



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

*Bureau of Justice Assistance*

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Washington, D.C. 20531

July 14, 2010

Ms. Robin Wiener  
President  
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
1615 L Street N.W., Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20036

RE: National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) Enforcement

Dear Ms. Wiener:

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is appreciative of the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries' support for NMVTIS. Your members are to be commended for their efforts to report junk and salvage (including total loss) vehicles into NMVTIS. By reporting junk and salvage vehicles to NMVTIS, your members play an integral role in DOJ's efforts to prevent fraud, reduce theft, and potentially save the lives of consumers who might otherwise and unknowingly purchase unsafe vehicles. As of today, over 18 million salvage or total loss records have been received from approximately 8,000 registered reporting entities in the auto recycler and insurance industries. Although this progress is encouraging, DOJ has been informed that some entities are not reporting because, as they have explained, they are uncertain of the NMVTIS requirements or they do not believe the requirements will be enforced. For these reasons, it is important for DOJ to continue to take measures to ensure that all reporting entities are notified of the reporting requirements, methods for reporting, and penalties for non-reporting. I write to seek your assistance in disseminating the information contained in this letter to all of your members.

**NMVTIS Reporting Requirements**

On March 31, 2009, all [junk yards, salvage yards, and auto recyclers](#) were required to fully comply with NMVTIS as established by the [Anti Car Theft Act of 1992](#) (Public Law 102-519), the [Anti-Car Theft Improvements Act of 1996](#) (Public Law 104-152), and its implementing [regulations](#) (28 CFR part 25, published January 30, 2009, 74 FR 5740).

All auto recyclers, junk yards, and salvage yards handling more than 5 junk or salvage cars per year are required to provide NMVTIS with the following information on each [junk or salvage vehicle](#) obtained in whole or in part in the prior month:

1. The name, address, and contact information for the reporting entity (junk, salvage yard, recycler);
2. VIN;
3. The date the automobile was obtained;
4. The name of the individual or entity from whom the automobile was obtained;
5. A statement of whether the automobile was crushed or disposed of, for sale or other purposes, to whom it was provided or transferred, and if the vehicle is intended for export out of the United States.

It is important to note that state motor vehicle titling agencies have separate reporting responsibilities and reporting requirements under the NMVTIS regulation than do other reporting entities. Although auto recyclers, junk yards, and salvage yards are not required to report to NMVTIS if they already report ALL the required NMVTIS information (listed above) to their state AND their state provides the required information to NMVTIS on their behalf as required, **no state is currently reporting the required data on behalf of auto recyclers, junk yards, or salvage yards.** The specific information required of recyclers, junk yards, and salvage yards is not included in any current state reporting. Reporting is required of junk yards, salvage yards, and auto recyclers, regardless of the state from which they operate. For more information regarding the junk yard, salvage yard, and auto recyclers reporting requirements, please review the NMVTIS [regulation](#).

### **Methods for Reporting the Required Information to NMVTIS**

DOJ and the NMVTIS operator, the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), partnered with the private sector to provide multiple reporting methods to meet the business needs of reporting entities. Currently, there are a total of four reporting methods or services available, covering both individual VIN and batch reporting options. At least two service providers offer a no-cost per transaction program as well as enhanced reporting services. In addition, at DOJ's request, AAMVA has made available a basic, no-cost direct reporting service via the internet. More detailed information on these reporting options can be found at: [www.vehiclehistory.gov/nmvtis\\_auto.html](http://www.vehiclehistory.gov/nmvtis_auto.html).

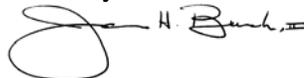
### **NMVTIS Enforcement**

The NMVTIS statute includes an enforcement provision requiring DOJ to impose and collect penalties for those junk, salvage, auto recyclers, and insurance entities that fail to meet their reporting obligations pursuant to the Anti-Car Theft Act as amended. DOJ has focused its recent efforts on development and implementation of the System, as opposed to actively pursuing enforcement against entities that are in violation of their reporting obligations. However, it is clear that maintaining the integrity of the System and the data within it counsels us to begin more active enforcement efforts. As a result, our enforcement efforts have begun and staff assigned to examining and investigating potential violations are in place and may soon be making field visits to entities required to report to NMVTIS. Our efforts may focus on reporting since April 2009 as well as current and future reporting. In addition, we are collaborating with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's compliance officers to identify and investigate reporting violations related to NMVTIS and other federal requirements related to reporting on salvage vehicles. We are also collaborating with other components of DOJ that have consumer protection and investigative responsibilities related to vehicles. Failure to report fully and as required to NMVTIS is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 per violation. If your members wish to notify DOJ of an entity that is not currently reporting, please e-mail [nmvtis@usdoj.gov](mailto:nmvtis@usdoj.gov), and include "Non-reporting Referral" in the subject line of the message.

Additional information regarding the [NMVTIS reporting requirements](#), [policy clarifications](#), [frequently asked questions](#), and a [public database to check reporting status](#) of a recycler, junk yard, salvage yard or insurance entity can be found on the NMVTIS web site: [www.vehiclehistory.gov](http://www.vehiclehistory.gov). If your members have questions or require clarification of the reporting requirements, they may e-mail us at [nmvtis@usdoj.gov](mailto:nmvtis@usdoj.gov) and include "Reporting Requirement Question" in the subject line of the message.

Thank you for your continued support of NMVTIS. We hope that you will ensure that all of your members receive this notice and look forward to working with you to continue strong industry compliance as we know you and your industry remain committed to protecting consumers and reducing crime.

Sincerely,



James H. Burch, II  
Acting Director