



Louisiana Department of Public Safety  
Office of Motor Vehicles  
**Policy 42.01 Rebuilt Salvaged Vehicles**

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

**Effective Date:** 09/30/1985

**Revised Date:** 05/16/2024

**Authority:**

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

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

[R.S. 32:707.5](#)

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

**Definitions:**

- **Donor Vehicle** – A vehicle whose parts are used to repair other vehicles that have sustained damage
- **Total Loss/Salvaged Vehicle** - A motor vehicle that has sustained damages equivalent to 75% or more of the market value, as determined by the most current *National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Handbook*
- **Salvaged Title** - A certificate used as evidence of the declaration in an insurance settlement that a motor vehicle is a "total loss"
- **Reconstructed Vehicle** – A vehicle that has been declared a total loss and subsequently rebuilt/repaired or restored
- **Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)** – A unique identifier given to a vehicle
- **Brand** - A designation placed on a vehicle title, that identifies or describes an event that affects the value or safety of the vehicle

**General:**

- A vehicle that has been deemed a total loss must be repaired and a title with a “reconstructed” brand must be issued before a license plate can be issued.
- If the only major component changed on a pickup truck is the cab, the vehicle shall be branded “reconstructed” utilizing the VIN from the frame. If a salvage title was not issued for the frame vehicle, a *Permit to Dismantle* shall be issued.
- No vehicle with a reconstructed title shall be issued a license plate to operate as a motor carrier of passengers or as a public carrier vehicle.<sup>2</sup>

**Eligibility:**

- A salvaged vehicle must be rebuilt or restored before it can be registered to operate.
- Each individual transferring ownership of a reconstructed vehicle must disclose, in writing, that the vehicle has a branded title.<sup>1</sup>
- A rebuilt or restored vehicle shall not be operated on any public street, roadway, or highway until a title branded “reconstructed” has been issued with valid plate and registration.
  - **Exception:** A rebuilder may, upon completion of rebuilding the vehicle, demonstrate the vehicle to a purchaser without applying for a title branded “reconstructed” first.

- **California Certificates of Title**
  - A California *Certificate of Title* with a "Salvaged" brand is the equivalent of a Louisiana reconstructed brand. A statement of repairs is not needed to brand the Louisiana Certificate of Title as "Reconstructed".
  - If a California *Salvage Certificate* is submitted, the vehicle is still considered salvaged and has **not** been repaired
- **Replacement of VIN Plate** - All files containing a *Replacement of VIN Plate* (DPSSP3512) form must be forwarded to the Specialized Vehicle Unit, Headquarters Services, for processing, since replacing parts resulted in the removal of the public (VIN) identification plate.

**Exemptions:**

<b>Exemptions</b>	
<b>Type</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Certificate of Title with Reconstructed Brand	Will not be issued to manufactured homes or trailers
Out-of-State Salvage Title Branded "Unrebuildable", "Unrepairable," etc.	Cannot be accepted for retitling in Louisiana as a salvage or reconstructed title, unless the issuing state allows for the vehicle to be rebuilt
Texas "Non-repairable Certificate of Title - 95% or More of Vehicle's Actual Cash Value"	If issued after 9/1/2003, cannot be rebuilt or issued a Louisiana Certificate of Title with a reconstructed brand
Out-of-State <i>Certificate of Destruction</i>	Cannot be accepted for a reconstructed title or any type of title in this state
Out-of-State Bonded Title/Bonded Vehicle Title	Cannot be accepted for any type of title in this state.

**Required Documentation:**

- After a salvaged vehicle has been rebuilt or restored, the following items must be submitted to obtain a title with a reconstructed brand:
  - *Vehicle Application* ([DPSMV1799](#)) form <sup>2</sup>
  - All necessary salvage/reconstructed documentation to show chain of ownership, including **one** of the following:<sup>2</sup>
    - A properly endorsed Louisiana salvage vehicle title<sup>2</sup>
    - Original *Certificate of Salvage*<sup>2</sup>
    - Out-of-State salvage title<sup>2</sup>
  - Notarized *Bill of Sale* form(s) and/or *Act of Donation* form(s) <sup>2</sup>
  - **Affidavit of Physical Inspection** - The physical inspection must be performed by a full-time Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) certified law enforcement officer who has been certified by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police, to inspect motor vehicles. <sup>2</sup>
    - Some or all of the vehicles presented for inspection may be selected for inspection of the vehicle's major component parts which have been repaired or replaced as part of the rebuilding process to determine that the vehicle information contained in the application and supporting documents is true and correct. <sup>2</sup>
  - *Application for a Salvage-Reconstructed Motor Vehicle* ([DPSMV1637](#)) – Needs to be completed to its entirety, including the following sections:
    - *Owner Information*
    - *Vehicle Information*
    - *Rebuilder Information*
    - A statement of repairs indicating that the vehicle has been repaired
    - Disclosure of Salvage/Reconstructed/Water Damaged/Hail-Damaged

- *Reconstructed Parts List (DPSMV1635)* - Must indicate all major component parts replaced in the reconstruction of the vehicle. For each part, the following is required:
  - The VIN for the donor vehicle must be indicated on the form, if the major component part was removed from another vehicle
  - The person from whom the major component part was purchased
  - The date the major component part was purchased
  - If no major component parts were used in the repair of the vehicle, the corresponding box must be selected on the *Reconstructed Parts List* form.
- *Bill of Sale*, as evidence of acquisition for all major component parts used to restore the vehicle. If a receipt is unable to be provided for the part(s) utilized to restore the vehicle, a notarized affidavit must be submitted.
  - If a vehicle branded as “*Salvage*” is purchased after vehicle repairs are made, and the purchaser is not able to provide receipts of the repairs, an affidavit to that effect may be submitted in lieu of receipts and the parts list.
- **Rebuilt for Resale Purposes Only** - A rebuilt salvaged vehicle being titled in a dealership's name must have, in addition to the above items, a notarized affidavit from the dealer that the vehicle has been wholesaled to an out-of-state dealer for resale purposes only, and the out-of-state dealer will not accept the file without a title in the name of the selling dealer.

**Fees:**

- [Title fee](#)
- [Handling fee](#)
- [License plate fee](#)
- [Mortgage recordation fee, if applicable](#)
- [Sales/use tax](#)

**Related Policies:**

- 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 42.03 [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:**

- <sup>1</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>.
- <sup>2</sup> – 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>.