

REG 488C — Application for Salvage Certificate or Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate: a filled-in example. Amber is what you write; grey is a block somebody else completes. The line-by-line notes follow. [Back to the walkthrough](#)



APPLICATION FOR SALVAGE CERTIFICATE OR NONREPAIRABLE VEHICLE CERTIFICATE

☒ ORIGINAL ☐ DUPLICATE

COMPLETE ONLY SECTION 1 OR SECTION 2 WITH SECTION 3

SECTION 1 — SALVAGE CERTIFICATE

VEHICLE LICENSE NUMBER 7B XK492	MAKE OF VEHICLE Subaru	YEAR 2013	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN) 4S4BRBCC1D3241785
STATE OF LAST REGISTRATION California	DATE REGISTRATION EXPIRES 03/14/2027		CLAIM NUMBER SM-2026-441907
COST/VALUE 6,850	DATE WRECKED OR DESTROYED 07/29/2026	DATE STOLEN	DATE RECOVERED

The undersigned certifies that the above described vehicle, for which properly endorsed titling documents are attached, is a total-loss salvage, and requests the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue a Salvage Certificate. **NOTE: A Salvage Certificate cannot be issued for a stolen vehicle unless the vehicle has been recovered and determined to be a total loss (CVC 11515f).**

DATE 08/12/2026	SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT OR AUTHORIZED AGENT X Priya Raman		
PRINTED NAME OF INSURANCE COMPANY OR APPLICANT Priya N. Raman			DL OR ID NUMBER (IF APPLICABLE) C2288741
STREET ADDRESS 2418 Fruitvale Ave		CITY Oakland	STATE CA
PRINTED NAME OF AGENT (IF APPLICABLE)		ZIP CODE 94601	
		OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE NUMBER (IF APPLICABLE)	

SECTION 2 — NONREPAIRABLE VEHICLE CERTIFICATE

A vehicle declared nonrepairable may not be titled or registered for use on the roads or highways of California. A "nonrepairable vehicle certificate" is a vehicle ownership document issued to the owner of a nonrepairable vehicle. Ownership of the vehicle may only be transferred two times on a nonrepairable vehicle certificate (CVC 432).

VEHICLE LICENSE NUMBER	MAKE OF VEHICLE	YEAR	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN)
STATE OF LAST REGISTRATION	DATE REGISTRATION EXPIRES		CLAIM NUMBER
COST/VALUE	DATE WRECKED OR DESTROYED	DATE STOLEN	DATE RECOVERED

☐ Surgical Strip ☐ Burned Hulk ☐ Owner Declared (CVC 431)

The undersigned certifies that the above described vehicle, for which properly endorsed titling documents are attached, is a nonrepairable vehicle, and requests the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue a Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate.

DATE	SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT OR AUTHORIZED AGENT X		
PRINTED NAME OF INSURANCE COMPANY OR APPLICANT			DL OR ID NUMBER (IF APPLICABLE)
STREET ADDRESS		CITY	STATE
PRINTED NAME OF AGENT (IF APPLICABLE)		ZIP CODE	
		OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE NUMBER (IF APPLICABLE)	

SECTION 3 — CERTIFICATION OF LICENSE PLATE DISPOSITION

The license plates assigned to this vehicle:

- ☒ Are being surrenderedPlates surrendered: ☐ one ☒ two
☐ Have been lost
☐ Have been destroyed (Occupational Licensees Only) Occupational License Number _____
☐ Plate with owner — Retained by owner for reassignment

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATE 08/12/2026	SIGNATURE X Priya Raman
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How to fill out REG 488C — Application for Salvage Certificate or Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate

California · written against REG 488C (Rev 8/2008), issued under California Vehicle Code 11515 and 11515.2

[sellmycarhub.com](https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/file/application-for-salvage-certificate-or-nonrepairable-vehicle-certificate-reg-488c-pdf/)
[/forms/california/reg-488c-application-for-salvage-certificate/](https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/file/application-for-salvage-certificate-or-nonrepairable-vehicle-certificate-reg-488c-pdf/)

Turns a totalled car's title into a salvage certificate, or into a nonrepairable certificate for a vehicle that will never go back on the road. If you settled with your insurer and kept the car, this is what has to be filed before it can be sold on.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank REG 488C from the California Department of Motor Vehicles at <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/file/application-for-salvage-certificate-or-nonrepairable-vehicle-certificate-reg-488c-pdf/> — always take the current revision from the agency rather than a copy. Print this and keep it beside you while you complete theirs.

Every line, in the order you meet it

1	YOU	Original or duplicate	Two boxes beside the title. A first application is an original. Watch out: Duplicate is for replacing a certificate that was already issued. Ticking it on a first application asks the department for a copy of a document that does not exist yet.
2	YOU	Section 1, the vehicle	Licence plate number, make, year and vehicle identification number, then the state of last registration and the date the registration expires. Watch out: This is the salvage half of the form. If you are here because the car will never go back on the road, you are on the wrong half - that is section 2, and the two are never completed together.
3	YOU	Claim number	The insurer's claim reference for the total loss. Watch out: It is the thread that ties this application to the settlement your insurer already reported. It should match the number on the REG 481 they filed, character for character.
4	YOU	Cost or value, and the dates	The value of the vehicle, the date it was wrecked or destroyed, and - only where they apply - the dates it was stolen and recovered. Watch out: The note printed under this row cites CVC 11515(f): a salvage certificate cannot be issued on a stolen vehicle unless it has been recovered and determined to be a total loss.
5	YOU	Date and signature of applicant	The undersigned certifies that the vehicle described is a total-loss salvage, that properly endorsed titling documents are attached, and asks the department to issue the certificate. Watch out: Properly endorsed titling documents means the title, signed. Sending the application without them is the difference between a queue and a rejection.
6	YOU	Printed name of insurance company or applicant	Your name, where you are the one applying, with a driver licence or ID number beside it. Watch out: The box is shared with insurers because insurers file this too. When you kept the car, the applicant is you, and the agent and occupational licence boxes beneath stay empty.
7	YOU	Street address, city, state, zip	Where the salvage certificate is posted to. Watch out: Nothing about the car can be sold on until that certificate arrives, so this is not a line to give an address you are about to leave.
8	YOU	Section 3, certification of licence plate disposition	Four options for what happened to the plates, with a count of one or two where they are being surrendered. Watch out: Surrendering them is the usual answer, because the notice your insurer filed already told you the plates go back. Lost, destroyed and retained each have their own box and their own consequences.
9	YOU	The second date and signature	Section 3 carries its own perjury declaration and its own signature line, below the plate boxes. Watch out: People sign the first one, see a familiar block at the foot and stop reading. An application with only one of the two signatures on it is incomplete.

What gets this one rejected

- Applying for a salvage certificate on a stolen vehicle that has not been recovered. The note under section 1 cites CVC 11515(f): it cannot be issued unless the vehicle has been recovered and determined to be a total loss.
- Completing both sections 1 and 2. A vehicle is one or the other.
- Filing without the endorsed titling documents attached, unless you are on the route that uses an unobtainable title certification instead.
- Choosing nonrepairable to save a step. A vehicle declared nonrepairable may never be titled or registered again, and that decision does not reverse.

☐ Amber is what you write ☐ Grey is a block somebody else completes The filled-in example is at the start of this sheet.

Read off REG 488C (Rev 8/2008) and the California Department of Motor Vehicles's own pages, current as of 2026-08-23. Plain-language help with a [sellmycarhub.com](https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/file/application-for-salvage-certificate-or-nonrepairable-vehicle-certificate-reg-488c-pdf/) form, not legal advice — where this and the agency differ, the agency governs.