Law Enforcement &
Vehicle Title Investigator Guide
National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS)
Law Enforcement Access Tool (LEAT)

What is NMVTIS?

The National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) was established under the Anti Car Theft Act of 1992 and was reauthorized under the Anti-Car Theft Improvements Act of 1996. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is responsible for oversight of the NMVTIS program. The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) operates NMVTIS on behalf of DOJ.

NMVTIS is intended to protect consumers from fraud and unsafe vehicles. It is also a tool designed to assist state vehicle title issuance agencies, vehicle title investigators, and law enforcement in deterring and preventing vehicle-related crimes. The system captures specific pieces of vehicle information from state motor vehicle titling agencies, automobile recyclers, junk and salvage yards, insurance carriers, and third-party data sources into one system.

What is LEAT and What Information Does It Provide?

The Law Enforcement Access Tool (LEAT) provides information to law enforcement and vehicle title investigators beyond what is available to the public. A NMVTIS LEAT query provides valuable information when investigating crimes associated with motor vehicles, including vehicle theft, fraud, and smuggling. In addition, state titling agencies, auto recyclers, vehicle salvage and junk yards, and insurance carriers also report pertinent vehicle data. LEAT also provides vehicle information from additional data sources in one federated check. This data includes stolen vehicle files; flood and damaged vehicle records; vehicle export, impound, and lien records; and cloned and counterfeit vehicle identification number (VIN) files. "LEAT contains a VIN analyzer providing specific vehicle details. LEAT also allows an officer to submit reporting violations directly to DOJ. Contacts from the state titling agency and NMVTIS investigators are included to provide ease in sharing and obtaining information.

How Can NMVTIS LEAT Data Be Accessed?

The NMVTIS LEAT allows access to NMVTIS data at no cost through the Department of Justice Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) or the Federal Bureau of Investigation Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP).

- For instructions on how to access NMVTIS data through RISS, contact the RISS Center serving your jurisdiction. To see which RISS Center serves your state please go to **https://www.riss.net/about-us/**
- If you do not have RISS access, you may obtain access to LEAT by acquiring a LEEP account. Apply online at: **https://le.fbi.gov/informational-tools/leep** or call the FBI Support Center at 888.334.4536.

For more information about access you may also contact the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, Law Enforcement Program Manager: **tfoster@aamva.org**.

What Information Does LEAT Have to Support an Investigation?

Information to assist law enforcement and investigators in conducting a NMVTIS-related investigation can be found in the FAQ section of the LEAT, including forms provided by DOJ.

The NMVTIS public-facing website can be found at: **https://vehiclehistory.bja.ojp.gov/**

What Type of Business Must Report to NMVTIS?

Per NMVTIS regulations, all entities, including junk yards and salvage yards handling **five or more** junk or salvage automobiles per year shall provide NMVTIS with specific information on each junk or salvage automobile obtained in whole or in part in the prior month. The list of industries specifically identified in the regulatory definitions of "junk yard" and "salvage yard" is not an exhaustive list. If an individual or entity is engaged in the business of acquiring or owning junk or salvage automobiles for resale in their entirety or as spare parts; or rebuilding, restoration, or crushing **AND** handles five or more junk or salvage automobiles per year, **THEN** that individual or entity has a NMVTIS reporting obligation.

How Do I Determine If a Business is Registered to Report to NMVTIS?

NMVTIS LEAT allows users the ability to check whether a business is registered to report to NMVTIS and the date of their last report. This information can be found within LEAT under the heading "JSI Reporting Entities." Additionally, this check may be made through the public search site **https://www.nmvtis-le.org/NMVTISReportingStatus**.

How Does a NMVTIS Reporting Entity Report Required Information?

Entities reporting to NMVTIS are required to report through NMVTIS data consolidators (reporting entities). An alphabetized list of NMVTIS data consolidators can be found at **https://vehiclehistory.bja.ojp.gov/nmvtis_auto**. NMVTIS data consolidators assign NMVTIS ID numbers to salvage entities and collect the required NMVTIS information.

Are There Penalties for a Business that Does Not Register with NMVTIS or Report as Required?

Yes. Failure to report to NMVTIS as required is punishable by a federal civil penalty of $1,000 per violation. For example, a failure to report 100 junk or salvage automobiles could result in a civil penalty of up to $100,000. State civil or criminal penalties may also apply. Check with your state NMVTIS coordinator to learn if your state has applicable laws.

How Do I Report NMVTIS Federal Violations?

Potential nonreporting violations should be submitted to the NMVTIS Enforcement Program Office either by email or through the NMVTIS LEAT. When possible, please submit the police report and any supporting documents along with the Law Enforcement NMVTIS Violation Report form. This form is available and can be submitted on the NMVTIS LEAT website.

How Can a Consumer Obtain a NMVTIS Vehicle History Report?

Consumers can access NMVTIS data by contacting an Approved NMVTIS Data Provider at: **https://vehiclehistory.bja.ojp.gov/nmvtis_vehiclehistory**

NMVTIS Program Point of Contact
Gregory Joy, Policy Advisor
Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
202-514-1369
Email: **Gregory.Joy@usdoj.gov**

For more information on the NMVTIS Law Enforcement Access Tool (LEAT), please go to

https://vehiclehistory.bja.ojp.gov/