

Changes from 31 January 2011

All NSW vehicles recorded on the Written-off Vehicle Register (WOVR) on or after 31 January 2011 will be classified as statutory (non-repairable) write-offs.

Vehicles classified as statutory write-offs will not be able to be registered in Australia. They will only be able to be used for parts or scrap metal.

The laws will apply to NSW light vehicles including trailers, caravans and motor bikes. A light vehicle is a registrable vehicle 4.5 tonnes or less gross vehicle mass (GVM).

Vehicles recorded as a repairable write-off before 31 January 2011 will continue to be so classified on the WOVR.

Why are the laws being changed?

The changes are being made to improve consumer protection and vehicle safety, and reduce vehicle theft and re-birthing, where stolen parts are used to illegally rebuild written-off vehicles.

For further information please visit the RTA website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au/wov

Will any written-off vehicles be able to be registered?

Most written-off vehicles will not be able to be re-registered from 31 January 2011. However in limited instances, the RTA will consider applications to repair and register vehicles on a case-by-case basis.

To ensure you comply with your legal obligations you must refer to the appropriate legislation. Information on the latest laws can be checked by visiting the NSW legislation website (www.legislation.nsw.gov.au).

This publication does not represent a comprehensive statement of the law as it applies to particular problems or to individuals or as a substitute for legal advice. You should seek independent legal advice if you need assistance on the application of the law to your situation.

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The information in this document is accurate at the time of printing.

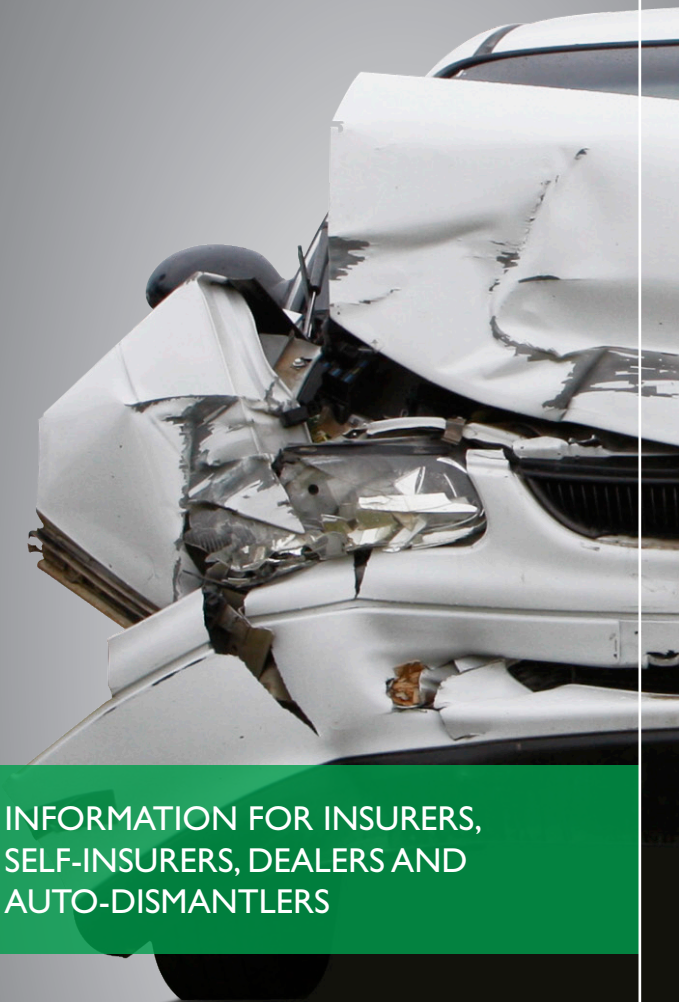
For the latest information go to
www.rta.nsw.gov.au/wov or call 13 22 13

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Authority

Written-off vehicle reforms 2011



INFORMATION FOR INSURERS,
SELF-INSURERS, DEALERS AND
AUTO-DISMANTLERS

Vehicle damage assessment and notification process

In this document and in the legislation, the term 'assessor' refers to insurers, self-insurers, dealers and auto-dismantlers.

A self-insurer is a registered operator of five or more business vehicles which do not have insurance policies for loss or damage provided by external parties.

1. If a damaged vehicle is assessed as a write-off, the assessor must:

- Notify the RTA (Written-off Vehicle Register).
- If requested by the vehicle operator or owner, issue a Declaration of Vehicle Damage using the RTA template.
- Attach a label in a clearly visible position to show that the vehicle cannot be re-registered and is only suitable for spare parts or dismantling.

Statutory Write-Off

WARNING:

This vehicle cannot be re-registered in NSW, or anywhere else in Australia.

Statutory written-off vehicle – available for parts or scrap only – limited exemptions apply.

This Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) has been recorded as a statutory write-off on the Written-off Vehicles Register.



Note: If the vehicle is dismantled, the label must be attached to the area displaying the vehicle identification number (VIN).

2. Assessors must keep specified vehicle assessment records for all damaged vehicles for seven years.

Which vehicles will be considered for repair and registration?

The registered vehicle operator (at the time the vehicle was assessed as a write-off) can apply to the RTA for authorisation to repair their vehicle if the vehicle is:

- In an exempt vehicle category.
- Able to be repaired to legislated vehicle safety standards.

Exempt vehicle categories include:

- High market value.
- Hail damage.
- Low production run.
- First or last in production run or model range.
- Personally imported.
- Individually constructed.
- Inherited.
- Owned for five years or more by the registered operator.
- Registered operator is a member of a recognised enthusiasts' club for vehicles of that type.

What will the repair and registration process be?

1. The vehicle operator or owner sends an Application to Commence Repairs to the RTA.
2. If the RTA issues an Authorisation to Repair:
 - The vehicle must be repaired according to manufacturer's guidelines (or to recognised industry standards if there are no manufacturer's guidelines), and
 - A repairer holding an appropriate class of licence issued by NSW Fair Trading must certify that the repairs have been carried out to the above standards.
3. The vehicle must pass two inspections – one for mechanical safety and one for identity validation.
4. If the vehicle meets the above requirements, the RTA will change its status to a former written-off vehicle (to be shown as iWVOV on the WOVV).
5. The vehicle operator or owner can apply to the RTA to register the vehicle.

Vehicle damage assessed by a competent person from 31 July 2011

From 31 July 2011, damaged vehicles must be assessed by a competent person. A competent person is someone with:

- Formal training in vehicle repair assessment from a provider who is accredited with the Vocational Training Accreditation Board **or** a course recognised by the RTA, and
- Demonstrated ability to determine whether a vehicle has suffered non-repairable damage, and
- Demonstrated ability to apply manufacturers' repair guidelines and recognised industry standards.

What support materials are available for assessors?

See the RTA *Assessment and Notification – Administrative Procedures* and related legislation, available at www.rta.nsw.gov.au/wov

Can interstate repairable write-offs be registered in NSW?

If the repairable write-off was recorded on an interstate Written-off Vehicle Register before 31 January 2011, the vehicle can be repaired and registered in NSW if it meets RTA registration requirements.

If the vehicle was recorded as a repairable write-off on an interstate Register from 31 January 2011, the vehicle is not eligible for registration in NSW. The vehicle may only be registered in NSW if it has first been registered by another jurisdiction.