

# Written-Off Vehicles



## Guidelines on Written-Off Vehicles

# What you need to know before you purchase a Written-Off Vehicle

This fact sheet provides important information that must be considered before repairing a vehicle that has been assessed and recorded as a Written-Off Vehicle (WOV).

## Introduction

Since October 2002 all vehicles Written-Off under the provisions of the *Vehicle and Traffic Act 1999* i.e. vehicles less than 15 years of age, have been required to pass a comprehensive vehicle identity and roadworthiness inspection prior to being granted re-registration. This process is consistent with the national guidelines for the management of WOV developed by the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) and adopted by most states and territories.

## Key facts about the Written-Off Vehicle Register

### What is the Written-Off Vehicle Register?

The Written-Off Vehicle Register (WOVR) is a national data base for recording of written-off vehicles that are less than 15 years of age and are:

- a motor vehicle with a GVM not greater than 4.5 tonnes;
- a motor bike; and
- trailers including caravans.

These vehicles **must** be notified by a prescribed person to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles (RMV) to be recorded on the WOVR. The register includes details of the description of the location and severity of damage sustained. Written-Off vehicles are recorded on the register under one of two categories, either a Statutory Write-Off (SWO) or Repairable Write-Off (RWO) dependent upon the type of damage the vehicle has sustained.

### What is a statutory Write-Off?

This is a written-off motor vehicle, trailer or motorcycle that has been so severely damaged that it cannot be repaired to a standard suitable to be re-registered for road use. A SWO can never be re-registered anywhere in Australia. Information on what makes a Written-Off vehicle a SWO can be sourced from the Department of State Growth (the Department) website on: [http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/vehicle\\_inspections/ambris](http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/vehicle_inspections/ambris)

### What is a Repairable Write-Off?

Is a written-off vehicle that does not meet the criteria for a SWO.

### Repairing a 'Repairable Write-Off' Vehicle

The majority of written-off vehicles are declared a RWO by a prescribed person for a variety of reasons, these include:

- Fire;
- Hail;
- Impact;

- Malicious damage;
- Water (salt/fresh); and
- Major vandalism.

All damaged vehicles must be repaired in accordance with the manufacturer's repair instructions, or best industry practice. The Department requires that the damage which caused the vehicle to be entered on the WOVR as a RWO, must be repaired, restored or replaced. However, a cosmetically damaged vehicle (for example a motorcycle with a scratched fairing or a vehicle with paint/hail damage) does not have to be repaired unless it has been determined that it constitutes a dangerous protrusion or it has affected the structural integrity of the vehicle. WOV cannot be modified from the manufacturers build specifications prior to successfully undergoing the required pre-registration inspections.

The repairer is responsible for obtaining the manufacturer's guidelines (repair procedure) from the manufacturer or an authorised dealer of the manufacturer prior to repairing the vehicle. Some manufacturers may charge for this material. You will be required to provide repair procedure documentation of the repairs undertaken at the time of inspection of the repaired vehicle.

It is highly recommended that you contact an Approved Motor Body Repair Inspection Station (AMBRIS) who is approved by the RMV to conduct structural inspections of vehicles **before you commence any vehicle repairs as it may be more practical for the AMBRIS to inspect your vehicle at different stages during the repair process.**

### How do I have my Repairable Written-Off Vehicle re-registered?

A RWO will be permitted to be re-registered following completion of a three tier inspection process:-

#### Tier 1:

A structural inspection undertaken by an AMBRIS.

All RWO vehicles require a comprehensive vehicle structural inspection, to confirm the structural integrity of the vehicle. This will determine if the vehicle has been repaired to manufacturer's repair instructions or best industry practice.

#### Tier 2:

A pre-registration inspection undertaken by an Approved Inspection Station (AIS). This will determine if the vehicle is roadworthy and fully compliant with the Light Vehicle Inspection Manual (LVIM).

#### Tier 3:

An identification check undertaken by Departmental Transport Inspectors.

All RWO vehicles require a comprehensive vehicle identity inspection, to confirm the identity. This will determine if the vehicle is stolen, re-birthed or repaired using parts from a stolen vehicle.

## Frequently asked questions

### What do I have to do to complete my 1st tier (structural inspection) inspection?

Contact an AMBRIS and make a booking to present your vehicle for inspection. To locate an AMBRIS in your area access the Departments website on: [http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/vehicle\\_inspections/ambris](http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/vehicle_inspections/ambris)

### What is the cost for an AMBRIS inspection?

There is no set fee for the inspection. You should negotiate the fee charged with the AMBRIS before the inspection.

### What will I need to present for my 1st tier inspection?

Items that will be required in a repair diary when presenting a vehicle include:

- a) Photographs of the vehicle in it's damaged state and prior to any repairs:
  - The photographs of the damaged vehicle must be of the vehicle prior to sale, usually taken by the insurance company or the Auction house selling the vehicle through their WOV sales. These photographs are available from the auction house at time of sale.
- b) Photographs taken at various times throughout the repair process. If the repairs to the vehicle included the repair or replacement of parts in the suspension, steering, or body structural members.
- c) Original receipts for the **purchase** of all major components. The receipts must include:
  - Name and address of the person/business that sold the parts.
  - The ABN of the business that sold the parts.
  - Date of purchase.
  - Purchase price.
  - Description of components including vehicle type (Ford, Holden, Toyota etc), left/right/front/rear, inner/outer
  - Date of repairs.
  - Name and address of owner of damaged vehicle.
  - Identification of vehicle being repaired.
  - All repairs and replacement parts undertaken in the repair.
  - List, individually, the parts supplied by repairer and the parts supplied by customer.
  - Where the repairing or replacement of airbag/s is required, a report from an accredited agent that the system is complete and operational.



- d) For vehicles fitted with any form of Supplementary Restraint System (SRS) or airbag as fitted by the original manufacturer, a report from an accredited agent that the SRS systems are complete and operational. The report must include all vehicle details i.e. – VIN, registration number, make and model.

*Note: refer to the “Guidelines on Repair Diaries for Written-Off Vehicles” brochure to assist in preparing a repair diary for damaged vehicles.*

### Does my vehicle have to be electronically measured on a universal measuring device as part of my structural inspection?

Yes, vehicles presented for inspection after 1 July 2012 that have sustained heavy impact damage will require to be measured on a universal measuring device by an AMBRIS. This will form part of their structural inspection report.

### What do I have to do to complete my 2nd tier (Pre-registration) inspection?

Firstly contact an AIS and make a booking to present your vehicle for inspection. To locate an AIS in your area. Access the Departments website on: [http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/vehicle\\_inspections/ais](http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/vehicle_inspections/ais)

You will need to complete this inspection before presenting your vehicle to a 3rd tier inspection.

## Further information

Contact the Department of State Growth  
Registration and Licensing Services  
76 Federal St. NORTH HOBART TAS 7000  
GPO Box 536 HOBART TAS 7001  
Telephone: 1300 135 513  
Internet: <http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/>  
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