



Louisiana Department of Public Safety  
Office of Motor Vehicles  
**Policy 76.01 Certificate of Destruction**

**Section:** 4. Motor Vehicle Registration Requirements

**Effective Date:** 12/06/2005

**Revised Date:** 08/18/2023

**Authority:**

[R.S. 32:702 \(5\), \(13\), \(14\), \(16\), \(17\)](#)

[R.S. 32:706.1](#)

[R.S. 32:707 \(E\)](#)

[R.S. 32:707.3](#)

To view Louisiana Statutes: <http://www.legis.state.la.us/>

**Definitions:**

- **Antique Vehicle** – A vehicle that is 25 years or older
- **Certificate of Destruction** - A type of title issued for a vehicle that meets the following requirements:
  - A water-damaged vehicle, other than an antique vehicle or a vehicle in excess of 20,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR)
  - A vehicles who's power train, computer, or electrical system has been damaged by flooding, as the result of a governor-declared disaster or emergency and has been declared a "total loss".<sup>1</sup>
- **Total Loss** – A motor vehicle that has sustained damages equivalent to 75% or more of the market value, as determined by the most current JD Power Guide.

**General:**

- A motor vehicle that has been issued a *Certificate of Destruction* shall **not** be<sup>2</sup>:
  - Issued a Salvage or Reconstructed Title<sup>2</sup>
  - Issued a Permit to Dismantle<sup>2</sup>
  - Registered for use on the roads or highways<sup>2</sup>
- A motor vehicle that has been issued a *Certificate of Destruction* shall **not** be resold as a retail unit. The vehicle shall be dismantled, sold for any usable parts, or crushed.<sup>2</sup>
  - When a water-damaged vehicle has been crushed or scrapped, the owner shall surrender the *Certificate of Destruction* to the Office of Motor Vehicles with the word "recycled" written or stamped across its face. A certificate of title of any type shall **not** be issued again for the vehicle.<sup>2</sup>
- The *Certificate of Destruction* may only be reassigned up to two times prior to dismantling or destruction of the motor vehicle.<sup>1</sup>

## Requirements:

- An insurance company that acquires ownership of a vehicle **must** apply for a *Certificate of Destruction* within thirty (30) days. The following must be submitted:<sup>2</sup>
  - Current Louisiana or out-of-state, properly assigned title (if applicable)
  - A completed *Vehicle Application* ([DPSMV1799](#)) form. “*Certificate of Destruction*” must be written or stamped on the front page of the application and on the face of the accompanying title.
  - A copy of the total loss settlement indicating the date of loss and the date of settlement
  - A completed *Disclosure of Salvage/Reconstructed/Water Damaged/Hail Damaged Vehicle* form ([DPSMV1637](#)).<sup>3</sup>
- An insurance company may apply for a *Certificate of Destruction* for a vehicle that has been damaged to the extent it is deemed a “total loss”, even if the damage sustained to the vehicle did not result from a governor-declared disaster.
  - If the insurance company elects to apply for a *Certificate of Destruction* in lieu of a salvage title, a statement indicating this must be added to the proof of loss documentation and submitted with the file.
- One (1) replacement *Certificate of Destruction* may be issued if the original is lost. A replacement *Certificate of Destruction* can only be issued by the Specialized Vehicle Unit. The following must be submitted with the paperwork:
  - A completed *Vehicle Application* ([DPSMV1799](#)) form. The words “Certificate of Destruction” must be written or stamped on the application.
    - The *Duplicate Title Affidavit* section must also be completed **and** notarized by the insurance company.
  - A copy of the total loss settlement indicating the date of loss and the date of settlement

## Fees:

- [Title fee](#)
- [Handling fee](#)

## References:

- <sup>1</sup> – Louisiana State Legislature. *Definitions* (R.S. 32:702), retrieved from <https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=88513>.
- <sup>2</sup> – Louisiana State Legislature. *Certificates of Destruction; Application Requirements; Restrictions on Sale; Disassembly Requirement; Department Rules; Penalties* (R.S. 32:707.3), retrieved from <https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=330374>.
- <sup>3</sup> – Louisiana State Legislature. *Disclosure by Persons who Transfer Ownership of Vehicles with Salvage or Reconstructed Titles, Assembled Title, or Certificate of Destruction; Penalties* (R.S. 32:706.1), retrieved from <https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=88519>.

## Related Policies:

Section 4, Policy 2.03 [Completion Of Vehicle Application](#)  
Section 4, Policy 20.05 [Disposal Of Junked Vehicles](#)  
Section 4, Policy 42.00 [Vehicle Certificate Of Title Law \(Salvage Vehicles\)](#)  
Section 4, Policy 42.02 [Out-Of-State Branded Titles](#)  
Section 4, Policy 42.04 [Salvage Retention](#)  
Section 4, Policy 69.00, [Fees](#)  
Section 4, Policy 76.00 [Water Damaged Vehicle](#)

