

## **Policy Clarification Regarding Reporting of Salvage Information (including total loss designations)**

**Revised: May 3, 2010**

This policy clarification pertains to auto recyclers (scrap metal processors, shredders and other recyclers) who receive vehicles in a crushed or physically condensed state (e.g., cubed, etc.) that generally would prevent VINs from being identified. Recyclers are not required to report these specific vehicles to the operator if they determine that their supplier has already reported the vehicles to NMVTIS. Recyclers who rely upon this exception to reporting should maintain documentation supporting their determination that the vehicle has already been reported by the supplier. Acceptable methods of making this determination include:

- Having the supplier provide a written/signed assurance or other written documentation that certifies that the vehicle or vehicles were reported to NMVTIS (e.g., a signature on a manifest/invoice or title document with a stamped or printed statement indicating prior reporting of vehicles to NMVTIS);
- Verifying via [Who Reports to NMVTIS](#) that the supplier is currently reporting information to NMVTIS. While not in real time, this database is updated regularly based on data reported. It is recommended that the recycler retain a print out of the positive indication of supplier reporting status and retain this in their files for that supplier. Additionally, after initial determination, recyclers continuing to receive vehicles from a specific supplier must check [Who Reports to NMVTIS](#) on at least a monthly basis to confirm that the supplier is consistently reporting to NMVTIS on at least a monthly basis.
- Checking VINs in NMVTIS (via [www.vehiclehistory.gov](http://www.vehiclehistory.gov)) to determine that the supplier has reported the vehicle's status as "sold" to the recycler. (Vehicles with no NMVTIS history of having been sold to a shredder have not been adequately reported.) This method of verification assumes that the supplier has provided the VIN or VINs for vehicles being delivered.

In cases where a supplier's compliance with NMVTIS cannot be ascertained as outlined here, recyclers must report these vehicles to the operator based on a visual inspection if possible. If the VIN cannot be determined based on this inspection, recyclers may rely on primary documentation (i.e., title documents) provided by the vehicle supplier to report to NMVTIS.

For more information on this clarification or NMVTIS, e-mail [nmvtis@usdoj.gov](mailto:nmvtis@usdoj.gov) or visit [www.nmvtis.gov](http://www.nmvtis.gov).