

FAQ Note on End of Life Vehicles (ELVs)

What is an End of Life Vehicle (ELV)? An end-of-life vehicle is a vehicle which is discarded or is to be discarded by its registered owner as waste. For example; a car which has reached the end of its life either due to age or because of heavy damage following an accident.

What is the law on ELVs? It is the registered owner's legal responsibility to bring an End-of-life vehicle to an authorised treatment facility (ATF) who will dispose of the vehicle and give the owner a certificate of destruction. An authorised treatment facility may not charge for accepting an end-of-life vehicle. To view a copy of the regulations please click [here](#)

Why must I dispose of my End of Life vehicle at an Authorised Treatment Facility (ATF)? Depositing of your vehicle at an ATF ensures that the vehicle will be dismantled in an environmentally friendly manner, with all hazardous material removed, before the vehicle is crushed or shredded. It also ensures that the vehicle is recorded as an end-of-life vehicle on the National Vehicle & Driver File (NVDF), which is operated by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. This ensures that no further transactions, such as a change of ownership, can be processed against the vehicle and that the vehicle owner will no longer be liable for motor tax in respect of the vehicle.

Where can I find a list of authorised treatment facilities? You can find a list of authorised treatment facilities for end-of-life vehicles [here](#).

What documentation do I need to bring to the treatment facility? You will need to bring the vehicle's registration certificate (also known as the log book) to the authorised treatment facility.

Can I use/sell parts for scrap before bringing it to an authorised treatment facility? Yes however if essential parts of the vehicle (for example, engine, gearbox, transmission and catalytic converter) are missing, or the vehicle contains waste, then you can be charged. A good rule of thumb is, if you want the car accepted for free, don't use/sell spare parts of value first.

Who is responsible for the legislation surrounding End of Life Vehicles? The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment is responsible for legislation relating to destruction/disposal of End of Life Vehicles. Please visit www.dccae.gov.ie for more information or Tel: 01 678 2000

What are the legal obligations of Authorised Treatment Centres? An operator of an authorised end-of-life vehicle treatment facility is obliged to:

- Issue the registered owner with a certificate of destruction
- Ensure the facility is operated under an appropriate waste licence or permit
- Meet the minimum technical requirements for the storage, treatment and recovery of end-of-life vehicles and the storage of components containing fluids, spare parts, etc.
- Keep records of end-of-life vehicle materials for reuse, recycling, recovery and disposal and report these records to local authorities annually.

What are the legal obligations of authorised distributors/importers: The End-of-Life Vehicle Regulations place responsibility on all importers of vehicles to play their part in the recycling and recovery of vehicles when they come to the end of their useful operational life. If you are an importer of used cars (M1) or used light commercials (N1), then you are required to be compliant with these ELV Regulations. Compliance means registering with either each of the 31 local authorities, or just once with ELV Environmental Services, known as [ELVES](#)

Are written off vehicles the same as end of life vehicles? This depends on which category of write off the vehicle is. If it is a category A or B write off it should be brought to an authorised treatment facility. If it is a category C or D write off it doesn't have to be disposed of so is not an ELV.

Is it illegal for a garage to sell an end of life or a written off vehicle? Yes. Under consumer protection legislation it is illegal for a garage/trader to sell a product that's not fit for purpose. For more information on your consumer rights when purchasing a used car please visit www.ccpc.ie. The RSA strongly recommends that you carry out a comprehensive history check and get a qualified mechanic to inspect any used vehicle before purchase.

Why don't insurance companies keep written off/End of life vehicles after they have paid out a claim and make sure they're brought to an authorised treatment facility? Insurance companies are not responsible for policing written off vehicles in Ireland. Once a claim has been paid out for a category A write off (i.e. needs to be destroyed) it is the registered owners legal responsibility to bring that vehicle to an authorised treatment facility and obtain the cert of destruction. A Category B write off can be sold on for spare parts and therefore doesn't need to be destroyed.

I sold my ELV to a garage and it was only supposed to be used for scrap but I have since seen it back on the road. Is this legal? Registered owners have a legal responsibility to bring their End of Life vehicle to an authorised treatment facility for destruction and obtain a certificate of destruction. This guarantees that the vehicle cannot be put back on the road. Under consumer Protection Legislation it would be illegal for a garage to sell a vehicle that is defective or dangerous. You may wish to report this activity to the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission ([CCPC](#)) or your Local Gardaí.

Can I reclaim motor tax for an ELV? Yes. However you will need a certificate of destruction to do this. Please contact your local [motor tax office](#) for more information.

What about old trailers or other vehicles which have reached the end of their life. Can they be brought to an authorised treatment facility also? Authorised Treatment Centres only cater for private vehicles (cars and light commercial vehicles) so you will need to contact [The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment](#) for more information on the proper disposal of such vehicles. If you have a query about reclaiming motor tax for such vehicle please contact your local [motor tax office](#).