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".[1]
- **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[2]:
  - Issued a Salvage or Reconstructed Title[2]
  - Issued a Permit to Dismantle[2]
  - Registered for use on the roads or highways[2]
- 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.[2]
  - 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.[2]
- The *Certificate of Destruction* may only be reassigned up to two times prior to dismantling or destruction of the motor vehicle.[1]

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:[2]
    - 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).[3]
- 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:

[1] – Louisiana State Legislature. *Definitions* (R.S. 32:702), retrieved from https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=88513.

[2] – 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.

[3] – 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