Information for insurers, vehicle recyclers, dealers and repairers

December 2019

Written-Off Heavy Vehicles Register

In 2018 the NSW Government introduced a new Written-Off Heavy Vehicles Register to improve road safety and reduce the incidence of heavy vehicle theft, rebirthing and related crime.

What vehicles are included in the WOHVR?

Heavy vehicles have a Gross Vehicle Mass of more than 4.5 tonnes. The WOHVR will cover most heavy vehicles, including trucks, prime movers, trailers and buses. It will not include 'special purpose vehicles' (vehicles not intended to carry passengers or goods) and vehicles registered under the NSW Conditional Registration Scheme.

How will vehicles be classified in the WOHVR?

A written-off heavy vehicle must be classified and notified to the WOHVR as either a 'statutory' or a 'repairable' write-off.

Heavy vehicles that are assessed as a total loss and have sustained damage listed under the statutory write-off assessment criteria will be classified as statutory write-offs and will be unable to be repaired or re-registered in NSW.

These vehicles will still be able to be purchased and sold, but can only be used for demolishing and dismantling for parts.

Statutory write-offs have their Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) permanently cancelled.

A repairable write-off is a vehicle that has been assessed as a total loss but can be safely repaired. A repairable write-off can be re-registered if it has been repaired and certified by a suitably licensed repairer and meets inspection and registration requirements.

Who is responsible for notifying the WOHVR?

Vehicle insurers, self-insurers, recyclers and dealers must update the WOHVR.

Who can assess a written-off heavy vehicle?

Heavy vehicle damage assessors must have relevant qualifications or be acting on the advice of someone with those qualifications. Assessors must and base the cost of repairs on either the manufacturer’s repair guidelines or acceptable industry standards.

What is the repair standard for repairable written-off heavy vehicles?

Repairable written-off heavy vehicles must be repaired in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommended repair guidelines, or where these are not available, to recognised industry standards.

Meeting a manufacturer’s repair standards is best practice and ensures vehicle and driver safety.

What training and qualifications do heavy vehicle assessors need?

Assessors must ensure that total loss assessments are made by a person who has all of the following qualifications:

1. Successful completion of an approved course
2. Demonstrated ability to determine whether or not a heavy vehicle has suffered damage listed under the statutory write-off assessment criteria
3. Demonstrated ability to apply the relevant technical specifications and the written-off heavy vehicle policies and procedures published on our website.

What is an ‘approved course’?

An approved course is a training course in vehicle repair assessment provided by a training provider accredited by the Australian Skills Quality Authority. It can also be a course that includes training on:

- Sourcing and interpreting repair standards and methods documented by vehicle manufactures or recognised by industry
- Using those standards and methods to calculate repair costs
- Conducting repair assessments in compliance with those standards and methods
- Conducting total loss assessments having regard to damage listed under the statutory write-off assessment criteria.
How should written-off heavy vehicles be assessed?

Heavy vehicle damage must be assessed by a person who is qualified to do the job.

Assessors must base vehicle repair costs on either the manufacturer’s repair guidelines or acceptable industry standards.

This requirement provides a framework for determining heavy vehicle damage and cost of repair.

Assessors must:

1. Notify the register within seven days of an assessment as a write-off before the vehicle is sold or disposed of
2. Issue a vehicle total loss assessment when requested by the vehicle operator or Transport for NSW
3. If the vehicle is assessed as a write-off, attach a written-off heavy vehicle warning label in a visible place to show that the vehicle can’t be re-registered until it is repaired and certified (repairable write-off) or is suitable only for spare parts / scrap metal (statutory write-off)
   On a dismantled vehicle, attach the label to the part with the VIN on it
4. Keep documents from a total loss assessment for seven years regardless of whether the heavy vehicle is actually written-off or not.

How will the certification process work for repairable written-off heavy vehicles?

A suitably licensed repairer will issue a Heavy Vehicle Certificate of Compliance. It will certify that repairs to a repairable written-off heavy vehicle have been made to manufacturer’s specifications or to industry standards.

Once all repairs are completed and certified, if the owner wishes to re-register the vehicle, it will require inspection at an Authorised Unregistered Vehicle Inspection Station.

Find an authorised inspection centre at www.rms.nsw.gov.au

Do assessors keep records?

Assessors are required to keep records of a vehicle assessment for a period of seven years.

Does a written-off heavy vehicle require a warning label?

Assessors will need to attach a written-off heavy vehicle warning label to written-off heavy vehicles to warn potential buyers that the vehicle cannot be re-registered until it is repaired and certified (a repairable write-off) or is assessed as suitable for parts or scrap only (statutory write-off).

What training and qualifications do heavy vehicle repairers need?

Only suitably licensed repairers may repair and certify repairable written-off heavy vehicles to allow re-registration in NSW.

A suitably licensed repairer is a person who holds a motor vehicle repairer’s licence issued by NSW Fair Trading (or corresponding interstate agency), and their repairer’s licence class authorises them to repair the vehicle and damage type.

Interstate licenced repairers must also hold, or employ a person who holds, the relevant qualifications set out in clause 36 of the Motor Dealers and Repairers Regulation 2014 for the classes of repair work set out in clause 34 of that regulation. For more information visit www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

More information

Further information on written-off heavy vehicles and the Register is available at www.rms.nsw.gov.au or call 13 77 88.