

FACT SHEET



Recovered Theft Vehicle Procedure

PURPOSE

This Fact Sheet explains the requirements for titling and registering recovered theft vehicles that qualify for the special "T" title brand designation on the vehicle's certificate of title. It describes the documentation required for titling and registration as well as vehicle restoration requirements. All recovered theft vehicles must be equipped as required by the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code and the Equipment and Inspection Regulations for the proper body type of the vehicle. No exceptions can be made, since recovered theft vehicles are required to pass the safety inspection program.

DEFINITIONS

Theft Vehicle - A vehicle, other than an antique or classic vehicle, which was reported stolen.

Recovered Theft Vehicle - A vehicle, other than an antique or classic vehicle, which was reported as stolen but subsequently recovered.

PROCESSING PROCEDURE INFORMATION

1. Upon payment to the insured of the replacement value for a theft vehicle, the owner or insurer must apply for a certificate of salvage, branded as a theft vehicle.
2. If a theft vehicle has been recovered, the vehicle must be assessed as to the level of damage at the time of the recovery by an insurer or licensed physical damage appraiser. NOTE: The assessment **MUST** include the replacement value of the vehicle and level of damage in dollars.
3. For recovered theft vehicles, with repairs that **do not** exceed the replacement value of the vehicle, the owner **MUST** apply for a certificate of title branded recovered-theft.
4. Recovered theft vehicles with repairs that exceed the replacement value of the vehicle **MUST** be processed as a reconstructed vehicle. These vehicles will receive a certificate of title branded recovered theft in addition to reconstructed.
5. Any application submitted to the Department for a recovered theft vehicle title may be delayed should it warrant further review by the Department and/or the Pennsylvania State Police.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR TITLING AND REGISTRATION

1. A legible copy of the insurance company or licensed physical damage appraiser's report that includes the actual cash value of the vehicle.
2. Completed Form MV-1, "Application for Certificate of Title." NOTE: Issuing agents are prohibited from issuing temporary registration plates or transferring a registration in conjunction with an application for a recovered theft vehicle title. Issuing Agents should remind applicants that the vehicle can not be operated until the application is received and registration plates are issued or transferred by the Department after the recovered theft title is processed. Although issuing agents are prohibited from transferring a registration plate in these instances, the issuing agent may provide the registration plate transfer and proof of insurance information on Form MV-426B when a transfer of plate is requested. However, the vehicle may not be operated legally on the highway until the vehicle is retitled and the registration documents are received by the vehicle owner.

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3. Completed Form MV-426B, "Application for Reconstructed, Specially Constructed, Collectible, Modified, Flood, Recovered Theft Vehicles and Street Rods." (See Form MV-426B for detailed instructions.)
4. The properly assigned Pennsylvania certificate of salvage or out-of-state certificate of salvage. When the Pennsylvania certificate of salvage is not branded a theft vehicle by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Department's attempts to verify that the vehicle was stolen fail, the applicant will be required to provide a copy of the recovered vehicle theft police report.
5. Four (4) clear color photos of the vehicle - front, both sides and rear showing the completed vehicle. (See Form MV-426B for detailed instructions on photographs.)
6. Bill of Sale and other receipts for parts purchased and used in repairs. When parts are used from other vehicles, the vehicle's identification number must be listed on the bill of sale, receipt or listing, if taken from applicant's inventory of parts (Example: fenders, cowls, left or right 3/4 nose, rear clip, etc. - 1234V1-AT89876).
7. Fees: \$22.50 title fee, sales tax and applicable registration fee for the vehicle type. If the applicant is claiming exemption from sales tax, the applicable exemption reason code must be recorded on Form MV-1.

PENNSYLVANIA INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

Recovered theft vehicles must be inspected by a Pennsylvania enhanced vehicle safety inspector at a designated official enhanced vehicle safety inspection station located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The vehicle owner shall not be the inspecting mechanic.

Locations of Enhanced Inspection Stations can be found on PennDOT's Web site at www.dmv.state.pa.us and clicking on the Locations Information Center link.