

Advice for vehicle proprietors seeking to licence a vehicle as a private hire or hackney carriage vehicle that has been categorised by an insurance company as a Category S (structural) or N (Non-Structural) salvage.

Policy

Vehicles that are categorised by insurance companies as a Category A (Scrap) or B (Break) salvage will not be accepted as suitable for a licence. Vehicles that have been categorised by an insurance company as a Category S (Structural) or N (Non-structural) salvage will not be considered suitable to be licensed unless the vehicle has first undergone a Roadworthy Vehicle Inspection, carried out by a suitably competent and independent vehicle engineer assessor, and a report has been produced.

What do I have to do?

In addition to the usual licensing requirements, before a Category S or Category N vehicle will be considered suitable to be licensed you must obtain an independent report on the vehicle. This will give you the detailed information about the car's condition and will typically cost you around £100 to £200. You should take this additional requirement and cost into account before you decide to apply to licence a Cat N or S salvaged vehicle.

How can I obtain a Roadworthy Vehicle Inspection Report carried out by a suitably competent and independent vehicle engineer assessor?

Independent reports are done by motoring organisations (e.g. the AA, RAC) and specialist companies (e.g. DEKRA). Details of how to arrange an independent inspection are readily available on the internet if you type 'vehicle inspection report' in to your internet browser.

What should the report include?

- Full mechanical and structural checks
- Full under body and interior checks
- Main functions and control checks
- Vehicle safety systems including Supplemental Restraint Systems (SRS)
- Body work and paint inspection checks
- Road-test
- Comprehensive summary of engineer's findings and recommendations
- Full details of the independent vehicle engineer assessor and a signed declaration by the assessor.

Will an MOT certificate or a letter from my local garage be sufficient?

No. Unless the person completing the inspection report can demonstrate that they are a suitably competent and independent vehicle engineer assessor the report will not be accepted. To avoid any delay or disputes you are advised to ensure the report is completed by a recognised motoring organisation or independent vehicle inspection specialist.