



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: 08/04/2021

Authority:

[R.S. 32:702](#)

[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.
- **Total Loss** - A motor vehicle that has sustained damages equivalent to seventy-five percent (75%) or more of the retail value, as determined by the current NADA book.

Guidelines:

- 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.
- 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.

Requirements:

- 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 when a total loss vehicle is being transferred to an insurance company
 - 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.
 - 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
 - R.S. 32:706.1 requires 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.
 - 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:
 - A completed Vehicle Application ([DPSMV 1799](#)). 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
 - A copy of the notices sent to owner or lien holder and evidence of the mailing of the notices
 - A Federal Odometer Statement, if applicable
 - A copy of the proof of loss from the insurance company
 - A lien release, if applicable
 - Applicable fees

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](#)