Louisiana Department of Public Safety
Office of Motor Vehicles
Policy 42.00 Vehicle Certificate of Title Law (Salvage Vehicles)

Section: 4. Motor Vehicle Registration Requirements

Effective Date: 09/03/1984

Revised Date: 07/08/2026

Authority:
R.S. 32:702
R.S. 32:705
R.S. 32:706.1
R.S. 32: 707
To view Louisiana Statutes: http://www.legis.state.la.us

Definitions:
- **Salvage Title** – A certificate used to evidence the declaration in an insurance settlement that a motor vehicle is a total loss motor vehicle.[1]
- **Total Loss** - A motor vehicle that has sustained damages equivalent to 75% or more of the retail value, as determined by the current NADA handbook.[1]

General:
- When, as a result of an insurance settlement, a motor vehicle is declared to be a total loss, the insurance company, its authorized agent, or the vehicle owner must apply for a salvage title within thirty (30) days from the settlement of the property damage claim.[2]
- A salvage title is issued in the name of the insurance company, its authorized agent, or vehicle owner, who may dismantle, sell, rebuild, or restore the salvaged vehicle.

Required Documentation:
- The following items must be submitted before a salvage title can be issued:
  - A completed Vehicle Application (DPSMV 1799). The words "*Salvage Title*" must be stamped or written across the face of the application.
  - The properly assigned title or manufacturer's statement of origin. The words "*Salvage Title*" must be stamped or written across the face of the title or statement of origin. Properly assigned shall mean one of the following:
    - The seller signs in the presence of a notary
    - The seller signs in the presence of two witnesses
    - The signature of the seller only, for a motor vehicle which is subject to an insurance settlement or has been declared a total loss when being transferred to an insurance company[3]
  - Power of Attorney, if applicable
    - Power of Attorney documents granting authority to sign a salvage title on behalf of the buyer or seller are **not** required to be notarized.
      - The Power of Attorney may be electronically signed if the vehicle was declared salvaged by a Louisiana insurance company.

- A copy of the proof of loss from the insurance company
  - The proof of loss must indicate the date of loss.
- A UCC-1 security agreement to record a lien, if applicable
- A notarized authorization from the insurance company naming the agent and including a complete description (make, year, model, body style, and VIN) of the vehicle, if the vehicle is being titled in the name of the insurance company's authorized agent.
- An Application for a Salvage-Reconstructed Motor Vehicle (DPSMV1637). Only the following sections of this form will be required when making application for salvage title:
  - Owner Information
  - Vehicle Information
  - Disclosure of Salvage/Reconstructed/Water Damaged/Hail-Damaged
- Disclosure of Salvage
  - Each person who transfers the ownership of a vehicle for which a salvage title has been issued to disclose, in writing, the existence of that title to the person to whom the vehicle is being transferred, per R.S. 32:706.1.
  - Failure to make this disclosure entitles the recipient of the vehicle legal recourse to demand rescission of the sale and to be entitled to recover the price or other consideration given along with any fees and taxes paid in connection with the transaction.

Exceptions:

- If an insurance company or its authorized agent is unable to obtain the certificate of title from the owner(s) or lien holder within thirty (30) days from the settlement of the property damages claim, an application for a salvage title may be submitted with the following items:[2]
  - A completed Vehicle Application (DPSMV1799). The words "*Salvage Title*" must be stamped or written across the face of the application.
  - A notarized Salvage Affidavit (DPSMV1807), indicating that the insurance company has made at least two attempts in writing to obtain the title from the owner(s) or lien holder[2]
  - A copy of the notices sent to owner or lien holder and evidence of the mailing of the notices[2]
  - A Federal Odometer Statement, if applicable
  - A copy of the proof of loss from the insurance company[2]
  - A lien release, if applicable[2]
  - Applicable fees[2]
- If the lienholder of a salvage vehicle fails to provide proof of satisfaction of lien or to release the lien within sixty (60) days of the date of loss, an insurance company or its authorized agent may submit an application for salvage title to an electronic lien title (ELT) provider, contracted with the Office of Motor Vehicles.[2] In addition to the documents listed above the insurance company or its authorized agent must provide the following documents:[2]
  - Proof of full payment of the lien
    - If payment is made by check, a copy of the front and back of the paid check listing all endorsements of the named payees must be provided.
    - If payment is made by electronic transfer, evidence of the payment transaction from the account of the payer, including submission of a screenshot of payment must be provided.
    - The insurance company must also provide certification that the payoff amount to the lienholder was not returned by the lienholder must be submitted.
  - A copy of the most recent letter of guarantee from each lienholder indicating the payoff amount.[2]

- Hold-harmless Affidavit must be completed, signed, and notarized. The affidavit must show a complete description (year, make, model and VIN) of the vehicle and give full details as to the reason the insurance company is unable to obtain a lien release from the lienholder.[2]
- A fee of not to exceed $100.00 may be charged by the ELT provider and will be in addition to title fee, handling fee, and PTA convenience fee. [2]

Related Policies:
Section 4, Policy 42.01 Rebuilt Salvaged Vehicles
Section 4, Policy 42.02 Out-Of-State Branded Titles
Section 4, Policy 42.03 Insurance Settlements When Damage Is Less Than 75% Of The N.A.D.A. Book Retail Value
Section 4, Policy 42.04 Salvage Retention
Section 4, Policy 42.05 Hail-Damaged Vehicles
Section 4, Policy 43.00 Supporting Documents Indicate Vehicle May Be Total Loss
Section 4, Policy 76.00 Water Damaged Vehicle
Section 4, Policy 97.00 Canceled Rescinded Sales Of Motor Vehicles

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. *Application for Certificates of Title; Exception; Salvage Title; Antique Vehicles; Reconstructed Title* (R.S. 32:707), retrieved from https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=88520.
[3] – Louisiana State Legislature. *Delivery of Certificate of Purchaser of Vehicle* (R.S. 32:705), retrieved from https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=88517.