



Abandoned Vessel: Landowner Requirements

The Department of Revenue is pleased to provide you with the instructions, forms, and requirements necessary to comply with Missouri law when applying for a certificate of title on a boat, vessel, outboard motor, or boat trailer that was abandoned on your property.

DEFINITIONS:

Missouri statute provides the following definitions that may be applied to a boat trailer.

- A **salvage vehicle** a motor vehicle, semitrailer, or house trailer which:
 - Was damaged during a year that is no more than six years after the manufacturer's model year designation for such vehicle (model year of less than 7 years) and the cost to repair or reconstruct the unit exceeds eighty percent (80%) of pre-damaged fair market value*;
 - Repair costs do not include repairing, replacing or reinstalling inflatable safety restraints, tires, sound systems, hail damage, or any sales tax on materials to rebuild or reconstruct. *The Department of Revenue does not determine the fair market value.
 - Declared salvage by; or
 - Owner, a person, firm, corporation or other legal entity with security interest in it;
 - Insurance company as a result of settlement claim; or
 - Ownership documentation is a salvage title.
- A **junk vehicle** is a vehicle incapable of operation or use upon the roadways and has no resale value except as a source of parts or scrap, and will not be titled or registered.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- A *General Affidavit* ([Form 768](#)) completed *prior to* obtaining the required vehicle inspection. The affidavit must contain the following information:
 - The real estate owner's name;
 - The real estate owner's property address where the abandoned unit is located, including the street, city, state, and ZIP code;
 - A description of the abandoned property including the year, make, model, identification number (HIN or VIN), and any decal which may be affixed to the boat/vessel, outboard motor, and/or boat/vessel trailer;
 - A statement explaining the circumstances as to how the real estate owner came into possession of the abandoned property; and
 - The retail/fair market value of the abandoned property assigned by real estate owner.
- The appropriate title application form must be completed and signed by the landowner showing the abandoned property location.
 - *For a boat, vessel, or outboard motor* – A completed *Application for Missouri Boat/Vessel or Outboard Motor Title and Registration* ([Form 93](#)); or
 - *For a boat trailer* – A completed *Application for Missouri Title and License* ([Form 108](#)) with "Original" "Salvage" or "Junk" selected as the title type. A law enforcement inspection will determine the proper type of title to be issued.
- The appropriate inspection form:



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- **For a boat, vessel, or outboard motor** – A completed *Boat/Vessel or Outboard Motor Affidavit of Ownership and Inspection* ([Form 798](#)). The top portion of the form must be completed **prior to** obtaining the required inspection from the Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP).
- **For a boat trailer** – A completed *Application for Vehicle/Trailer Identification Number Plate or Verification* ([Form 5062](#)).

Please contact the [MSHP, Motor Vehicle Inspection Section](#) for information regarding the **inspection process** for abandoned property on real estate.

- A copy of the *Notice to Owner Regarding Abandoned Vehicle, All Terrain Vehicle (ATV), Vessel, Watercraft, Outboard Motor and/or Trailer* ([Form 5227](#)) sent to all registered owner(s) and/or lienholder(s).
 - The owner of the real estate **must** send a notice by certified mail to all owner(s) and lienholder(s), if applicable, to provide an opportunity for them to protect their interest in the abandoned property.
- A copy of the signed certified mail receipt **at least** 30 days old indicating the owner(s) and lienholder(s) of record have been sent and **received** the above notice, as required by law.
 - If the certified mail notice is returned as non-deliverable, submit a copy of the return stamped “No Forwarding Address” or “Addressee Unknown” with the application for title.

YOU WILL PAY:

- Title and processing fees:
 - Title for a boat/vessel – \$7.50 title fee, plus \$6 processing fee.
 - Title for an outboard motor – \$5 title fee, plus \$6 processing fee.
 - Title for a boat trailer – \$8.50 title fee, plus \$6 processing fee.
 - Junking Certificate for a boat trailer – \$6 processing fee, only (no title fee or taxes).
- State and local sales tax, if applicable:
 - State sales tax is calculated at 4.225 percent, based on the assigned retail/fair market value of the abandoned property, as determined by the real estate owner on the statement.
 - Local tax is based on the address of the real estate owner’s real estate property location. Local tax rates vary from city to city or county to county. Local tax is calculated on the assigned retail price of the abandoned property shown on the real estate owner’s statement.

To calculate your state and local taxes, use the [Motor Vehicle/Boat/Vessel Sales Tax Calculator](#) on our website.

Do not send cash. Make checks payable to the *Missouri Department of Revenue*. The Department may electronically resubmit checks returned for insufficient or uncollected funds.

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION:

Please submit completed forms, supporting documents, and applicable fees to:

Motor Vehicle Bureau



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PO Box 100
Jefferson City, Missouri 65105-0100

Upon receipt of the application, supporting documents, and fees, our staff will search the Department's records or initiate an inquiry with another state agency if the evidence presented indicates the abandoned property was registered or titled in another state. If the documentation or our search indicates the latest owner/lienholder was not properly notified, the Department will inform the real estate

owner so they may send the proper notice(s) as required by law.

Any owner or lienholder receiving notification may protest the issuance of title in the name of the real estate owner, by petition in the associate division of the circuit court or small claims court in the county where the abandoned property is located.

An attorney **must** file the petition to recover the abandoned property **within the 30-day notice period**. The petition must name the owner of the real estate, and a copy of the petition must be served on the Director of Revenue. The Director may not be a party to such petition; however, upon receipt of the petition, the issuance of any further titles on the abandoned property will be stopped until the court determines the rights of all parties.

Once all requirements are satisfied, and if the application has not been contested, the Department will issue one of the following documents, as determined by the application documents:

- **For a boat, vessel, or outboard motor** – An original certificate of title.
- **For a boat trailer:**

- An **original certificate of title** if the inspection indicates that the trailer was not previously in a salvage condition or rebuilt;
- An **original certificate of title bearing the words "Prior Salvage"** if the inspection indicates the trailer was previously in a salvage condition or rebuilt.
- A **salvage certificate of title bearing the words "Salvage/Abandoned Property"** if the applicant applied for a Salvage title or the Vehicle Examination Certificate indicates the trailer is in a salvage condition; or
- A **junking certificate** if the applicant applied for a junking certificate or if the inspection indicates that the trailer is junk.

For additional information about the **title application process**, contact the Department at 573-526-3669 or mvbmail@dor.mo.gov.