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.

If you have a heavy vehicle registered for business use and do not have an insurance policy covering its loss or damage, you are known as a ‘self-insurer’ and have new responsibilities under NSW laws.

What vehicles are included in the Register?

Heavy vehicles have a Gross Vehicle Mass of more than 4.5 tonnes. The Register covers 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.

What is a statutory 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.

What is a repairable write-off?

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 Roads and Maritime Services inspection and registration requirements.

What happens if my heavy vehicle is written-off?

The vehicle’s registration will be cancelled and the vehicle recorded on the Written-Off Heavy Vehicles Register. You’ll be notified of this in writing.

A qualified assessor will use damage assessment criteria to determine if your heavy vehicle should be classified as a ‘repairable’ or ‘statutory’ write-off.

If your vehicle is assessed as a statutory write-off and notified to the register it cannot be re-registered and can only be used for scrap metal or dismantled for spare parts.

If your written-off heavy vehicle is assessed as a repairable write-off it can be repaired and certified by a suitably licensed repairer who will issue a Heavy Vehicle Certificate of Compliance.

Once all repairs are completed and certified, you’ll need to have the vehicle inspected at an Authorised Unregistered Vehicle Inspection Station. Find an inspection station at www.rms.nsw.gov.au

How can I get my heavy vehicle re-registered?

Roads and Maritime will only re-register a written-off heavy vehicle when it has been assessed as ‘repairable’ and has been repaired and certified by a suitably licensed repairer.

The vehicle will then be subject to Roads and Maritime inspection requirements.

Roads and Maritime recommends that you keep all information to do with the repair process, including invoices and receipts for parts.
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.

Who is responsible for updating the Register?

If you have a heavy vehicle registered for business use, and do not have an insurance policy covering its loss or damage, you are a ‘self-insurer’.

As a self-insurer, if you choose to have your damaged vehicle assessed, you are responsible for ensuring the heavy vehicle is properly assessed and notifying details to the Register.

If you choose to dispose of the vehicle to a motor vehicle recycler, you will also be responsible for notifying details to the Register. You can download a manual notification form at www.rms.nsw.gov.au to update the Register.

If you hold an insurance policy for your heavy vehicle, your insurer will be responsible for assessing the vehicle if it is damaged and for reporting it to the Register as a repairable or statutory write-off.

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 base the cost of repairs on either the manufacturer’s repair guidelines or acceptable industry standards.

Who can repair a written-off heavy vehicle?

Repairs must be undertaken by a suitably licensed repairer according to manufacturers’ specifications or industry standards.

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

A 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. The Heavy Vehicle Certificate of Compliance must be presented upon re-registration.

Roads and Maritime or authorised examiners will conduct vehicle safety and identity inspections before the vehicle can be re-registered.

I want to sell my written-off heavy vehicle. How does the Register apply?

When your vehicle is recorded on the Register it can still be sold.

If it is ‘repairable’ it will need to be repaired to manufacturer’s standards before the buyer can re-register it. If it’s a statutory write-off, the buyer can only use it for scrap metal or for dismantling for spare parts.

More information

Further information on written-off heavy vehicles and the Register is available at www.rms.nsw.gov.au or call 13 77 88.