

(1) A person or entity in possession of an unclaimed motor vehicle, shall electronically report the unclaimed vehicle through a portal provided by the Department within five (5) calendar days from the date the motor vehicle first was considered unclaimed. The following shall be considered an unclaimed motor vehicle:

a. a motor vehicle left unattended on a public road or highway for more than 48 hours.

b. a motor vehicle, not left on private property for repairs, that has remained on private or other public property for a period of more than 48 hours without the consent of the owner or lessee of the property.

c. a motor vehicle, left on private property for repairs, that has not been reclaimed within 48 hours from the latter of either the date the repairs were completed or the agreed upon redemption date.

(2) The report of an unclaimed motor vehicle shall contain the following information:

- a. vehicle identification number,
- b. vehicle year,
- c. vehicle make,
- d. vehicle model,
- e. license plate number and state of issuance, if available,
- f. name, address, and telephone number of entity making report, and
- g. date vehicle was deemed unclaimed.

(3) Upon receiving the report of an unclaimed motor vehicle, the Department will place a forty-five (45) day hold on the Alabama title record, if any, in order to protect the reporting entity's interest in the motor vehicle.

(4) Within five (5) calendar days from the date the motor vehicle was reported as unclaimed through the Department's portal, the entity in possession of the motor vehicle shall use the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) to determine the state in which the motor vehicle is titled and/or registered.

(5) If the motor vehicle is titled and/or registered in Alabama, the person or entity in possession of the motor vehicle must submit an Abandoned Motor Vehicle Record Request (MVT 32-13) to the Department. Upon receipt of the complete request and payment of the required fees, the Department shall provide a certified Abandoned Motor Vehicle Record Request Response statement (MVT 32-13R) either identifying the name and address of the current owners, registrants, secured parties, or lienholders of record, or documenting that the department has no record concerning the current owners, registrants, secured parties, and lienholder for the motor vehicle. If the motor

vehicle is titled and or registered in another state, the person or entity in possession of the motor vehicle shall obtain the equivalent certified motor vehicle record from the state of record.

(6) Within five (5) calendar days of receiving the certified record from the state of record, the reporting entity must report the owner and lienholder of record through the Department's portal, and the entity in possession of the motor vehicle must send a Notice of Possession to the owner and lienholder of record via certified mail return receipt (i.e. domestic return receipt, electronic delivery confirmation receipt, electronic return receipt, etc.) or equivalent documentation evidencing that all parties (owners and lienholders) listed on the certified motor vehicle record were notified, or notification was attempted.

(7) In accordance with Section 32-13-3, Code of Alabama 1975, the entity in possession of the motor vehicle must maintain the NMVTIS record, certified vehicle record, and the original certified mail return receipt evidencing that all parties (owners and lienholders) listed on the certified vehicle record were notified, or notification was attempted, for a period of three (3) years from the date of sale, and is subject to audit by the Department.

(8) Motor vehicle reports of unclaimed motor vehicle records will be available to the public through the Department's portal as provided under Section 32-8-84, Code of Alabama, and will be maintained for a period of at least one (1) year from the date the report is filed with the Department.

(9) A motor vehicle, as defined in Section 32-8-2, that has been unclaimed for not less than 30 calendar days from the date the notice was sent to the owner and lienholder of record, or if no owner or lienholder of record could be determined, has been unclaimed for not less than 30 calendar days shall be considered "abandoned." The term "abandoned motor vehicle" also includes any attached aftermarket equipment installed on the motor vehicle that replaced factory installed equipment.

(10) At least thirty-five (35) days prior to the sale of the abandoned motor vehicle, the reporting entity must provide a notice of public auction through the Department's portal. If the auction is to be held in the county in which the motor vehicle is registered, the public auction must be publicized once a week for two consecutive weeks in a publication of local circulation in the county where the sale is to occur. The following information must be provided to the Department:

- a. Name and address of the current owner and lienholder of record,
- b. Contact information for the person or entity filing the notice,
- c. VIN, make, and year model of the motor vehicle, and
- d. Date, time and location of the auction.

Within five (5) calendar days of the receipt of the Notice of Public Auction, the Department shall send a Notice of Termination to the current owner and lienholder of record. The owner and lienholder will have thirty (30) days to appeal the motor vehicle sale to circuit court in the county where the sale is scheduled to occur.

(11) Thirty-five (35) days after the notice of public auction is provided to the Department, the motor vehicle may be sold as an abandoned vehicle as defined in Section 32-13-1, Code of Alabama 1975. The Department's portal shall be used to create an Abandoned Motor Vehicle Bill of Sale (MVT 32-13B). The bill of sale shall contain the following information:

- a. Complete Vehicle Description;
- b. Date Abandoned;
- c. Date and Location of Sale;
- d. Name of newspaper and dates of publication; (if applicable)
- e. Net proceeds of sale of abandoned motor vehicle; and
- f. Buyer and seller information.
- g. Dates certified mail was sent to owner(s), registrant(s), secured party (parties), and lienholder(s) of record (if any);

(12) Should the current certificate of title to a motor vehicle sold as abandoned, have a "salvage" brand, the subsequent title, must also carry this brand. The purchaser of a "salvage" abandoned motor vehicle shall not be permitted to register the motor vehicle, or to operate it upon the highways of Alabama until such time as the motor vehicle is restored by a licensed rebuilder and inspected by the department as required by Section 32-8-87, Code of Alabama 1975, and a "rebuilt" Alabama certificate of title is issued. Pursuant to Section 32-8-87(j), Code of Alabama 1975, a motor vehicle for which a certificate of title has been issued by any state with the notation of junk, parts car, parts only, nonrebuildable, or when a certificate of destruction or bill of sale has been issued for transfer of the vehicle with similar language shall be considered to be a junk vehicle and shall not be titled in this state.

(13) If the motor vehicle is returned to the owner or lienholder, the entity who reported the motor vehicle as "unclaimed" must report the redemption of the motor vehicle through the Department's portal within five (5) calendar days of the return of the motor vehicle.

(14) The Department's portal will provide notice to the reporting entity if the unclaimed motor vehicle is reported stolen. The Department will suspend the issuance of a bill of sale (MVT 32-13B) until the department learns of the motor vehicle recovery or that the report of its theft or conversion was erroneous.

(15) A person or entity may only utilize the Department's portal when a motor vehicle is deemed to be unclaimed/abandoned. The portal may not be utilized to circumvent the requirement that the seller of a motor vehicle, other than an abandoned motor vehicle, provide the buyer with a properly assigned certificate of title. In such a

case, the person of entity may apply for certificate of title under a title surety bond as provided under Section 32-8-36, Code of Alabama 1975.

(16) Every purchaser of an abandoned motor vehicle shall title the vehicle in their name, including a purchaser who may be a licensed motor vehicle dealer. In accordance with Section 32-13-3, Code of Alabama 1975, licensed automotive dismantler and parts recyclers or secondary metals recyclers may utilize the bill of sale (MVT 32-13B) in lieu of surrendering the certificate of title for the purpose of reporting a motor vehicle being dismantled or recycled into metallic scrap for remelting purposes.

(17) In the event that there is a net sale balance on the MVT 32-13B greater than \$0, the seller must remit the net sale balance to the county licensing official in the county where the sale occurred for deposit into the county general fund. A copy of the MVT 32-13B must also accompany the remittance of the net sale balance. The seller must obtain a receipt for deposit of these funds from the county license plate issuing official and, within ten (10) days, provide the buyer with a copy of the receipt. A copy of the receipt must accompany the MVT 32-13B when the buyer makes application for certificate of title.

(18) Failure to report a motor vehicle as unclaimed or failure to notify the owner and lienholder of record, if any, shall result in the forfeiture of all claims and liens for the motor vehicle's garaging, parking, and storage prior to the time the motor vehicle is reported as unclaimed.

(19) Anyone who makes a false statement regarding the sale of an abandoned motor vehicle or, anyone, who aids, abets, induces, procures, or causes the commission of an act in violation of Section 32-13-10, Code of Alabama 1975, commits a Class C felony.

(20) Any contest regarding the sale of an abandoned motor vehicle may be appealed by filing a notice of appeal in the circuit court in the county where the sale is scheduled to occur or has occurred. Once the notice of the appeal is provided to the Department, an administrative stop shall be placed on the title record until such time as the circuit court makes a determination regarding title to the motor vehicle or the appeal is dismissed.

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