

Repairing a salvage vehicle



**Manitoba
Public Insurance**

A salvage vehicle is a damaged vehicle that has been written off but can be registered again if it's repaired and passes several inspections.

As vehicle designs are becoming more complex, proper repair procedures are critical. This brochure contains information on repairing a salvage vehicle.

Provincial Labelling System

If you're buying a used vehicle, you should first check the vehicle's status by looking at the Transfer of Ownership Document for that vehicle. Through the Province's computerized registration system, the vehicle identification number and all registration and ownership documents on any vehicle that has been stolen or written off are linked with a label indicating the appropriate status of the vehicle.

There are four statuses:

Stolen: A vehicle reported stolen to a police agency and not yet recovered. A vehicle designated as stolen cannot be registered until the police agency that placed the designation removes it.

Irreparable: A written-off vehicle damaged to such an extent that it has no value except as a source of parts or scrap metal. Vehicles designated as irreparable can never be registered again.

Salvageable: A written-off vehicle that can be rebuilt. Salvageable vehicles cannot be registered until their status has been changed to rebuilt.

Rebuilt: A salvageable vehicle that has been repaired to standards and has received both a Body Integrity Inspection Certificate and a Certificate of Inspection.

Stolen and Wrecked Vehicle Monitoring Program

The Stolen and Wrecked Vehicle Monitoring Program (SWVMP) is part of a national monitoring system to prevent the registration of vehicles that have been:

- listed by a police agency as stolen
- written off by an insurer as an irreparable vehicle

In Manitoba, the SWVMP also serves to prevent any written-off but salvageable vehicle from being registered until the safety components of the vehicle have been completely repaired and certified as safe by a qualified technician. By linking this important information to a vehicle's identification number, consumers benefit from being provided with the information needed to make an informed decision before buying any used vehicle in Canada.



Inspections

Body Integrity Inspection Certificate

The Body Integrity Inspection Certificate (BIIC) is required as part of the rebuilding process for a motor vehicle with the status of salvageable. The BIIC is granted only after detailed inspections to give extra assurance that the frame and body are structurally sound, and that the damaged vehicle has been repaired properly and is roadworthy.

Repair Plans

The inspection mechanic is required to perform a first inspection of the vehicle and approve a repair plan for the owner or repairer. The repair plan must include the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) repair procedures for the make/model/year printed from a published source for all structural repairs. Proper welding techniques must be followed according to the OEM repair guide.

When completing the repair plan, the inspection mechanic will also determine if the repairer has the tools and training to repair structural components of the vehicle.



Certificate of Inspection

A valid Certificate of Inspection (COI) is required to register a newly acquired vehicle in Manitoba (with the exception of a brand new vehicle that has a New Vehicle Information Statement).

A COI confirms that, at the time of inspection, the vehicle met the minimum standards for operation in Manitoba. In the case of a salvageable vehicle, a BIIC is required before a COI can be acquired.

Questions & Answers

Where can I take my vehicle for repairs?

Repairs may be performed by any repair facility you choose or they can be done by the owner, if approved in the repair plan.

However, only an authorized body integrity inspection station/mechanic can perform the inspections required to obtain a BIIC.

What is the inspection process?

The repair and inspection process for salvageable vehicles can be complex and will vary depending on the type and severity of damage to the vehicle. In some cases two inspections may be enough, while in other cases multiple inspections may be required at different times during the rebuilding process. Before starting a rebuild, you must complete the *Application for Rebuilt Vehicle Certification*, which includes a repair plan that lists the repairs and states how they will be made. The application must be approved by a qualified inspection mechanic before repairs can proceed.

As part of the approval, the mechanic will determine how frequently and at what points



during the rebuilding process vehicle inspections will be required. The inspection mechanic will also take four colour photographs of the vehicle. The assembly joints must be accessible for inspection and no sealant, sound-proofing or rust-proofing compound can be applied until the body integrity inspection mechanic verifies that repair procedures meet prescribed standards.

Every salvageable vehicle must also pass a four-wheel-alignment inspection and be subject to frame-gauging (a detailed structural measurement to ensure manufacturer's specifications are met). No inspection is required for airbag restraint systems, so these systems may not be functional in a rebuilt vehicle. However, if the airbag restraint system has had prior repair work or did not deploy, a systems scan must be performed to ensure it is functioning properly.

Is the body integrity inspection required for all written-off motor vehicles?

The body integrity inspection is required only for those vehicles classified as "salvageable". Mopeds, infrastructure equipment, trailers and off-road vehicles are exempt from this program.

What does the body integrity inspection involve?

It involves two or more inspections at an approved inspection facility to determine whether the frame and body are structurally sound.

Who can perform a body integrity inspection?

Any body integrity inspection station/mechanic authorized by Manitoba Public Insurance's Vehicle Standards & Inspections can do this.

What will the body integrity inspection(s) cost?

There is no set fee. The cost of a comprehensive body integrity inspection will vary by the complexity of the inspection(s) required.

Will any other inspections be required?

Yes. After the vehicle has received a BIIC, it will also require a COI before it can be registered. This indicates the vehicle meets basic standards for operation in Manitoba.

Can I get a permit to drive my vehicle for repairs or for an inspection?

No, a vehicle with a "salvageable" status cannot be driven. Legislation prohibits a salvageable vehicle from being operated on the road. A salvageable vehicle must be towed to and from inspections. Once the vehicle receives a BIIC and COI, its status can be changed to rebuilt and then it can be registered.

If you have questions or need more information,
please contact:

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