CHAPTER 19
JUNK, SALVAGE, NONREPAIRABLE

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CHAPTER 19

JUNK, SALVAGE, NONREPAIRABLE

19.000 Introduction

This chapter provides procedures for declaring a vehicle as junk, salvage, or nonrepairable and for reregistration of vehicles declared as junk, salvage, or for those which the registration has been cancelled, suspended, or revoked.

19.005 Abated Vehicles (CVC §§22660, 22661, and 22662)

A city or county may adopt a local ordinance to establish procedures for the abatement and removal of abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative vehicles from private or public property. Vehicles removed under a local ordinance must be disposed of to a licensed dismantler or scrap metal processor.

The public agency acting under the provisions of a local ordinance must within five days of removing a vehicle, the following must be submitted:

- A Notice—Removal of Abandoned Vehicle (REG 104) form.
- Any certificates in their possession.
- The license plates or a certification of license plate destruction.

The procedure below must be followed:

Reregistration—A vehicle removed under a local abatement procedure cannot be titled or reregistered, except those vehicles which qualify for Horseless Carriage or Historical Vehicle License Plates, pursuant to CVC §5004.

19.010 Authority for Cancellation, Suspension, or Revocation (CVC §8800)

The Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) may cancel, suspend, or revoke a vehicle’s registration California Certificate of Title, registration card, license plate, or any permit when the:

- Certificate, license plate, or permit was fraudulently obtained or erroneously issued.
- Vehicle is mechanically unfit or unsafe to be operated or moved on the highways.
- Registered vehicle has been dismantled or wrecked.
- Required fees have not been paid upon reasonable notice and demand.
- Registration card, license plate, or permit is knowingly displayed on a vehicle other than the one for which issued.
- Registration could have been refused when last issued or renewed.
- Minimum liability insurance is not obtained or maintained for the vehicle.
- DMV is so authorized under any other provision of the law.
19.015 Definitions

**Abated Vehicle (CVC §22660)**—A vehicle determined to be a public nuisance because it was abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative and was removed by ordinance of a city or county.

**Junk Vehicle**—A junk vehicle is one which has been dismantled because it was wrecked, abandoned, or inoperable.

**Nonrepairable Vehicle (CVC §431)**—A vehicle that meets one of the following criteria and has no resale value except as a source of parts or scrap metal:

- **Surgical Strip**—A vehicle completely stripped when recovered from theft.
- **Complete Burn**—A completely burned vehicle.
- **Owner Declared**—A vehicle irreversibly designated by the owner solely as a source of parts or scrap metal.

Once declared nonrepairable, the vehicle cannot be titled or reregistered.

**Nonrevivable Junk**—A vehicle valued at $500 or less that was abandoned and the removal and disposal by a licensed dismantler or scrap iron processor was authorized by a peace officer or any designated employee of a public agency (**Example**: an abated vehicle). Once declared nonrevivable, the vehicle cannot be titled or reregistered.

**Owner Retained Total Loss Salvage or Nonrepairable Vehicle (CVC §§11515 and 11515.2)**—A total loss salvage or nonrepairable vehicle that the owner retains as a portion of the settlement with an insurance company.

**Salvage Pool (CVC §543)**—A person engaged exclusively in the business of disposing of total loss salvage vehicles, nonrepairable vehicles, or recovered stolen vehicles received from, or on behalf of, insurance companies, authorized adjusters, leasing companies, self-insured persons, or financial institutions.

**Self-Insurer (CVC §16052)**—Any person in whose name more than 25 vehicles are registered and who has obtained a Certificate of Self-Insurance (SR 27) from DMV.

**Total Loss Salvage Vehicle (CVC §544)**—A vehicle that has been wrecked, destroyed, or damaged, to the extent that the owner or insurance company considers it uneconomical to repair and, because of this, the vehicle is not repaired for the owner. A salvage certificate is issued instead of an ownership certificate for a total loss salvage vehicle and becomes the ownership document. This certificate can only be issued in the name of the registered owner or insurance company. An unrecovered stolen vehicle is not a total loss salvage vehicle.
19.020 Duplicate Salvage or Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate

When the DMV’s records show that a salvage certificate was issued for a vehicle, but it has been lost, stolen, or mutilated to the extent that essential information is no longer legible, the insurance company or person who applied for the original salvage or nonrepairable vehicle certificate may apply for a duplicate.

The following must be submitted:

- A completed Application for Salvage Certificate or Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate (REG 488C) form.
- A completed Statement of Facts (REG 256) form which describes the vehicle and certifies to the disposition of the original salvage or nonrepairable vehicle certificate.
- The duplicate fee. Refer to Appendix 1F for fees.

**Note:** The salvage owner will only display on the database when an automated salvage certificate has been issued. The salvage owner is not updated when the salvage certificate is issued manually.

19.025 Junking a Vehicle—Dismantler (CVC §11520)

A vehicle can be dismantled:

- Ten days after the Dismantlers Notice of Acquisition (REG 42-bottom portion) is mailed to DMV.
- Any time after the Report of Vehicle to be Dismantled (REG 42-upper portion), evidence of ownership, license plates, or Dismantler’s Notice of License Plate Destruction are delivered to DMV.
- Immediately, if the vehicle:
  - Is acquired from a city or county under a local abatement program (CVC §§22660 and 22664).
  - Already has a “junk” status on DMV’s record.

The following must be submitted:

- The original and duplicate copy of the Report of Vehicle to be Dismantled (REG 42) form.
- The evidence of ownership.
- The last-issued license plate(s) or the Dismantler’s Notice of License Plate Destruction (REG 42) form.
- A Board of Equalization Certificate of Excise Tax Clearance (BOE 1138) form for commercial vehicles with unladen weight of more than 7,000 pounds powered by fuel other than gasoline or diesel (CR&TC §§8608 & 8995).
- Dismantlers are exempt from odometer disclosure reporting. However, include any that are submitted. Registration and/or transfer fees are **not** due from a licensed dismantler. However, do **not** refund any fees that have already been paid.
19.025 Junking a Vehicle—Dismantler, continued

The procedures below must be followed:

• DMV will validate the duplicate copy of the REG 42 by line date stamping the front of the form.
• Retain the validated copy as proof of reporting and authority to dismantle the vehicle.
• Do not refund fees on file.

19.030 Junking a Vehicle—Individual (CVC §11520)

Individuals not licensed as dismantlers can junk and/or dismantle a vehicle. The requirements to “junk” a vehicle are essentially the same requirements needed to register and/or transfer a vehicle. However, vehicles transferred for the purpose of being wrecked or dismantled (junk) are exempt from the smog inspection requirement.

Prior to dismantling a vehicle, the vehicle owner must submit an application to DMV to record the vehicle as “Junk.” When an owner dismantles a vehicle prior to doing this, the owner is subject to an investigative service fee.

The following must be submitted:

• The evidence of ownership for the vehicle. The applicant may not be the registered owner listed on the California Certificate of Title because the vehicle has not been transferred or registered in the applicant’s name. In such cases, the applicant must present the documents needed to record the applicant as the registered owner. This may be any of the following:
  — The California Certificate of Title properly endorsed for transfer.
  — Lien sale documents properly executed for registration and transfer.
  — A salvage certificate properly endorsed for transfer.
  — Nonresident vehicle registration and transfer clearance requirements listed in Chapter 12.
  — Unavailable vehicle registration clearance requirements. Bills of sale, as needed, to complete the chain of ownership. Bills of sale may be accepted in lieu of signatures on the title.
• Other documentation, if the required evidence of ownership cannot be obtained. If the vehicle value is:
  — $5,000 or more, a motor vehicle bond is required.
  — Less than $5,000, the diligent effort/bond is not required and the applicant must submit: Any documentation that establishes ownership of the described vehicle, a Statement of Facts (REG 256) form from the applicant stating: from whom the vehicle was acquired, the current value of the vehicle and that the vehicle is free of liens, not indicated on the application.

Refer to Chapter 23 for bond/diligent effort information.
19.030 Junking a Vehicle—Individual, continued

**Note:** Documents received at a later date must be surrendered to DMV with a REG 256 form.

- The license plates assigned to the vehicle. **Exception:** An off-highway vehicle (OHV) identification plate does not need to be surrendered.
- A Certificate of Excise Tax Clearance (BOE 1138) form issued by the California Board of Equalization for commercial vehicles weighing more than 7,000 pounds unladen, powered by fuel other than gasoline or diesel (CR&TC §8995).
- All fees and use tax due. Refer to Chapter 4 for use tax information.

**The procedure below must be followed:**

- The applicant must remove and destroy any Clean Air Vehicle decals on the vehicle.

19.035 Nonreceipt of Salvage or Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate

Issue a no-fee duplicate salvage certificate when DMV’s records show a salvage certificate was issued, and the applicant states it was not received. Allow 30 days from issuance of the salvage certificate before processing a nonreceipt application.

**The following must be submitted:**

- A completed Application for Salvage Certificate or Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate (REG 488C) form.
- A completed Statement of Facts (REG 256) form certifying they did not receive the original salvage certificate issued by DMV.

19.040 Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate (CVC §§432 and 11515.2)

The insurance company or designee (salvage pool or registration service) or the owner must apply for the nonrepairable vehicle certificate within 10 days from the date the insurance company makes a total loss settlement with the owner.

A nonrepairable vehicle certificate cannot be issued for an unrecovered stolen vehicle.

**Reregistration**—A nonrepairable vehicle cannot be titled or reregistered subsequent to issuance of the nonrepairable vehicle certificate.

**Transfer of Ownership**—Ownership of a vehicle declared to be nonrepairable may be transferred **only twice** on the nonrepairable vehicle certificate. No subsequent certificate is issued. Odometer information is not collected.

**The following must be submitted:**

- An Application for Salvage Certificate or Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate (REG 488C) form completed and signed by the owner or the insurance company, as appropriate. A computer-generated Application for Salvage Certificate or Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate form preapproved by DMV headquarters may be submitted by a salvage pool.
19.040 Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate, continued

• The evidence of ownership. This may be one of the following:

  — The properly endorsed California or out of state title. The applicant’s signature is not required in the “new registered owner” section of the title; the signature on the REG 488C is sufficient.

  — An Application for Duplicate or Paperless Title (REG 227) form, if the California title is lost, stolen, mutilated, or illegible. If the out of state title is missing, the applicant must obtain a duplicate title from the state where that title was issued.

  — A California dealer’s Application for Registration of New Vehicle (REG 397) form marked “Salvage Vehicle.”

  — A motor vehicle bond. A bond is required when evidence of ownership is not available for a vehicle reported as nonrepairable.

  **Exception:** When an acceptable Application for Unobtainable Title Certification for Issuance of Nonrepairable Certificate (REG 492) form is submitted in place of evidence of ownership documents, do not return the application on a report of deposit of fees (RDF) to request a motor vehicle bond, a lien satisfied (when there is a lienholder on record), or an out of state title (if the vehicle was titled in another state).

  — A REG 492 provided that:

    a. The applicant is an insurance company.

    b. 30 days have passed from the date shown in the “Acceptance Date of Settlement” area of Section 2.

    c. The insurance company made two written attempts to obtain a certificate of title or other evidence of ownership. The date of the second written attempt must be at least 15 days from the date of the first written attempt shown in Section 4.

  **Note:** Insurance companies may authorize an occupational licensee of DMV or a salvage pool to complete this process.

• A Verification of Vehicle (REG 31) form, if nonresident or original application documents are submitted.

• Bill(s) of sale, as necessary, to complete the chain of ownership.

• The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle or Section 3 of the REG 488C must be completed to show what happened to the plates. Dismantlers, dealers, and registration services may destroy the license plates and write their OL number on the REG 488C. Salvage pools are not occupational licensees and must surrender license plates to DMV.

• Any fees due, including the nonrepairable vehicle certificate fee.
19.040 Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate, continued

The procedures below must be followed:

- The following must be verified:
  - REG 488C is the first document.
  - Vehicle description matches the title, printout, or other supporting document.
  - Current license plate number and the wrecked or destroyed date is shown on the 488C.
  - Cost/value is shown, if this is the original application for the vehicle in California. The cost/value may be the insurance payoff to the insured or the purchase price from the previous owner.

19.045 Notice of Retention by Owner—Salvage Vehicle (CVC §11515)

When the owner of a salvage vehicle retains ownership of the vehicle, the insurance company must notify the:

- DMV of the retention by submitting a Salvage Vehicle Notice of Retention by Owner (REG 481) form.
- Vehicle owner of their responsibility to apply for a salvage certificate within 10 days from the settlement of the total loss.

19.050 Removing Salvage Retention Status

Insurance companies are required to report a vehicle as a total loss salvage when the vehicle has been wrecked, destroyed, or damaged to such an extent that the insurer considers it uneconomical to repair.

When DMV is notified by an insurance company that the vehicle has been damaged to such an extent that it is considered uneconomical to repair it, and possession of the vehicle is being retained by the registered owner; DMV marks the vehicle record with a “Salvage Retention” status.

Sometimes, the registered owner believes that the salvage status of the vehicle was reported in error, and they want the record corrected. However, there is no statutory authority that allows DMV to modify the total loss salvage status, except when reported by the insurer in error.

Therefore, before DMV will remove the salvage status, the registered owner must provide appropriate documentation showing that the vehicle was erroneously reported as a salvage retention.
19.050 Removing Salvage Retention Status, continued

One of the following must be submitted:

- A declaration **signed under penalty of perjury** by the manager responsible for the claim (insurer), attesting that the vehicle was erroneously reported as a total loss salvage. The declaration **must state** “the insurer agrees to protect, indemnify, and hold harmless DMV and any and all officers and employees from all expense, cost of liability, including reasonable attorney’s fees, arising from a claim or action based, in whole or in part, on the removal of the salvage brand from the vehicle record, Certificate of Title, and the certificate of registration.”

- If arbitration or mediation was negotiated, documentation signed by the arbitrator or mediator, the manager responsible for claims (insurer), and the insured stating that the vehicle is repairable and not a total loss salvage as defined in the California Vehicle Code §544.

- A court order directing DMV to remove the salvage status.

- Issue the customer a 90-day temporary operating permit (TOP).

- Advise the customer that DMV will review the request and they will be notified by mail of DMV’s decision. DMV headquarters will place a correspondence stop (RCC 05, RSN 53) on the vehicle record, while DMV is reviewing the reversal request.

**Note:** If the applicant is unable to secure the appropriate documentation or the request for reversal is denied, they must apply for a salvage certificate or comply with the procedures for a revived salvage in this chapter.

19.055 Reregistration of Vehicles Withdrawn From Service (CVC §9408)

The owner of a California-registered commercial vehicle withdrawn from service in California **before** the vehicle’s registration expiration date may receive credit for any unused weight fee amount on another vehicle. The sale of a vehicle **does not** constitute withdrawal from service.

**Note:** The Commercial Vehicle Registration Act (CVRA) Motor Vehicle Fund fee **cannot** be prorated or used for weight fee credit calculation.

“Withdrawn from service” means:

- Removing the vehicle from service with no intention of operating it on the California highways during the remainder of the registration year for which registration is valid.

- Dismantling or junking a vehicle.
19.055  Reregistration of Vehicles Withdrawn from Service, continued

The following must be submitted:
• A completed Application for Title or Registration (REG 343) form. The California Certificate of Title.
• A Statement of Facts (REG 256) form from the vehicle owner concerning the previous registration.
• Weight fees prorated from the date of first operation after the date of withdrawal from service up to the registration expiration date and:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the Vehicle Is Reregistered in</th>
<th>Then</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The same registration year as withdrawn</td>
<td>Do not collect the registration fee and vehicle license fee (VLF).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A subsequent registration year</td>
<td>Collect the registration fee and VLF.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** A Verification of Vehicle (REG 31) form is not required.

**Note:** Regular nonresident clearance and fees are required for a vehicle registered out of state in the interim.

19.060  Revived Junk (CVC §11519)

Vehicles which have been dismantled (as evidenced by a junk receipt or bill of sale from a dismantler) and, when rebuilt, resemble the make of the vehicle originally dismantled are called “revived junk.” Revived junk vehicles are registered by the original make name and year model.

The inspection fee for a revived junk or salvage vehicle application must be paid prior to the vehicle inspection/verification.

The Verification of Vehicle (REG 31) form or an additional verification of vehicle is not required when a California Highway Patrol (CHP) Certificate Inspection (CHP 97C) form is submitted on a revived junk or salvage vehicle application.

The following must be submitted:
• A completed Application for Title or Registration (REG 343) form. The cost information must include the labor cost, even if the labor was provided or done by the applicant. The vehicle license fee (VLF) class is based on the cost shown.
• The “junk” receipt or a bill of sale from the dismantler. A dismantler’s bill of sale must include the dismantler’s acquisition number.
• Bill(s) of sale, as necessary, to establish a complete chain of ownership.
• Declaration of Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight (CGW) (REG 4008) form for a commercial vehicle over 6,001 unladen pounds, except pickups.
• A REG 31 form. Previously junked vehicles (California or nonresident) must be inspected by an authorized DMV employee or referred to the CHP for inspection, as appropriate.
19.060 Revived Junk, continued

**IMPORTANT:** Vehicles originally manufactured with air bags must be equipped with air bags in good working order to be reregistered. If it is observed during the verification process that the air bags are missing (hole in steering column, passenger side glove compartment area, or side door panels), indicating that the airbags have been deployed and/or removed, the vehicle must be inspected at a CHP Salvage Inspection Station.

- A weight certificate for a commercial vehicle under 10,001 pounds GVW (6,001 unladen pounds). If the vehicle is over 10,000 pounds GVW or a permanent trailer identification (PTI) trailer, the estimated weight may be shown on a Statement of Facts (REG 256) form.

- Official brake and light adjustment certificates.
  - Certificate of Compliance-Brake Adjustment (B-91, REV. 4/99) and Certificate of Compliance-Lamp Adjustment (L-91, REV. 4/99) with any issue date. These forms are printed on dotted gray paper with “BA” (brake) and “LA” (lamp) prefixes in the certificate numbers.
  - Certificate of Adjustment-Brake Adjustment (B-91, REV. 11/08) and Certificate of Adjustment-Lamp Adjustment (L-91, REV. 11/08) issued before November 30, 2015. These forms are printed on plain white paper with “BC” (brake) and “LC” (lamp) prefixes in the certificate numbers.

**Note:** Brake and lamp certificates REV. 11/08 presented with an issue date after November 29, 2015 will not be accepted. The technician must advise the customer the certificate is not valid and a new certificate is required.

- When an official brake and light station that inspects specific vehicles, such as motorcycles and large commercial vehicles, is not located within a reasonable distance, a Statement of Facts (REG 256) from a repair shop attesting that the brakes and lights are in proper working order may be accepted. Brake and light certificates are not required for trailers with a GVW under 3,000 pounds.

**Note:** Brake and light adjustment certificates over 90-days old are acceptable.

- A smog certification, if appropriate.
- All fees due, including the prior history fee. Fees must be paid within 20 days from the date of first operation to avoid penalty.

**The procedures below must be followed:**

- Collect the $50 junk and salvage vehicle inspection fee prior to a vehicle inspection/verification. (This fee should also be collected prior to inspection on out of state vehicle applications).
- **Not** require a REG 31 or additional verification when a vehicle is referred to CHP or a CHP 97C is submitted.
19.065 Revived Salvage—California Record

A revived salvage vehicle is a vehicle that was reported to the California DMV by the insurance company or owner as a total loss and has been restored to operational condition.

**Note:** A salvage vehicle reported dismantled under CVC §11520 is a revived junk and the application must be processed as shown in the Revived Junk section in this chapter.

The inspection fee for a revived junk or salvage vehicle application must be paid prior to the vehicle inspection/verification.

The Verification of Vehicle (REG 31) form or an additional verification of vehicle is not required when a California Highway Patrol (CHP) Certificate Inspection (CHP 97C) form is submitted on a revived junk or salvage vehicle application.

**The following must be submitted:**

- A completed Application for Title or Registration (REG 343) form.
  - The cost of the vehicle must include labor costs, even if the labor was done by the applicant.

The evidence of ownership for the vehicle, such as:

- A California Salvage Certificate.
- An Application for Salvage Certificate or Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate (REG 488C) form marked duplicate, if the original salvage certificate is missing and a completed Statement of Facts (REG 256) form which describes the vehicle and certifies to the disposition of the original salvage certificate. The California Certificate of Title with a REG 488C.
- An Application for Duplicate or Paperless Title (REG 227) form with a REG 488C.

**Note:** If an owner revives a vehicle prior to obtaining a salvage certificate, a completed REG 488C and the salvage certificate fee are still required, but it is not necessary to actually issue the salvage certificate.

- Bills of sale, as needed, to complete the chain of ownership.

**Note:** A report of sale is required for a vehicle sold by a California dealer.

- A Vehicle/Vessel Transfer and Reassignment Form (REG 262) form for the odometer disclosure statement, if applicable.
- A Declaration of Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight (CGW) (REG 4008) form for a commercial vehicle over 6,001 pounds unladen, except pickups.
19.065 Revived Salvage—California Record, continued

• A REG 31 form. Previously junked vehicles (California or nonresident) must be inspected by an authorized DMV employee or referred to the CHP for inspection, as appropriate.

IMPORTANT: Previously salvaged California vehicles being reregistered for on-highway use must be inspected by an authorized DMV employee or referred to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) for inspection, as appropriate. Previously salvaged nonresident vehicles being reregistered for on-highway use must be referred to the CHP for inspection.

The vehicle must be referred to the CHP for inspection if a New York Salvage Certificate is submitted as proof of ownership.

Vehicles originally manufactured with air bags must be equipped with air bags in good working order to be reregistered. If it is observed during the verification process that the air bags are missing (hole in steering column, passenger side glove compartment area, or side door panels), indicating that the airbags have been deployed and/or removed, the vehicle must be inspected at a CHP Salvage Inspection Station.

• Official brake and light adjustment certificates.
  — Certificate of Compliance-Brake Adjustment (B-91, REV. 4/99) and Certificate of Compliance-Lamp Adjustment (L-91, REV. 4/99) with any issue date. These forms are printed on dotted gray paper with “BA” (brake) and “LA” (lamp) prefixes in the certificate numbers.
  — Certificate of Adjustment-Brake Adjustment (B-91, REV. 11/08) and Certificate of Adjustment-Lamp Adjustment (L-91, REV. 11/08) issued before November 30, 2015. These forms are printed on plain white paper with “BC” (brake) and “LC” (lamp) prefixes in the certificate numbers.

NOTE: Brake and lamp certificates REV. 11/08 presented with an issue date after November 29, 2015 will not be accepted. The technician must advise the customer the certificate is not valid and a new certificate is required.

• When an official brake and light station that inspects specific vehicles, such as motorcycles and large commercial vehicles, is not located within a reasonable distance, a REG 256 from a repair shop attesting that the brakes and lights are in proper working order may be accepted. Brake and light certificates are not required for trailers with a GVW under 3,000 pounds.
19.065 Revived Salvage—California Record, *continued*

**Note:** Brake and light adjustment certificates over 90-days are acceptable.

- A weight certificate for a commercial vehicle under 10,001 pounds GVW (6,001 unladen pounds). If the vehicle is over 10,000 pounds GVW or a permanent trailer identification (PTI) trailer, the estimated weight may be shown on a Statement of Facts (REG 256) form.
- A smog certification, if appropriate. Only biennial smog requirements apply to a vehicle retained by the owner of record.
- All fees due, including the $50 Salvage/Dismantled Vehicles Inspection fee and the Substitute Plate fee. Fees and penalties are due if the California registration has expired and a planned non operation (PNO) is not on file. Refer to Appendix 1F for fees.

**The procedures below must be followed:**
- Collect the $50 junk and salvage vehicle inspection fee prior to a vehicle inspection/verification. (this fee should also be collected prior to inspection on out of state vehicle applications).
- *Not* require a REG 31 or additional verification when a vehicle is referred to CHP or a CHP 97C is submitted.
- Retain the vehicle license fee (VLF) class if the registered owner remains the same.
- Reclassify the vehicle based on the purchase price, if ownership is transferred, but retain the expiration date on record.
- Apply fees posted prior to the issuance of the salvage certificate to this transaction.

19.070 Revived Salvage—New or Nonresident (CVC §11519)

A vehicle never registered in California (such as a new or nonresident) and reported as salvaged can be registered in California.

The inspection fee for a revived junk or salvage vehicle application must be paid prior to the vehicle inspection/verification.

The Verification of Vehicle (REG 31) form or an additional verification of vehicle is not required when a California Highway Patrol (CHP) Certificate Inspection (CHP 97C) form is submitted on a revived junk or salvage vehicle application.

**The following must be submitted:**
- A completed Application for Title or Registration (REG 343) form.
- The California Salvage Certificate, out of state salvage certificate, or out of state title with a completed Application for Salvage Certificate or Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate (REG 488C) form.

**Note:** Evidence of nonresident registration is not required when fees are collected from the date of sale as shown on the Salvage Certificate.
19.070 Revived Salvage—New or Nonresident, continued

- A Used Vehicle Report of Sale (REG 51) form, if applicable.
- A Used Vehicle Certification (REG 496) form, if applicable.
- A Statement of Facts (REG 256) form from the insurer or buyer stating the vehicle was never registered in California, unless this fact is indicated on the REG 343.
- A Declaration of Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight (CGW) (REG 4008) form for a commercial vehicle over 6,001 pounds unladen, except pickups.
- A REG 31 or, if the vehicle was referred to CHP for inspection, the CHP 97C.

**Note:** If a New York Salvage Certificate is accepted as proof of ownership, the vehicle must be referred to the CHP for verification of the confidential number.

- A weight certificate for a commercial vehicle weighing less than 10,001 pounds unladen. If the vehicle is operated over 10,000 pounds GVW or is a permanent trailer identification (PTI) trailer, the estimated weight may be shown on a REG 256.
- Official brake and light adjustment certificates.
  - Certificate of Compliance-Brake Adjustment (B-91, REV. 4/99) and Certificate of Compliance-Lamp Adjustment (L-91, REV. 4/99) with any issue date. These forms are printed on dotted gray paper with “BA” (brake) and “LA” (lamp) prefixes in the certificate numbers.
  - Certificate of Adjustment-Brake Adjustment (B-91, REV. 11/08) and Certificate of Adjustment-Lamp Adjustment (L-91, REV. 11/08) issued before November 30, 2015. These forms are printed on plain white paper with “BC” (brake) and “LC” (lamp) prefixes in the certificate numbers.

**Note:** Brake and lamp certificates REV. 11/08 presented with an issue date after November 29, 2015 will not be accepted. Advise the customer the certificate is not valid and a new certificate is required.

- When an official brake and light station that inspects specific vehicles, such as motorcycles and large commercial vehicles is not located within a reasonable distance, accept a REG 256 from a repair shop certifying the brakes and lights are in proper working order. Brake and light certificates are not required for trailers under 3,000 pounds GVW.
- A smog certification, if appropriate.
- A Vehicle/Vessel Transfer and Reassignment Form (REG 262) for the odometer disclosure statement, if applicable.
- All fees due, including the prior history fee. For vehicles with valid registration on the date of loss, fees become due upon the first known operation after the sale date shown on the salvage certificate. Fees must be paid within 20 days of the date of first operation to avoid penalties. Refer to Chapter 4 for transactions not subject to use tax.
19.070 Revived Salvage—New or Nonresident, continued

The procedures below must be followed:

- Collect the $50 junk and salvage vehicle inspection fee prior to a vehicle inspection/verification. (this fee should also be collected prior to inspection on out of state vehicle applications)
- Not require a REG 31 or additional verification when a vehicle is referred to CHP or a CHP 97C is submitted.

19.075 Salvage Certificate (CVC §11515)

The insurance company or its designee (salvage pool or registration service) or the owner must apply for the salvage certificate within 10 days from the date the insurance company makes a total loss settlement with the owner.

A salvage certificate cannot be issued for an unrecovered stolen vehicle.

Insurance Company Applications—A salvage certificate can be issued to an insurance company for a total loss salvage vehicle when evidence of ownership cannot be obtained within 30 days following a total loss settlement. The insurance company must make two written attempts to obtain the evidence of ownership and wait at least 30 days after the date of settlement before applying for the salvage certificate. An Unobtainable Title Certification for Issuance of Salvage Certificate (REG 492) form is required. The insurance company may authorize an occupational licensee of the DMV or a salvage pool to complete this process.

Motor Vehicle Bond—A bond is required when regular certificates of title are not available for a vehicle reported as salvage under CVC §11515. The bond amount must be for the amount of the payoff to the insured plus the amount paid by the salvage buyer. Refer to Chapter 23.

The following must be submitted:

- An Application for Salvage Certificate or Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate (REG 488C) form completed and signed by the owner or insurance company, as appropriate. A computer-generated Application for Salvage Certificate or Nonrepairable Vehicle form preapproved by DMV headquarters may be submitted by a salvage pool.
- Evidence of ownership, such as:
  - The properly endorsed California or out-of-state title. The applicant’s signature is not required in the “new registered owner” space of the title; the signature on the REG 488C is sufficient.
  - An Application for Duplicate or Paperless Title (REG 227) form, if the California title is lost, stolen, mutilated, or illegible. If the out of state title is missing, the applicant must obtain a duplicate title from the state where that title was issued.
  - A properly completed Unobtainable Title Certification for Issuance of Salvage Certificate (REG 492) form. The REG 492 can only be submitted by an insurance company.
19.075 Salvage Certificate, continued

— The California dealer’s Application for Registration of New Vehicle (REG 397) form marked “Salvage Vehicle.”
— A motor vehicle bond. A bond is required when evidence of ownership is not available for a vehicle reported as salvage unless an insurance company submits a REG 492. Refer to Chapter 23 for bond information.

• A Verification of Vehicle (REG 31) form, if nonresident or miscellaneous original application documents are submitted.
• Bill(s) of sale, as necessary, to complete the chain of ownership.
• The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle and the REG 488C with Section 3 completed to show the disposition of the license plates. Dismantlers, dealers, or registration services may destroy the license plates and write their OL number on the REG 488C. Salvage pools are not occupational licensees and must surrender license plates to DMV.
• The salvage certificate fee. Registration fees are not collected when the salvage certificate is issued. However, all fees must be paid on the vehicle or a Certificate of Non-Operation/Planned Non-Operation Certification (REG 102) form filed in a timely manner to avoid penalties, regardless of whether the vehicle will be revived.

Verification of the following:

• REG 488C.
• Vehicle description matches the title, printout, or other supporting document.
• Current license plate number and the wrecked or destroyed date is shown on the 488C.
• Cost/value is shown, if this is the original application for the vehicle in California. The cost/value may be the insurance payoff to the insured and/or lienholder the purchase price from the previous owner.

Salvage Certificate Issuance—The salvage certificate must be issued in the name of the insurance company or owner shown on DMV’s records at the time the vehicle was wrecked, not to a subsequent buyer. Transfer of the vehicle to the subsequent buyer may be accomplished by the owner or insurance company using the assignment space on the salvage certificate. Issuance of a salvage certificate does not change the expiration date of the vehicle.

19.080 Salvage Certificate Application With Prior Fees Paid

Do not use a prior RDF credit to cover the salvage certificate fee unless the fee was deposited specifically for that purpose.
19.085 **Sold by a Public Agency or Auctioneer (CVC §24007.5)**

An auctioneer or public agency cannot sell any new or used vehicle at public auction that is not in compliance with the provisions of the *California Vehicle Code* (CVC).

**Exceptions**—This does not apply to vehicles sold:

- To a dealer.
- For the purpose of being wrecked or dismantled.
- Exclusively for off-highway use.
- Pursuant to a writ of execution or court order including, but not limited to, a bankruptcy sale.
- At lien sale, if the lienholder submits a Notice of Transfer and Release of Liability (REG 138) form as specified in CVC §5900 (a,b) and notifies the buyer in writing that a smog certification is required to register the vehicle.
- By a public utility or public agency when it is deemed the cost of repairs to a vehicle exceeds the value of the vehicle. A public utility is defined as any common carrier, electrical, gas, pipeline, sewer, telegraph, telephone, toll bridge, or water corporation where the service is performed for, or the commodity delivered to, the public or any portion thereof (PUC §216).

Not all vehicles sold by public agencies fall under CVC §24007.5, such as vehicles that are of higher value or are a total loss salvage. It is the public agency’s responsibility to identify the type of each application and to submit the appropriate paperwork.

The inspection fee for a revived junk or salvage vehicle application must be paid prior to the vehicle inspection/verification.

The Verification of Vehicle (REG 31) form or an additional verification of vehicle is not required when a California Highway Patrol (CHP) CHP Certificate Inspection (CHP 97C) form is submitted on a revived junk or salvage vehicle application.

**The public utility/agency must:**

- Submit the following to mark the vehicle record as junk:
  — The certificate of title.
  — The registration card.
  — The license plates.
- Provide each bidder with a notice in writing that a smog certification is required before the vehicle may be reregistered, unless it is dismantled or used exclusively off-highway.
- Give the purchaser a bill of sale showing the vehicle description and last issued license number. The vehicle is reregistered as a revived junk.

**Note:** When selling a vehicle that meets safety and equipment standards, the public utility, public agency, or auctioneer delivers the certificate of title and registration card to the buyer.
19.085 Sold by a Public Agency or Auctioneer, continued

The buyer must submit:

- A completed Application for Title or Registration (REG 343) form. The cost information **must include** the labor cost, even if the labor was provided or done by the applicant. The vehicle license fee (VLF) class is based on the cost shown.

- A REG 31 form. Previously junked vehicles (California or nonresident) **must be** inspected by an authorized DMV employee or referred to CHP for inspection.

- The “junk” receipt or a bill of sale from the dismantler. A dismantler’s bill of sale **must** include the dismantler’s acquisition number.

- Bill(s) of sale, as necessary, to establish a complete chain of ownership.

- A Vehicle/Vessel Transfer and Reassignment Form (REG 262) for odometer disclosure statement, if applicable.

- A Declaration of Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight(CGW) (REG 4008) form for a commercial vehicle over 6,001 pounds unladen, except pickups.

- Official brake and light adjustment certificates,
  - Certificate of Compliance-Brake Adjustment (B-91, REV. 4/99) and Certificate of Compliance-Lamp Adjustment (L-91, REV. 4/99) with **any** issue date. These forms are printed on dotted gray paper with “BA” (brake) and “LA” (lamp) prefixes in the certificate numbers.
  - Certificate of Adjustment-Brake Adjustment (B-91, REV. 11/08) and Certificate of Adjustment-Lamp Adjustment (L-91, REV. 11/08) issued before November 30, 2015. These forms are printed on plain white paper with “BC” (brake) and “LC” (lamp) prefixes in the certificate numbers.

**Note:** Brake and lamp certificates REV. 11/08 presented with an issue date **after** November 29, 2015 will not be accepted. The technician must advise the customer the certificate is not valid and a new certificate is required.

- **Except** on trailers 3,000 pounds or less GVW. When an official brake and light station that inspects specific vehicles, such as motorcycles and large commercial vehicles, is not located within a reasonable distance, accept a Statement of Facts (REG 256) form from a repair shop stating that the brakes and lights are in proper working order.

- A weight certificate for a commercial vehicle under 10,001 pounds GVW (6,001 unladen pounds). If the vehicle is over 10,000 pounds GVW or a permanent trailer identification (PTI) trailer, the estimated weight may be shown on a Statement of Facts (REG 256) form.

- A smog certification, if appropriate.

- All fees due.
19.085 Sold by a Public Agency or Auctioneer, *continued*

**NOTE:** For government sales, the General Services Administration issues a Certificate of Release (Standard Form 97) for **all** vehicles that are sold. For those that **do not** meet safety requirements, the Standard Form 97 is stamped “NOT FOR HIGHWAY USE.”

The procedures below must be followed:

- Collect the $50 junk and salvage vehicle inspection fee prior to a vehicle inspection/verification. (this fee should also be collected prior to inspection on out of state vehicle applications)
- Do not require a REG 31 or additional verification when a vehicle is referred to CHP or a CHP 97C is submitted.
- Process the application as a transfer from exempt to fee paid.