



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR LAUNCHES VEHICLE SAFETY SYSTEMS INSPECTION PROGRAM**

*Comprehensive inspections ensure revived salvage vehicles are safe to return to California roadways*

SACRAMENTO – Buying a salvage vehicle in California now comes with added peace of mind. The [Bureau of Automotive Repair's](#) (BAR) [Vehicle Safety Systems Inspection](#) (VSSI) Program inspects vehicle safety systems to ensure revived salvage vehicles can be registered with the [Department of Motor Vehicles](#) (DMV) and safely returned to the road.

Revived salvage vehicles are autos that have sustained significant damage due to a collision, flooding, theft, or other incident, and are declared a total loss by the insurance carrier. When these vehicles are repaired (revived), they must be registered with DMV and issued a salvage title to be driven again.

Revived salvage vehicles are often repaired by a rebuilder or the original owner and sold at a lower price than similar cars with clean titles. If not properly repaired, they may have serious safety and performance problems that can be hard to detect. The new VSSI Program aims to mitigate these risks and enhance road safety statewide.

Created under Assembly Bill 471 (Low, Chapter 372, Statutes of 2021), the new program expands the inspection required to register a revived salvage vehicle to include critical vehicle safety systems such as steering and suspension, tires and wheels, passenger compartment, and body structure. The inspection protocol also incorporates on-board diagnostics, a road test, and vehicle safety recall information.

BAR emphasized the program's role in safeguarding consumers. "This is an important step in protecting consumers from potential hazards associated with salvage vehicles," said Patrick Dorais, Bureau Chief. "Comprehensive

inspections empower consumers with important vehicle information before buying a revived salvage vehicle.”

Inspections are performed by licensed technicians at licensed VSSI stations throughout the state. After a vehicle passes the inspection, a vehicle safety report is issued and a certificate of compliance is shared electronically with DMV, simplifying the registration process. Once the vehicle is issued a salvage title, no further vehicle safety systems inspections are needed for registration renewal or change of ownership.

Consumers who buy a revived salvage vehicle should be sure to get a copy of the vehicle safety report from the seller. A copy of this report or other proof a vehicle passed an inspection must be provided by a salvage vehicle rebuilder. Consumers can also verify an inspection was completed by checking a vehicle's inspection history [online](#).

For information about the Vehicle Safety Systems Inspection Program and to find a [licensed station](#), visit [www.bar.ca.gov](http://www.bar.ca.gov). To learn more about registration requirements for revived salvage vehicles, visit [DMV's Junk/Revived Salvage Vehicles page](#).

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**ABOUT THE BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR:** The California Bureau of Automotive Repair protects Californians through effective oversight of the automotive repair industry and administration of vehicle emissions reduction and safety programs. Consumers can file a complaint against an automotive repair dealer online at [www.bar.ca.gov](http://www.bar.ca.gov) or by phone at (800) 952-5210.