Written-Off Heavy Vehicles Register

The NSW Government has launched a new Written-Off Heavy Vehicles Register to improve road safety and reduce the incidence of heavy vehicle theft, re-birthing and related crime.

What vehicles are included in the Register?

Heavy vehicles have a Gross Vehicle Mass of more than 4.5 tonnes. The Register will cover most heavy vehicles, including trucks, prime movers, trailers and buses. It will not include ‘special purpose vehicles’ (these are vehicles not intended to carry passengers or goods) and vehicles registered under the NSW Conditional Registration Scheme.

How will vehicles be classified in the Register?

A written-off heavy vehicle must be classified and notified to the Register as either a ‘statutory’ or a ‘repairable’ write-off.

Heavy vehicles that are assessed as a total loss and have sustained non-repairable damage will be classified as statutory write-offs and will be unable to be repaired or re-registered in NSW.

These vehicles will still be able to be purchased and sold, but can only be used for demolishing and dismantling for parts.

Statutory write-offs have their Vehicle Identification Number permanently cancelled.

A repairable write-off is a vehicle that has been assessed as a total loss but can be safely repaired. A repairable write-off can be re-registered if it has been repaired and certified by a suitably licensed repairer and meets inspection requirements.

Who is responsible for notifying the Register?

Vehicle insurers, self-insurers, recyclers and dealers each have responsibility to update the Register.

Who can assess a written-off heavy vehicle?

Heavy vehicle damage assessors must have relevant qualifications or be acting on the advice of someone with those qualifications. Assessors must and base the cost of repairs on either the manufacturer’s repair guidelines or acceptable industry standards.

What is the repair standard for repairable written-off heavy vehicles?

Repairable written-off heavy vehicles must be repaired in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommended repair guidelines, or where these are not available, to recognised industry standards.

Meeting a manufacturer’s repair standards is best practice and ensures vehicle and driver safety.

What training and qualifications do heavy vehicle assessors need?

Assessors must ensure that damage assessments are made by a person who has all of the following qualifications:

1. Successful completion of an approved course
2. Demonstrated ability to determine whether or not a heavy vehicle has suffered non-repairable damage
3. Demonstrated ability to apply the relevant technical specifications and the written-off heavy vehicle policies and procedures published on the Roads and Maritime website.

What is an ‘approved course’?

An approved course is a training course in vehicle repair assessment provided by a training provider accredited by the Australian Skills Quality Authority. It can also be a course that includes training on:

- Sourcing and interpreting vehicle manufacturer’s or recognised industry repair standards and methods
- Using these standards and methods to calculate repair costs
- Conducting repair assessments in compliance with these standards and methods and having regard to types of non-repairable damage.
How should written-off heavy vehicles be assessed?

Heavy vehicle damage must be assessed by a **person who is qualified to do the job**.

Assessors must base vehicle repair costs on either the manufacturer’s repair guidelines or acceptable industry standards.

This requirement provides a framework for determining heavy vehicle damage and cost of repair.

Assessors must:

1. Notify the register within **seven days** of an assessment as a write-off before the vehicle is sold or disposed of
2. Issue a vehicle damage assessment when requested by the vehicle operator or Roads and Maritime
3. If the vehicle is assessed as a write-off, attach a written-off warning label in a visible place to show that the vehicle can’t be re-registered until it is repaired and certified (repairable write-off) or is suitable only for spare parts / scrap metal (statutory write-off)
   - On a dismantled vehicle, attach the label to the part with the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on it
4. Keep documents from a damage assessment for **seven years** regardless of whether the heavy vehicle is actually written-off or not

How will the certification process work for repairable written-off heavy vehicles?

A suitably licensed repairer will issue a Heavy Vehicle Certificate of Compliance. It will certify that repairs to a repairable written-off heavy vehicle have been made to manufacturer's specifications or to industry standards.

Once all repairs are completed and certified, if the owner wishes to re-register the vehicle, it will require inspection at an Authorised Unregistered Vehicle Inspection Station.


Do assessors keep records?

Assessors are required to keep records of a vehicle assessment for a period of **seven years**.

Does a written-off heavy vehicle require a warning label?

Assessors will need to attach a warning label to written-off heavy vehicles to warn potential buyers that the vehicle cannot be re-registered until it is repaired and certified (a repairable write-off) or is assessed as suitable only for demolishing or dismantling for parts (a statutory write-off).

What training and qualifications do heavy vehicle repairers need?

Only suitably licensed repairers may repair and certify repairable written-off heavy vehicles to allow re-registration in NSW.

A suitably licensed repairer is a person who holds a motor vehicle repairer’s licence issued by NSW Fair Trading (or corresponding interstate agency), and their repairer’s licence class authorises them to repair the vehicle and damage type.

Interstate licenced repairers must also hold, or employ a person who holds, the relevant qualifications set out in clause 36 of the Motor Dealers and Repairers Regulation 2014 for the classes of repair work set out in clause 34 of that regulation. For more information visit [www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au)

More information

Further information on written-off heavy vehicles and the Register is available at [www.rms.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au) or call 13 77 88.