

# How To 13

## Reregister a Salvage (Total Loss) Vehicle



### *You will need:*

- An Application for Title or Registration (REG 343) form
- Proof of Ownership
- A Verification of Vehicle (REG 31) or CHP Certificate of Inspection (CHP 97C) form
- Brake and Light adjustment certificates
- Fees

### *You may also need:*

- An Application for Salvage Certificate or Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate (REG 488C) form
- A Vehicle/Vessel Transfer and Reassignment Form (REG 262)
- A Statement of Facts (REG 256) form
- A Declaration of Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight (CGW) (REG 4008) form
- A Permanent Trailer Identification (PTI) Application and Certification (REG 4017) form
- To surrender existing license plates
- A smog certification
- A weight certificate

### *Revived Salvage Vehicle*

A revived salvage vehicle is a vehicle previously reported to the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) as a total loss by the owner or insurance company and restored to operational condition. For information on revived junk vehicles, see the *How To: Reregister a Junk Vehicle* (HTVR 4) brochure.

**NOTE:** Most forms/brochures listed in this brochure are available at [dmv.ca.gov](http://dmv.ca.gov).

### *Requirements for Reregistering a Salvage Vehicle*

- An Application for Title or Registration (REG 343) form signed by all current owners.
  - The vehicle cost must include the cost of labor, even if the labor was done by you.
- Proof of ownership which is one of the following:
  - A Salvage Certificate in your name or endorsed for transfer into your name. If the Salvage Certificate is missing, the insurance company or person who applied for the original must complete an Application for Salvage Certificate or Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate (REG 488C) and a Statement of Facts (REG 256) forms describing the vehicle and disposition of the original Salvage Certificate.
  - The California Certificate of Title or an Application for Duplicate or Transfer of Title (REG 227) form in your name or endorsed for transfer into your name and a REG 488C form.
- A Vehicle/Vessel Transfer and Reassignment Form (REG 262) (bill of sale/odometer disclosure/power of attorney) to establish the chain of ownership to you. If you do not need to disclose the odometer reading, you may use a:
  - Bill of Sale (REG 135) form.
  - Power of Attorney (REG 260) form.
- A vehicle inspection by DMV or, if required, by the California Highway Patrol (CHP). For vehicles that require a CHP inspection:
  - Contact CHP for an appointment at one of the telephone numbers listed at the end of this brochure.
  - Bring proof of ownership, bill(s) of sale for parts, and repair receipts to the inspection appointment.
  - CHP issues a Certificate of Inspection (CHP 97C) form that must be submitted with other requirements to DMV to complete the application.
  - A nonrefundable inspection fee is collected by DMV at the time the registration application is presented.

**NOTE:** Vehicles manufactured with a supplemental restraint system (air bags) must be equipped with working air bags that meet federal motor vehicle safety standards and conform to the manufacturer's specifications.

- Brake/light inspection certificates for most vehicles, except trailers weighing 3,000 pounds or less **gross vehicle weight** (GVW). To locate California state-licensed brake/light inspection stations, check your local telephone directory.

**EXCEPTION:** When a California state-licensed brake/light inspection station that inspects specific vehicles, such as motorcycles or large commercial vehicles, is not located within a reasonable distance, DMV will accept a REG 256 from a California state-licensed repair shop certifying that the brakes/lights are in proper working order.

- A weight certificate from a California public weighmaster with the unladen or empty weight for trucks and pickups. This certificate may be obtained for a nominal fee. For a list of public scales, check your local telephone directory or the California Department of Food and Agriculture website at [cdfa.ca.gov](http://cdfa.ca.gov). A weight certificate is **not** required for:
  - Trucks or pickups previously registered in California when the prior California Certificate of Title or registration show the unladen weight and number of axles, if the vehicle has not been modified to change the weight.

- Trucks or pickups with an empty or unladen weight of 6,000 pounds or less when the empty, unladen, scale, shipping, or tare weight is indicated on an out-of-state title or registration, if the vehicle has not been modified to change the weight.
- Two or three-axle trucks weighing 10,001 pounds or more. The estimated unladen weight is required.
- Autos (unless registered as commercial), trailers, and motorcycles.
- A Declaration of Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight (CGW) (REG 4008) form for commercial vehicles weighing 6,001 pounds or more, except pickups.
- A smog certification from a California state-licensed smog inspection station, **unless** your vehicle is:
  - A 1975 or older year model and gas-powered.
  - A 1997 or older year model and diesel-powered.
  - Diesel-powered with a GVW rating (GVWR) of 14,001 pounds or more.
  - Electric.
  - Natural gas or propane-powered with a GVWR of 14,001 pounds or more.
  - A hybrid.
  - Hydrogen fuel cell-powered.
  - A motorcycle.
  - A trailer.
  - Special equipment.
  - A two-stroke engine.
  - An off-highway.
  - Assigned Historical Vehicle License Plates (manufactured prior to 1976 year model).
  - A crane, cement mixer, forklift, golf cart, or street sweeper.
  - Already titled in your name and does not require smog certification for registration renewal.

**NOTE:** A California Certificate of Title will **not** be issued if you do not obtain the required certification(s) and reregister your vehicle before moving it out of California. California **does not** recognize out-of-state salvage vehicle inspection certifications.

- Fees, such as:
  - Registration
  - CHP
  - Vehicle license (VLF)
  - Weight
  - Commercial Vehicle Registration Act (CVRA) motor vehicle
  - County
  - Cargo theft interdiction program (CTIP)
  - Permanent trailer identification (PTI) service (most trailers)
  - Salvage certificate
  - Duplicate title
  - Penalties (if the registration is expired and not on planned nonoperational status)
  - Transfer (not due if already titled in your name)
  - Substitute license plate
  - Service
  - Salvage and dismantled vehicle inspection
  - Prior history
  - Use tax (not due if the vehicle was purchased from a licensed dismantler)
  - Nonresident (if last registered out of state)

**NOTE:** For registration fees, see the *Registration Related Fees* (FFVR 34) *Fast Facts* brochure.

- Surrender the license plates.

### **CHP Inspection Appointments**

Inspections will not be conducted without an appointment. The addresses are for appointment scheduling only and may **not** be the actual inspection site. Contact one of the offices in the following section to make an appointment.

#### **For an Appointment Contact:**

**Northern Division**  
2485 Sonoma Street  
Redding, CA 96001-3026  
Phone: (530) 242-4360

**Central Division**  
5179 N. Gates Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93722-6414  
Phone: (559) 488-4053

**Border Division**  
1722 East Main Street  
El Cajon, CA 92021  
Phone: (858) 492-1745

2335 Enrico Fermi Drive  
San Diego, CA 92154  
Phone: (858) 492-1745

13200 Golden West Street  
Westminster, CA 92683  
Phone: (714) 892-4426

**Valley Division**  
11336 Trade Center Drive  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95742-6233  
Phone: (916) 464-1480

**Coastal Division**  
4115 Broad Street #B-10  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7963  
Phone: (805) 549-3006

**Southern Division**  
411 N. Central Avenue, Ste. 410  
Glendale, CA 91203  
Phone: (323) 644-9593

**Golden Gate Division**  
1551 Benicia Road  
Vallejo, CA 94951-7568  
Phone: (510) 622-4611

**Inland Division**  
847 E. Brier Drive  
San Bernardino, CA 92408-2820  
Phone: (909) 383-4247  
Phone: (909) 806-2437