

## **National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS)**

### **Issue Description:**

The Anti-Car Theft Act of 1992 directed the U.S. Department of Transportation to establish a national information system enabling states and others to access automobile titling information. In 1996, the Act was reauthorized and transferred to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ.) NMVTIS is a DOJ system operated by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA). NMVTIS is an electronic system that enables users to access and verify key automobile titling information, as well as brand history (such as junk, salvage, or flood.) Users include State titling agencies, law enforcement officials, consumers, auto recyclers, salvage and junk yards, and insurance carriers.

NMVTIS is a powerful tool that will:

- allow State titling agencies to instantly and reliably verify a vehicle's title before issuing a new title and facilitate the electronic exchange of information between States to improve titling efficiency and reduce fraud;
- assist law enforcement with its investigations of crimes involving vehicles, including vehicle theft rings, violent crimes, drug crimes, financial crimes, and smuggling; and
- provide consumers with access to information on the vehicle's current title, including brands and odometer data, and about whether the vehicle has been determined to be a junk or salvage vehicle (including those determined to be a total loss), so that the consumer may make a better-informed decision about purchasing the vehicle.

### **Recommended Tactics/Strategies for Addressing the Issue:**

Consumers can access NMVTIS vehicle history reports for a minimal fee from [www.NMVTIS.gov](http://www.NMVTIS.gov).

Currently 37 states are involved with NMVTIS at various levels of participation. (NMVTIS participation map available at [www.NMVTIS.gov](http://www.NMVTIS.gov) ) Some states participate fully with NMVTIS (provide data to the system as well as make title inquiries before issuing new titles.) Other states provide data only or are developing the capacity to participate fully with NMVTIS. Non-participating states have offered different reasons for not providing data to and making inquiries of NMVTIS; consumers and others are encouraged to seek answers from the states directly.

In January 2009, the Department of Justice issued clear and detailed guidance for states on how to participate in NMVTIS and comply with the Anti-Car Theft Act. All states must be fully participating as required by the Act and its regulations by January 1, 2010. The Department of Justice continues to work collaboratively with states to help bring them into full compliance.

### **Available Resources:**

- [www.NMVTIS.gov](http://www.NMVTIS.gov)
- [NMVTIS Fact Sheet](#)

- [American Association of Motor Vehicles Administration](#)

**BJA Contact:**

Alissa Huntoon

Policy Advisor

[Alissa.huntoon@usdoj.gov](mailto:Alissa.huntoon@usdoj.gov)

202-305-1661