InforME?

InforME (Information Resource of Maine) is the Internet gateway for businesses and citizens to interact with government electronically.

What does InforME do?

- Manages the official State of Maine website, Maine.gov.
- Builds electronic service applications that interface public government information to businesses and citizens.
- Builds state agency websites with a focus on users' needs and accessibility for all users.
- Provides enterprise tools and resources for state agencies.
- Provides technical support and consultation.
- Delivers eGovernment services to citizens through strategic and practiced marketing campaigns.

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