

FAQs on End of Life Vehicles (ELVs)

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What is an end of life vehicle (ELV)? It is a vehicle which is discarded or is to be discarded by its registered owner as waste e.g. a car, commercial vehicle or motor caravan which has reached the end of its life either due to age or because of heavy damage following a collision.

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. There may not be a charge for accepting an end of life vehicle. To view a copy of the regulations click [here](#).

Why must I dispose of my end of life vehicle at an authorised treatment facility (ATF)?

- Disposing 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 ensures that the vehicle is recorded as an end of life vehicle on the National Vehicle and Driver File ([NVDF](#)), in the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.
- It 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 ATF's [here](#).

What documentation is required at an authorised treatment facility? You will need to bring the vehicle registration cert or logbook.

Can I use or sell parts for scrap before bringing it to an authorised treatment facility?

Yes. However, if essential parts of the vehicle e.g. 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 do not use or sell spare parts of value first.

Who is responsible for the legislation surrounding disposal of end of life vehicles?

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment ([DCCEA](#)) is responsible for this legislation.

What are the legal obligations of authorised treatment facilities (ATFs)?

An operator of an ATF 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 or 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 commercial vehicles (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 end of life vehicles environmental services also 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 ATF.
 - If it is a category C or D write off it does not have to be disposed of so is not an ELV.
- For further information on these categories see our [FAQ](#) on Written off Vehicles.

Is it illegal for a garage or trader to sell an end of life or a written off vehicle?

Yes. Under consumer protection legislation it is illegal for a garage or trader to sell a product that is not fit for purpose. For more information on your consumer rights when purchasing a used car visit www.ccpc.ie. We strongly recommend that you carry out a comprehensive history check and get a qualified mechanic to inspect any used vehicle before purchase.

Should insurance companies keep written off or end of life vehicles after they have paid out a claim to make sure they are brought to an authorised treatment facility for disposal?

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 it needs to be destroyed. It is the registered owner's legal responsibility to bring that vehicle to an authorised treatment facility and obtain the certificate of destruction. Category B write-off vehicles can be sold on for spare parts and therefore do not need to be destroyed.

I sold my ELV to a garage for scrap but 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](http://www.ccpc.ie)) or your local gardaí.

Can I reclaim motor tax for an ELV? Yes. However, you will need a certificate of destruction. For further information contact your local [motor tax office](#).

Can old trailers or other vehicles which have reached the end of their life stage be brought to an authorised treatment facility?

No. Authorised treatment facilities only cater for private vehicles e.g. cars and light commercial vehicles. Contact ([DCCEA](http://www.dccea.ie)) regarding disposal of these other vehicles.