



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Washington, D.C. 20531

September 24, 2012

RE: Federal Enforcement of the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System Reporting Requirements

Dear Business Owner:

Reporting information on junk and salvage automobiles (including total loss) to the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS)—supported by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)—is required by federal law. And by so reporting, businesses play an integral role in DOJ's efforts to prevent fraud, reduce theft, and potentially save the lives of consumers who might otherwise unknowingly purchase unsafe vehicles. Consumers rely on NMVTIS to avoid purchasing potentially unsafe vehicles. Local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies rely on NMVTIS to improve their ability to identify vehicle theft rings and combat other criminal enterprises involving vehicles.

As of today, over 47 million salvage or total loss records have been received from approximately 9,000 registered NMVTIS reporting entities. Although this progress is encouraging, DOJ has been informed that some entities are not reporting because, so it has been explained, they are uncertain of the NMVTIS requirements. For this reason, DOJ is pursuing additional outreach to ensure that all reporting entities are notified of the reporting requirements, methods for reporting, DOJ enforcement efforts, and penalties for non-reporting.

NMVTIS Reporting Requirements

On March 31, 2009, all [insurance carriers](#) were required to fully comply with NMVTIS as established by the [Anti Car Theft Act of 1992](#) (Public Law 102-519), the [Anti-Car Theft Improvements Act of 1996](#) (Public Law 104-152), and its implementing [regulations](#) (28 CFR part 25, published January 30, 2009, 74 FR 5740). For the purposes of NMVTIS reporting, an **insurance carrier** is an individual or entity engaged in the business of underwriting automobile insurance. This would include any entity that enters into a formal arrangement, typically of a commercial nature, where a fee(s), contribution(s), or other consideration is received as part of pooling the risk of loss of an automobile(s) or as part of accepting the risk of loss of an automobile(s) on behalf of another individual or entity. As a result, a rental car company that offers, for a fee, contribution, or other consideration, to relieve its customers from liability for loss or damage to, or caused by, automobiles the customers rent from that company, is required to report.

Rental car companies and other businesses meeting the above definition for insurance carriers are required to report to NMVTIS an inventory of all automobiles of the current model year or any of the four prior model years that the carrier, during the past month, has obtained possession of and has decided are [junk or salvage automobiles](#) (including total loss automobiles). The inventory must contain the following information:

1. The name, address, and contact information for the reporting entity (insurance carrier);
2. VIN;
3. The date on which the automobile was obtained or designated as a junk or salvage automobile (including those determined to be a total loss);

4. The name of the individual or entity from whom the automobile was obtained and who possessed it when the automobile was designated as a junk or salvage automobile;
5. The name of the owner of the automobile at the time of the filing of the report

Methods for Reporting the Required Information to NMVTIS

DOJ and the NMVTIS operator, the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), partnered with the private sector to provide multiple reporting methods to meet the business needs of reporting entities. There are four reporting methods or services available, covering both individual VIN and batch reporting options. At least two service providers offer a no-cost per transaction program as well as enhanced reporting services. In addition, at DOJ's request, AAMVA has made available a basic, no-cost direct reporting service via the internet. More detailed information on these reporting options can be found at: www.vehiclehistory.gov/nmvtis_auto.html.

NMVTIS Enforcement

The NMVTIS statute includes an enforcement provision requiring DOJ to impose and collect penalties for those junk, salvage, auto recyclers, and insurance entities that fail to meet their reporting obligations pursuant to the Anti-Car Theft Act as amended. DOJ has focused its recent efforts on development and implementation of the System, as opposed to actively pursuing enforcement against entities that are in violation of their reporting obligations. However, it is clear that maintaining the integrity of the System and the data within it counsels us to begin more active enforcement efforts. As a result, our enforcement efforts have begun and staff assigned to examining and investigating potential violations are undertaking outreach to entities required to report to NMVTIS. Our efforts may focus on reporting since April 2009 as well as current and future reporting. In addition, we are collaborating with other components of DOJ that have consumer protection and investigative responsibilities related to vehicles. Failure to report fully and as required to NMVTIS is punishable by a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per violation. Accordingly, for example, a failure to report 100 junk or salvage automobiles could result in a civil penalty of up to \$100,000. NMVTIS Reporting Entities are responsible for ensuring all required information has been reported to NMVTIS accurately and within the timelines required. DOJ is not obligated to perform a site visit or provide additional time to provide data or correct reporting deficiencies before imposing any civil penalty. If you wish to notify DOJ of an entity that is not currently reporting, please e-mail nmvtis@usdoj.gov, and include "Non-reporting Referral" in the subject line of the message.

Thank you for meeting the reporting requirements required by federal law. We know you and your industry remain committed to protecting consumers and reducing crime. Additional information regarding the [NMVTIS reporting requirements](#), [policy clarifications](#), [frequently asked questions](#), and a [public database to check reporting status](#) of a recycler, junk yard, salvage yard or insurance carrier can be found on the NMVTIS web site: www.vehiclehistory.gov. If you have questions or require clarification of the reporting requirements, please contact me at 202-616-3879 or Todd.Brighton@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,
Todd J. Brighton
NMVTIS Enforcement Coordinator

