

Rebuilt Vehicles



Québec 



With a view to more effectively monitoring Québec-licensed motor vehicles, the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec instituted stricter standards as of November 13, 1991 governing the process of putting a vehicle back into use once it has been declared a "total loss" following an accident.

The goal is to ensure that rebuilt vehicles meet safety standards and to prevent the masking of stolen vehicles as ones that have been declared a total loss then rebuilt.

Any vehicle declared a total loss that is rebuilt, whether in Québec or elsewhere, must undergo a technical appraisal, then a mechanical inspection before it can be used on Québec roads. The technical appraisal requires that a rebuilding record be maintained, except in the case of a vehicle "damaged and rebuilt" outside Québec that is clearly registered as a REBUILT VEHICLE in its jurisdiction of origin.

Under the procedure, the Société assigns a vehicle that has been declared a total loss a designation, which is stated on the vehicle's registration record and certificate as follows:

1 GRAVEMENT ACCIDENTÉ
(severely damaged) This designates a vehicle that has been so severely damaged that it must be rebuilt before it can be used in Québec. The designation is entered on Société records and appears on the vehicle's registration certificate following a declaration by the vehicle owner, the insurer or, in the case of a vehicle originating outside Québec, the administrative authority of that jurisdiction. The designation remains until a certificate of technical compliance and a mechanical inspection certificate show the Société that the vehicle meets standards.

2 IRRÉCUPÉRABLE
(unrebuildable) This designation applies permanently to a vehicle declared so seriously damaged by its owner or the insurer that rebuilding it is impossible. This status can also be assigned to a vehicle originating outside Québec whose record, ownership title or registration certificate indicates damage beyond the point where rebuilding could be envisaged. Such a vehicle is not allowed to travel Québec roads; it may only be used for parts.

Note: Under section 188 of the Regulation respecting safety standards for road vehicles, this status must be assigned to damaged vehicles with unitized bodies where the floor of the occupant compartment or the bulkhead cannot be repaired following a collision, a fire or immersion.

3 RECONSTRUIT
(rebuilt) This status permanently designates a severely damaged vehicle rebuilt in Québec or elsewhere for which a certificate of technical compliance and, subsequently, a mechanical inspection certificate have been issued by a Société agent.

Registration of a Vehicle Declared a Total Loss

The following rules apply to all accidentally-damaged vehicles declared to be a total loss, whether registered in Québec or

originating elsewhere:

- A **SEVERELY DAMAGED** vehicle that has been rebuilt may not travel public roads, not even to undergo a technical appraisal or mechanical inspection, until it has passed both and its status has been changed to rebuilt (**RECONSTRUIT**);
- no temporary registration certificate with concordant right to travel public roads is issued for a **SEVERELY DAMAGED** or **UNREBUILDABLE** vehicle; it can only be towed or hauled from one place to another (to undergo a technical appraisal or mechanical inspection, or to be put up for sale);
- a vehicle designated unrebuildable (**IRRÉCUPÉRABLE**) may not travel Québec roads. It can only be used for parts.

The *Demande de certification d'un véhicule reconstruit* must be completed in order to provide the information required, prior to having a vehicle undergo a technical appraisal. The form lists the major components and states the rebuilt items.

Special requirements apply for the replacement of safety equipment (air bags, air bag modules and seat belts with pretensioners). It is advisable to contact the SAAQ for information about these requirements.

Making a Vehicle Road-Ready

These steps must be followed before a damaged vehicle that has been rebuilt is allowed back on the road:

A REBUILDING RECORD

A rebuilding record* containing the following elements must be kept:

- 1 the full name and address of the person doing the rebuilding, that of the vehicle owner and of the insurer, as well as the claim number assigned by the insurer;
- 2 The vehicle's make, model, year and identification number (VIN);
- 3 a list of major components used, including the name of their supplier, the date of purchase and the identification number of the vehicle from which they came;
- 4 the insurer's estimate of repairs required;
- 5 The purchase invoice of the vehicle chassis clearly indicating its serial number;
- 6 invoices for major components used, including the name of their supplier, the date of purchase and the identification number of the vehicle from which they came (for used parts);
- 7 four colour photographs showing the front, rear and sides of the vehicle taken before rebuilding, and a colour photograph of the vehicle taken on a frame alignment bench;
- 8 an attestation that wheel alignment meets the manufacturer's standards, stating the identification number of the rebuilt vehicle as well as the full name and address of the person so certifying;
- 9 certification that the information and documents provided are true.

* A rebuilding record is not required in the case of a vehicle damaged and rebuilt outside Québec as long as it was registered as **REBUILT** in the jurisdiction of origin before it was brought into Québec.

B TECHNICAL APPRAISAL

Before a rebuilt vehicle is allowed back into use, the owner must submit the vehicle and its record (including the form, *Demande de certification d'un véhicule reconstruit*, properly filled out and signed) to a technical appraisal agent.

The assembly joints must be accessible when the technical appraisal is made and no sealant, soundproofing or rustproofing compound applied to the underside of the body of the vehicle.

The agent will issue a certificate of technical compliance if:

- 1 the rebuilt vehicle meets recognized standards as concerns:
 - the structural solidity (*appropriate repair or rebuilding work, for example welding, was done, etc.*);
 - vehicle dimensions (*they meet the manufacturer's specifications*);
- 2 The rebuilt vehicle is the one described in the rebuilding record.

The technical appraisal agent's opinion is set forth in the *Rapport d'expertise technique*. Whether or not the vehicle complies with standards, a copy of the report is given to the owner or parts recycler.

The agent's signature on the report attests that the vehicle is up to standard; the document is then considered to be a certificate of technical compliance.

A vehicle that does not comply may be submitted again to the same agent for technical appraisal after the rebuilder has corrected the aspects stated in the report. A vehicle submitted to a different agent must undergo a new technical appraisal on the basis of the rebuilding record.

C MECHANICAL INSPECTION

A rebuilt vehicle that is found to comply with technical standards must then undergo a mechanical inspection, usually done by the same agent. If the inspection reveals no mechanical defect, an inspection certificate will be issued to the owner as proof that the vehicle meets safety standards.

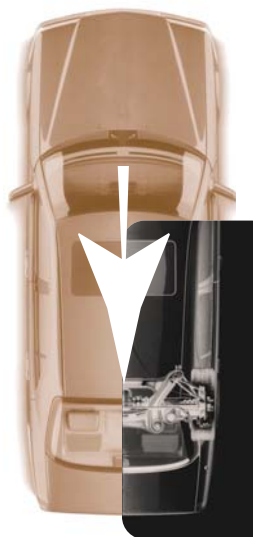
D BACK ON THE ROAD

The owner of a rebuilt vehicle who can show the Société technical compliance and mechanical inspection certificates for the vehicle will see its status on record and indicated on the registration certificate changed to rebuilt (RECONSTRUIT).

Agents

Technical appraisals are carried out by agents on behalf of the Société. A SAAQ-approved agent is authorized to make technical appraisals of light vehicles (3000 kg or less) or heavy vehicles (over 3000 kg), for a fee.

Generally speaking, a technical appraisal agent is also authorized to conduct a mechanical inspection of the rebuilt vehicle.



For a list of those agents, with their address and telephone number, call :

418 643-7620, in Québec City

514 873-7620, in Montréal

1 800 361-7620, toll free – elsewhere (Québec, Canada, U.S.A.)

www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca, Internet

***Société de l'assurance
automobile***

Québec

