



# Recyclers News Press

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### Routing Slip

- Owner(s)
- Manager(s)
- Safety Supervisor
- Environmental Mgr
- Stormwater Mgr
- Bookkeeper



## Tow Operators are Subject to NMVTIS Reporting

**What is NMVTIS, exactly?** The National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) is a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) database that contains automobile information from states, insurance carriers and businesses that handle junk and salvage automobiles.

NMVTIS is a national program, and the reporting requirements are separate from your state regulations. It is important to understand the requirements, because it is up to each affected business, not its state, to ensure that the proper reports are made to the national database.

On January 27, 2011, the Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a policy clarification for towing companies regarding the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS). The clarification explains the federal reporting requirements and provides specific guidance on tow company reporting.

**So, do you have to report?** In general, if you own, control, handle or acquire more than five junk or salvage vehicles a year, you must report to NMVTIS. The DOJ clarification states that tow companies, wrecker operators and tow truck services are included in the NMVTIS program regulations, and those businesses should be reporting information about the junk and salvage vehicles they handle.

Reference: <https://www.add123.com/news/tow/nmvtis-101>

*Continued on page 12...*

## Thank you to Donors and Bidders of the online Summer Outing Auction!

*Continued on page 8...*

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Recyclers  
News  
Press

The RECYCLERS NEWS PRESS is published six times per year for the Iowa Automotive Recyclers. None of the material in this publication necessarily reflects the opinion of IAR, its officers, director, staff members or advertisers. Statements of fact and opinion are the responsibility of the author.

IAR Members are encouraged to submit material for publication in the Recyclers News Press. Content may be edited for length with the author's permission.

Deadline for submission is the 20th of the month prior to publication. Send content to Sue Schauls at [Sue.Schauls@gmail.com](mailto:Sue.Schauls@gmail.com) with a full color graphic when possible.

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### Pat Roof, President

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[www.iowaAutomotiveRecyclers.com](http://www.iowaAutomotiveRecyclers.com)



# SUE SPEAKING

From desk of the Executive Director

## Members of IAR

*Ace Auto Recyclers*  
Iowa City, IA  
[www.AceAutoRecyclers.com](http://www.AceAutoRecyclers.com)

*Action Auto Parts*  
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[www.action-auto-parts.com](http://www.action-auto-parts.com)

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[www.AikeyAutoSalvage.com](http://www.AikeyAutoSalvage.com)

*Airline Auto Parts*  
Waterloo, IA  
[www.airlineautopartsinc.com](http://www.airlineautopartsinc.com)

*B & B Salvage*  
Sioux Center, IA  
[www.BandBSalvage.net](http://www.BandBSalvage.net)

*Buck's U Pull It*  
Mason City, IA  
[www.bucksupi.com](http://www.bucksupi.com)

*Don's Auto & Truck Salvage*  
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[www.DonsAutoTruck.com](http://www.DonsAutoTruck.com)

*Grab & Go Auto Salvage, LLC*  
Spencer, IA  
[www.grabandgosalvage.com](http://www.grabandgosalvage.com)

*High Country Auto*  
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*Hogeland Auto Plaza & Salvage*  
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[www.hogelandautoplaza.com](http://www.hogelandautoplaza.com)

*Hulett & Son Auto Salvage*  
Creston, IA

*The Iron Mine*  
Waukon, IA  
<https://the-iron-mine.business.site>

The long hot dry summer is over. The drought still remains and that has created difficulties getting stormwater samples this year. If you are in need of a sample kit please email me at [Sue.Schauls@gmail.com](mailto:Sue.Schauls@gmail.com).

Remember that being in the active state of trying to get a sample is compliant activity. Meaning, that having a kit on-site and waiting for it to rain can be viewed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as being equal to having sample data on hand... to a point.

If you are behind on the samples, meaning not having sampled last year (or more) then I urge you to call or email me to get a kit. The Iowa DNR has had greater interest in seeing regular annual sample data than ever before. Sample is only required at yard with 250+ "junk car" onsite.

Thanks for listening,  
Sue Schauls



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# Iowa Automotive Recyclers Members & Board of Directors Meeting

July 22, 2021 — 5:15 pm Conference Call

Board of Director Members: Pat Roof, Jeremy Bevard, Joel McCaw, Jodi Kunde, Mike Swift, and Sue Schauls.

President Pat Roof, called to order at 5:22 pm. Pat reminded us about the Anti-trust statement. Mike Swift moved to approve the Meeting Notes from June 9, 2021, Second by JeremyB, Motion carried.

Pat has set in motion a series of member education opportunities on Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Training. An Introductory training session will be given to introduce the dangers of handling the High Voltage Vehicles. The class will also offer a preview of the suite of ARA resources for HVV Safety Standards.

We may have multiple classes throughout Iowa. Tow yards will be included in the invitation. Sue will also use the travel time to make face-to-face visits to potential new members.

A request for another session by expert Andy Lathem will be made.

Tow Member Outreach – mid- morning webinar for NMVTIS for tow businesses will be planned for September. The first mailer has gone out to over 100 tow operators. They were informed of our legislative activity, interest in providing NMVTIS training and invited to join the association and/or the newsletter mailing list.

Online Auction – Need 20 items posted if we are going to proceed by the August 3 launch date. Pat and JeremyB will call Board members to secure donations and post pictures. We will touch base next week on Wednesday (Pat's birthday) to see if we have enough to proceed.

Motion to adjourn 5:52 pm.

## Members of IAR

Jeff Smid Auto, Inc.  
Davenport, IA  
[www.JeffSmidAuto.com](http://www.JeffSmidAuto.com)

Jerry Carney & Sons  
Ames, IA  
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John's Auto  
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[www.aplingtonautobodyshop.com](http://www.aplingtonautobodyshop.com)

King Automotive Salvage Center  
Waterloo, IA  
<http://kingsalvage.com>

Lambirth Enterprises, Inc.  
Bussey, IA  
[Lambirthtruckspartsandtowing.com](http://Lambirthtruckspartsandtowing.com)

Lems Auto Recyclers, Inc.  
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[www.LemsAuto.com](http://www.LemsAuto.com)

Leon Recycling & Auto Parts, LLC  
Leon, IA  
[www.LeonAutoParts.com](http://www.LeonAutoParts.com)

Lyle's Auto Salvage  
Oto, IA

McChesney Auto  
Somers, IA  
[www.mcchesneyauto.com](http://www.mcchesneyauto.com)

Monson Salvage, Inc.  
Lone Rock, IA

North End Auto Wrecking  
Dubuque, IA  
[www.NorthendWrecking.com](http://www.NorthendWrecking.com)

Nugent Auto Sales & Salvage, Inc.  
Maquoketa, IA  
[www.NugentAutos.com](http://www.NugentAutos.com)

Respectfully  
submitted,

Jeff Smid

Jeff Smid,  
Secretary



# Iowa Automotive Recyclers Members & Board of Directors Meeting

August 18, 2021 — 5:15 pm Conference Call

## Members of IAR

Osage Auto Salvage  
Osage, IA  
<http://osageautosalvage.com>

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[www.patsautosalvage.com](http://www.patsautosalvage.com)

Piper's Auto Salvage  
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[www.PiperAutoParts.com](http://www.PiperAutoParts.com)

Preferred Auto Sales, Inc.  
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[www.preferredautosales.net](http://www.preferredautosales.net)

Quandt Auto Salvage, Inc  
Carroll, IA  
[www.QuandtAutoSalvage.com](http://www.QuandtAutoSalvage.com)

Sam's Riverside  
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Des Moines, IA  
[www.SamsRiverSide.com](http://www.SamsRiverSide.com)

Sandhill Auto Salvage  
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[www.sandhillautosalvage.com](http://www.sandhillautosalvage.com)

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[www.SmithAutoParts.com](http://www.SmithAutoParts.com)

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[www.snyders-autobody.com](http://www.snyders-autobody.com)

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[www.SpilmanAuto.com](http://www.SpilmanAuto.com)

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Swift's Trails End Auto Recycling  
Des Moines, IA  
[www.TrailsEndAuto.com](http://www.TrailsEndAuto.com)

Board of Director Members: Pat Roof, Jeremy Bevard, Joel McCaw, Jeff Smid, Jodi Kunde, Tom Snyder, Mike Garvin, Dave Hesmer, Mitzi Waterbury, and Sue Schauls.

Call to Order at 5:19 pm and Roll Call by President Pat Roof. Anti-trust statement reminder was  
Approve the Meeting Notes from July 22, 2021 Jodi Kunde moved to accept the previous meeting notes and Mike Garvin second it. Motion carried

**Online Auction** – 12 different Items donated, 16 total items with 5 books from John C Vander Haag were sold for over \$1850. The website <https://www.32auctions.com/IowaAutomotiveRecyclers> remained live for donations after the auction was over so Pat Roof made the President's Challenge for members to match the cash donation made by Ace Auto Recyclers, Iowa City. Ther President's challenge went on all week culminating in Jeff Smid of Jeff Smid Auto, Inc. Davenport throwing out the double down challenge which Pat, Pat's Auto Salvage, Waterloo, met. All total the President's Challenge raised \$4000! **Pat Roof offered thanks to all that participated and stated that we have an association of which to be proud.** Members paid their pledges and auction purchases through the website, by sending checks and/or requesting invoices to their place of business. The Lists are attached below.

**EV Training** – Sue gave update on Electric Vehicle Training project that will include an IAR training program to identify the ARA resources for management for Electric Vehicles. The EV Readiness Checklist, the ARA University modules, and the resources available through the ARA CAR program will be highlighted and made available to the Iowa members with permission from ARA. President Pat Roof has made his priority to make our members safe from the dangers of the electric vehicles coming in to the facilities with the expectation that more and more will arrive.



DAVID HESMER

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# Iowa Automotive Recyclers Members & Board of Directors Meeting

August 18, 2021 — 5:15 pm Conference Call

## Members of IAR

**Committee Meetings** – Restarting committee work on specific issues. Committee of three members with expertise and/or interest in each topic. Committees may include illegal operators such that we can put together a JUNKYARD REPORT showing that identifying illegal activity is easy to find. “If we can find you, so can ENFORCEMENT!” Then provide brief assistance on how to get legal.

Recruitment Committee such that every Board Member brings one new Direct or Associate member this year. Sheet Metal sales committee to review issues. Legislative Committee will need to prepare if we plan to run a bill in 2022.

**Scholarship** checks have been mailed out in time to be credited before school starts next week.

**Tow Member Outreach** included letters being sent. No response from the effort. Another mailing will be made when the NMVTIS training has been scheduled for sign up.

**Safety Car Project** – Safe Driver Cedar Valley group has asked IAR to partner in creating a display vehicle to make drivers aware of some safer habits in driving. Jeremy Heidemann will create some graphics from the bullet points Sue developed from NHTSA data. Pat roof donated a car. The City of Waterloo will print the stickers once the graphics are designed and then the car will have more damaged added to it to make for a stunning presentation on safe driving. Several bullet points will drive home the need to keep the car in good repair using recycled auto parts.

Jeremy moved to adjourn at 5:57 pm with a second from Tom Snyder. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jeff Smid*  
Jeff Smid, Secretary

*Tourniers Recycling Inc*  
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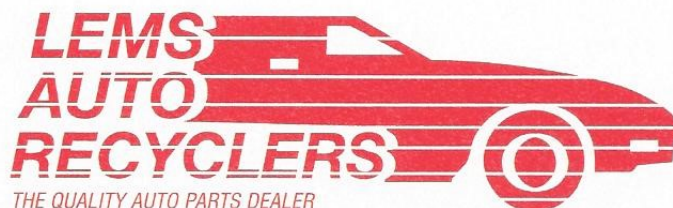
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*Waterloo Auto Parts*  
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*West Edge Auto Salvage*  
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*Wilken Auto Salvage*  
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# **SUMMER OUTING VIRTUAL AUCTION 2021**

## ***THANK YOU TO THE DONORS and BIDDERS!***

<https://www.32auctions.com/IowaAutomotiveRecyclers>

Thank you for the generous support. Items donated included:

**John C and Ruth Vander Haag donated five books.** Purchased by:

Pat Rooff, Pat's Auto Salvage, Waterloo

Jodi Kunde, North End Auto Wrecking, Dubuque

Jason Hilsman, Ace Auto Recyclers, Iowa City

Chris Staver High Country Auto, Cherokee

Mike Swift, Swift's Trail End, Des Moines

**Ace Auto Recyclers, Iowa City donated Yukon Cooler & Yeti Tumbler Package.**

Purchased by: Chris Staver High Country Auto, Cherokee

**Car-Part.com donated Beverage Package.**

Purchased by: Jeremy Heidemann, Waterloo Auto Parts, Waterloo

**North End Auto Wrecking, Dubuque donated CRUSHED professional photograph.**

Purchased by: Mike Garvin, Vander Haag's, Inc., Des Moines

**North End Auto Wrecking, Dubuque donated Hawkey Sign.**

Purchased by: Tony Finch, Waterloo Auto Parts, Waterloo

**Waterloo Auto Parts, Waterloo donated Iowa Hawkey Metal Wall Sign.**

Purchased by: Mike Garvin, Vander Haag's, Inc., Des Moines

**Waterloo Auto Parts, Waterloo donated Iowa Hawkey Quilt.**

Purchased by: Jerod Ballhagen, Waterloo Auto Parts, Waterloo

**Swift's Trail End Auto Recycling, Des Moines donated Mustang Pins.**

Purchased by: Tony Finch, Waterloo Auto Parts, Waterloo

**Pat's Auto Salvage, Waterloo donated Patio Dining Set.**

Purchased by: Jeremy Bevard, Waterloo Auto Parts, Waterloo

**Pat's Auto Salvage, Waterloo donated Pellet Smoker.**

Purchased by: Tim Smith, Smith Auto Parts & Sales, Fairfield

**Pat's Auto Salvage, Waterloo donated Gas Log Fireplace.**

Purchased by: Tim Smith, Smith Auto Parts & Sales, Fairfield

**United Catalyst Corporation (UCC) donated Radio Controlled Cooler.**

Purchased by: Jeremy Bevard, Waterloo Auto Parts, Waterloo

Thank you for the generous cash donation **Ace Auto Recyclers, Iowa City**



## **SUMMER OUTING PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE** ***THANK YOU TO THE DONORS!***

### **Thank you for the MEETING THE PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE!**

Following the virtual Summer Outing Auction, Iowa Auto Recyclers President, Pat Roof, issued a challenge to our members to meet the \$200 cash donation made by Ace Auto Recyclers, Iowa City, during the online auction. Jeff Smid, Jeff Smid Auto, Inc., Davenport, called out the challenge with the first donation and then doubled down at the end of the event. Pat Roof, Pat's Auto Salvage, Waterloo, also doubled down! Many members stepped forward and pledged donations.

The unique fundraising idea of the online auction was put forth by Vice President, Jeremy Bevard, Waterloo Auto Parts, Waterloo with support from the Board of Directors to make up for the budget shortfalls caused by the cancellation of the last two annual Summer Outings due to the pandemic.

### **Thank you for the generous cash donation to the Iowa Auto Recyclers:**

Pat's Auto Salvage, Waterloo (*Double Down*)

Jeff Smid Auto Inc., Davenport (*Double Down*)

Wilken and Sons, Nashua

Sam's Riverside, Des Moines

Hawkeye Auto Salvage, De Soto

Sandhill Auto Salvage, Tama

Swift's Trail End, Des Moines

Can-Am, Waterloo

Piper Auto Parts, Bloomfield

Snyder's Auto Body, Clarinda

Vander Haag's Inc., Des Moines

King Automotive, Waterloo

John's Auto and Body Shop, Aplington

North End Auto Wrecking, Dubuque

SunLine Inc., Cedar Rapids

Quandt Auto Salvage, Carroll

Spilman Auto Parts, Bloomfield

Aikey Auto Salvage, Waterloo

Smith Auto Parts & Sales, Fairfield



+ Ace Auto Recyclers, Iowa City

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# Tow Operators are Subject to NMVTIS Reporting

## Iowa Auto Recyclers Outreach for Compliance

### NMVTIS 101: Federal Reporting Requirements for Tow Companies

**What qualifies as a junk or salvage vehicle?** According to the federal rule, junk vehicles are vehicles incapable of operating on public streets, roads and highways or have no value except as a source of parts or scrap. These vehicles may be bought and sold in their entirety or as spare parts, used for rebuilding, restoration, or they may be crushed.

Salvage vehicles are automobiles that have been damaged to the extent that the fair salvage value plus the cost of repair for legal operation would be more than the fair market value of the automobile immediately before the damage occurred. The definition of junk and salvage automobiles includes all automobiles declared to be a total loss by a state or an insurance carrier. Please keep in mind that the federal junk/salvage definition does not consider title brands or status— even a car with a “clean” title must be reported if it fits the federal salvage definition.

Tow companies will need to report all junk and salvage vehicles that they purchase from a private party, take possession of in lieu of towing or storage costs or sell at auction. NMVTIS reporting also applies to any vehicle you part out or crush, or any vehicle for which you obtain a salvage certificate, a certificate of destruction or similar document. If you have the right to sell or re-title, rebuild, restore or crush the vehicle, and it is a junk or salvage vehicle under the federal definition, you must report the vehicle to NMVTIS.

**What vehicles do NOT have to be reported?** Any vehicle that is merely transported or stored, or for which you did not have the right to determine what would happen to the vehicle does not have to be reported. Any vehicle that does not meet the definition of a junk or salvage vehicle should not be reported.

**How do you report?** NMVTIS reporting is done through approved data consolidators. Consolidators collect the required information from towing companies, format it and insert it into the NMVTIS database. Auto Data Direct or ADD is an approved NMVTIS data consolidator, and offers both paid and no-cost NMVTIS reporting accounts. ADD accounts also include access to other products designed specifically for the towing industry, such as certified mail tools, forms tools and real-time owner/lien holder



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# Tow Operators are Subject to NMVTIS Reporting

## Iowa Auto Recyclers Outreach for Compliance

searches in seventeen states, including Florida and Texas. For current ADD account holders, simply click on the NMVTIS Vehicle Upload tab to begin reporting.

**What do you report?** For each junk and salvage vehicle you handle, you will be asked to provide your business contact information, the VIN, the date you obtained the right to determine the vehicle disposition, and who you obtained the vehicle from. Towing reports will include a statement of what will happen to the vehicle (if it will be used for parts or rebuilding, crushed or sold), who purchased the vehicle if it was sold, and if it will be exported out of the US.

**Is it too late to begin reporting?** If you haven't ever made a NMVTIS report, it's not too late to catch up. The Department of Justice has stated that even if you are late beginning NMVTIS reporting, when you do make your first report, you should include ALL junk and salvage vehicles that you have handled since the regulations went into effect on March 1, 2009.

Read the [Policy Clarification Regarding Tow Operators/Towing Companies Reporting Requirements to the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System \(NMVTIS\)](#).

More information is available at [vehiclehistory.bja.ojp.gov](http://vehiclehistory.bja.ojp.gov) and [www.add123.com](http://www.add123.com).

## Other info

The National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) was created under the Anti Car Theft Act of 1992. In 1996, the Anti Car Theft Act was reauthorized and amended, transferring the responsibility for NMVTIS from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

Since DOJ became responsible for NMVTIS in 1997, nearly \$33 million in federal funding has been provided to states and the operator of the system, AAMVA, to make the system operational.



**Waterloo Auto Parts**  **319-234-5207**  
**800-728-5207**  
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 Waterloo, IA 50703

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# Tow Operators are Subject to NMVTIS Reporting

## Iowa Auto Recyclers Outreach for Compliance

Reporting and data retrieval went to an online system on March 2, 2009. Since then, states and industries have been coming into compliance with the federal regulation. Many states, including Iowa have also enacted state NMVTIS rules.

The National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) is designed to protect consumers from fraud and unsafe vehicles and to keep stolen vehicles from being resold. NMVTIS is also a tool that assists states and law enforcement in deterring and preventing title fraud and other crimes.

Several businesses and agencies are required to regularly report specific information to NMVTIS. These entities include:

State motor vehicle titling agencies. Insurance carriers (including some self-insuring entities).

Auto recyclers and junk and salvage yards (including scrap vehicle shredders and scrap metal processors, as well as "pull- or pick-apart yards," salvage pools, salvage auctions, and other types of auctions, businesses, and individuals that handle salvage vehicles (including vehicles declared a "total loss")).

These entities are required to report various types of information on vehicles; however, there are some limited exceptions to these reporting requirements (e.g., certain types of recyclers may not be able to identify VINs for reporting, junk or salvage yards handling less than 5 salvage vehicles per year are exempt from reporting).

**Check Reporting Status** A search can be conducted by clicking on this link: <https://www.nmvtis-le.org/NMVTISReportingStatus>

NOTE: All insurance carriers were required to begin monthly reporting of salvage/total loss data to NMVTIS on March 31, 2009. All auto recyclers, salvage yards, and junk yards were required to begin monthly reporting of salvage vehicle data to NMVTIS on March 31, 2009. To review the specific reporting requirements by entity and/or learn how to report, go to:

[Insurance Carriers](#)

[Auto Recyclers, Junk Yards, and Salvage Yards](#)

[Summary by Reporting Entity: What Data is Required to be Reported to NMVTIS?](#)

## Iowa NMVTIS Law

Summary of Legislation effective January 1, 2016: Requires a licensed vehicle recycler to register with the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS). Requires every person who applies for a vehicle recycler license to provide proof of registration with NMVTIS.

**So, do you have to report? YES.** In general, if you own, control, handle or acquire more than five junk or salvage vehicles a year, you must report to NMVTIS. **The DOJ clarification states that tow companies, wrecker operators and tow truck services are included in the NMVTIS program** regulations, and those businesses should be reporting information about the junk and salvage vehicles they handle.

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# Tow Operators are Subject to NMVTIS Reporting

## Iowa Auto Recyclers Outreach for Compliance

### NATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE TITLE INFORMATION SYSTEM (NMVTIS) ID AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR IOWA

HF563 was passed by the Iowa legislature in 2016 that requires:

- Licensed Iowa recyclers to register with the NMVTIS
- Every person who applies for an Iowa vehicle recycler license to provide proof of registration with NMVTIS
- Every licensed vehicle recycler that is subject to federal reporting requirements to report the acquisition of junk and salvage vehicles to NMVTIS.

The law also provides for criminal and administrative sanctions should a licensed recycler fail to comply with NMVTIS reporting requirements.

Each person who registers with the NMVTIS will be assigned a NMVTIS Reporting ID. It is this ID number that must be provided to the Iowa Department of Transportation as evidence of registration with NMVTIS. Detailed information on reporting requirements and how to obtain a NMVTIS Reporting ID number is available [online](#).

Registering (obtaining an ID) and reporting the acquisition of junk and salvage vehicles must be completed utilizing one of the approved third party consolidators listed below.

#### AAMVA SINGLE VIN REPORTING SERVICE

Website:

[www.aamva.org/NMVTIS-Reporting-Service](http://www.aamva.org/NMVTIS-Reporting-Service)

#### AUDATEX

Phone: 800-237-3463

#### AUTO DATA DIRECT INC.

Free and full-service NMVTIS reporting

Website: [www.add123.com](http://www.add123.com)

Phone: 866-923-3123

Insurance email: [insurance@add123.com](mailto:insurance@add123.com)

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#### INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE (ISO)

ISO ClaimSearch customer support

Phone: 800-888-4476

Email: [claimsearchnmvtis@iso.com](mailto:claimsearchnmvtis@iso.com)

**There are no fees for registering** (obtaining an ID) or for reporting information via the American Association of Motor Vehicle Association's (AAMVA) Single Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) Reporting Service. However, there may be fees associated with registering and reporting through the other consolidators. Please contact the data consolidator of your choice for more information on reporting methods, technical specifications, and fees.



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# Industry News

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## Minnesota to introduce catalytic converter ID system

### **State will spend \$400,000 to encourage vehicle owners to have traceable converters.**

Minnesota's state government reportedly has earmarked \$400,000 to fund a program to help more vehicle owners place identifying markers on their catalytic converters in an attempt to thwart some converter theft attempts.

As prices for platinum group metals (PGMs) have risen, the theft of catalytic converters has risen throughout North America. The Minnesota funds will go toward an identification or marking system that was recently endorsed by panelists at an ISRI meeting on the topic.

In Minnesota, the state legislature has agreed to \$400,000 in funding for a new pilot program as part of its next two-year budget, according to an online article on the St. Peter (Minnesota) Herald website.

The program would pay for car owners to have their catalytic converters engraved with their vehicles' identification numbers or be otherwise permanently marked so the converter could be identified if removed and attempted to be sold to a scrap yard or converter processing facility.

The Herald quotes a state representative who says the lack of individual identification on converters makes it nearly impossible for law enforcement agencies to determine if a converter is stolen or legitimately scrapped property.

<https://www.recyclingtoday.com/article/minnesota-catalytic-converter-theft-id-system/>



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# Industry News

## Precious metals yield atrocious behavior

At an [ISRI2021](#) online workshop, ISRI Director of Law Enforcement Outreach, Brady Mills, cited National Insurance Crime Bureau statistics showing that while in 2018 catalytic converter theft claims average 118 per month, by December 2020 that figure reached 2,347 such claims filed.

Butch Bryant of the Knox County, TN, sheriff's office quoted bank robber Willie Sutton, who when asked why he robbed banks replied, "Because that's where the money is." In April 2021, platinum is worth \$1,200 per ounce, palladium \$2,500 and rhodium a whopping \$28,000 per ounce. To a thief, that's where the money is.

Bryant said Knox Co. has interrupted such transactions in a superstore parking lot. Perhaps more worrying was a case in an adjacent county where a catalytic converter thief attempted to run down an officer, said Bryant, causing the officer to shoot and wound the suspect.

Referencing earlier efforts to reduce theft of air conditioner cores as a template to address the converter theft problem, one county in the South has tested a program where vehicle owners have the option of having an identification tag and a bright, painted sheriff's logo placed onto converters.

Bryant said of thieves who confront a converter marked that way, "When they get underneath that fleet vehicle and see that big, marked Knox County Sheriff's star, they're going to go elsewhere." (Bryant singled out truck, bus and van fleet owners because they are frequent victims of catalytic converter theft and can be willing participants in a marking program.)

"Recyclers are often the ones who tell us, 'Here's what's going on, here's who's doing it,'" said Bryant of recyclers providing information on stolen material sellers and buyers. "I challenge law enforcement officers to get out there and develop that relationship with your local recyclers. None of the legitimate recyclers like the stigma of being associated with these catalytic converter thefts."

[www.recyclingtoday.com/article/isri-convention-platinum-palladium-recycling-converter-theft-prevention/](http://www.recyclingtoday.com/article/isri-convention-platinum-palladium-recycling-converter-theft-prevention/)



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## Industry News

### ARA Advocates for ROE Parts as Average Age of Vehicles in Operation Increases to 12.1 Years

ARA issued a press release in June calling on vehicle owners, repair facilities and insurance companies to increase utilization of ROE - Recycled Original Equipment® automotive parts as the average age of light vehicles in operation rises to 12.1 years.

In response to new research from IHS Market, a research firm that delivers an annual report on the age of vehicles on the road in the United States, ARA took the opportunity to remind consumers that they have a choice when it comes to how their vehicle is repaired. The age of vehicles on the road is at an historic high, increasing from 11.9 years in 2020. Professional automotive recyclers play a vital role in keeping these vehicles in road worthy condition.

IHS cites the impact of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting reduction in new vehicle sales as well as increase in vehicle scrappage as primary factors in driving up the average age of light vehicles. The shortage of new cars and increasing value of used cars presents an opportunity for the recycled parts market.



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