



American Association of
Motor Vehicle Administrators

Revisiting Some Vehicle Issues

Uniform Brand Definitions

AAMVA Spring Workshop

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Uniform Brand Definitions

- Proposed Vehicle Committee working group
- Development of standard definitions for several “key” vehicle brands
- Intent today is to gather jurisdiction input
 - Is there a need for such an effort
 - Potential for adoption in your jurisdiction
 - Suggestions on brands to be defined



Uniform Brand Definitions

- **The Problems:**

- Hundreds of jurisdiction brands
- Thousands of definitions
- Brands changed/washed when the vehicle moves to a new jurisdiction
- Jurisdictions brands not always consistent with NMVTIS brands – jurisdictions brands are mapped to the 68 NMVTIS brands



Uniform Brand Definitions

- **The Solution:**
 - Standard definitions for key brands
 - Has been tried before (federal legislation)
- **The Obstacles:**
 - Determining “key” brands
 - Developing widely supported definitions
 - Would require legislative changes in your jurisdiction
 - Resistance from affected stakeholders



Uniform Brand Definitions

- **Possible key brands**
 - Junk/Non-Repairable/Dismantled/Crushed
 - Salvage
 - Prior/Previous Salvage or Rebuilt
 - Flood/Water damaged
 - Stolen
 - Reconstructed
 - Damaged



Uniform Brand Definitions

- **Other Common Brands**
 - Kit
 - Recovered stolen
 - Gray market (compliant or non-compliant)
 - State Assigned VIN
 - Manufacturer buyback
 - Owner retained salvage
 - Etc., etc., etc.



Uniform Brand Definitions

- Possible definitions

JUNK

- a vehicle that is damaged to the extent that it can not be safely repaired for continued operation on public roads
 - Should it contain a measurable standard (percent of damage, exceeds cost of repair, or something similar)
 - Who makes the determination



Uniform Brand Definitions

- Possible definitions

SALVAGE

- a vehicle that has sustained damage in excess of XX% of pre-damaged value
- a vehicle damaged to the extent that cost of repairing the vehicle for legal operation on public roads exceeds its fair market value immediately prior to damage
- a vehicle on which an insurance company or self-insurer has made a total loss determination or settlement
 - What about vehicles not covered by collision insurance
 - What is the appropriate level of damage
 - At what point does “salvage” become “junk”



Uniform Brand Definitions

- Possible definitions

PRIOR SALVAGE

- a vehicle, previously declared a salvage vehicle which has been repaired and has passed a physical inspection by an agency or entity authorized by jurisdiction law to conduct such inspections
 - Who should be doing the inspections
 - What liability may exist for the jurisdiction



Uniform Brand Definitions

- Possible definitions

FLOOD

- a vehicle that has been submerged in freshwater or saltwater to the point that water entered the passenger compartment or trunk
 - What about vehicles not covered by comprehensive insurance
 - Should there be separate brands for vehicles damaged by freshwater and those damaged by saltwater



Uniform Brand Definitions

- Possible definitions

Stolen

- a vehicle that has been reported as stolen to a law enforcement agency and that has not been recovered
 - Is this really a “key” brand
 - Would “recovered theft” be a more appropriate “key brand”



Uniform Brand Definitions

- Possible definitions
- **Reconstructed**
 - a vehicle which has been assembled or constructed largely by means of essential parts, either new or derived from other used vehicles
 - Does it need to look substantially like make and year model displayed on the title



Uniform Brand Definitions

- Possible definitions
- **Damaged**
 - a vehicle which has sustained damage in excess of _____ but not damaged to the extent it would be considered to be a salvage vehicle
 - Base definition on an actual dollar amount
 - Base definition on a percentage of pre-damaged value
 - Implications on value of vehicle for owner



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Questions, Comments, Suggestions

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