

From: JimEdwards <jimedwards@theciada.com>
To: Marcia.Adams@SCDMV.netMarcia.Adams@SCDMV.net
Date: 9/21/2004 11:40:27 AM
Subject: Re: TOTAL LOSS CLAIM-Title Notation from North Carolina

Thank you so very much....as you can see, my dealer is literally caught between a "rock and a hard place".

James L. (Jim) Edwards, CAE, ARM
Executive Director
Carolinas Independent Automobile Dealers Association
PO Box 1088, Harrisburg, NC 28075

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e-mail: jimedwards@theciada.com

----- Original Message -----

From: Marcia.Adams@SCDMV.net
To: jimedwards@theciada.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2004 11:00 AM
Subject: RE: TOTAL LOSS CLAIM-Title Notation from North Carolina

I am sorry that it has taken so long to get back with you, but there has been much discussion in South Carolina about what the brand "salvage" really means.

First, I am told by our titles and registration area that this state does not have a brand called "total loss claim". In fact our legislation, 56-19-480 (Section G) states that "wrecked vehicle", "salvage vehicle", and "vehicle declared to be a total loss" are all synonyms. Therefore, in South Carolina, we brand a title from another state showing "total loss claim" as "salvage, non-rebuildable".

With this said, we are having some confusion with our statutes. Section 56-19-480(G) states that "salvage" is defined as any "motor vehicle which is damaged to the extent that the cost of repairing the motor vehicle, including parts and reasonable market charges for labor, equal or exceed seventy-five percent of the fair market value of the vehicle". Section 56-19-480 (B) also states that "notwithstanding another provision of law, when an insurance company obtains a title to a vehicle from settling a total loss claim, the insurance company **may** obtain a title to the vehicle designated as 'salvage'".

Therefore, some of our titles that are branded as "salvage" may have losses that are less than 75% of the value of the vehicle. We have formed a study group to determine if we should brand these particular vehicles as "total loss claims". However, this seems to cause problems with interpretations in other states as illustrated in the issue you have. We have also thought about branding them as "total loss claims" and printing the percentage of damage so other states can more easily apply their brands. I don't know if this will help the problem.

Please let me know if you need any further information. Again, I am sorry that it took so long to reply, but as you can see, South Carolina is wrestling with some of the same issues.

Marcia

[Adams, Marcia S.] -----Original Message-----

From: JimEdwards [mailto:jimedwards@theciada.com]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2004 1:33 PM
To: Adams, Marcia S
Subject: TOTAL LOSS CLAIM-Title Notation from North Carolina

Marcia,

I hate to be a pest, but I was wondering if you'd had an opportunity to investigate the issue of a TOTAL LOSS CLAIM

notation on a title and the resulting SALVAGE brand being issued on a SC title?

Kind regards,

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