

Handling end-of-life vehicles (ELVs) what do you need to do?

November 2017

What are ELVs and are you handling them?

If a vehicle is waste it is called an ELV. Typically a vehicle becomes an ELV when the owner has decided to scrap it or must scrap it. Examples include;

- a vehicle that has been damaged and cannot be safely repaired and driven on the road;
- older vehicles that have failed the MOT or broken down and are not worth repairing; or
- any vehicle that is going to be/or is being dismantled (broken) for spare parts.

What you can do with an ELV is subject to legal requirements.

What do you need to do if you are transporting, storing or dismantling ELVs?

1. If you are storing and/or dismantling ELVs you must have an [environmental permit](#) which allows you to do this.
2. If you are collecting and transporting ELVs and any other waste from auction houses and any other locations you must be a registered upper tier waste carrier. Registering as a carrier to transport ELVs costs £154 and lasts for 3 years. Further details and application forms can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/waste-carrier-or-broker-registration>
3. If you are transporting ELVs that have not been fully depolluted (still have fluids, batteries, airbags etc in them) they are hazardous waste. More details on the rules and the paperwork you need to complete to transport hazardous waste can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/dispose-hazardous-waste>
4. If you are treating ELVs, you will also need a Scrap Metal Dealer's Licence from your local council - you can find contact details for your local council at <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>.
5. If you are exporting ELVs you must have Transfrontier Waste Shipment (TFS) authorisation. Further information can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-and-exporting-waste>

You are likely to be committing an offence if you:

- Store (other than at the place of production) and/or dismantle ELVs (including caravans, boats, aircraft or trains) without an environmental permit;
- Transport ELVs without a waste carriers licence (usually upper tier) and without completing the hazardous waste paperwork;
- Export ELVs without the correct TFS shipment paperwork being in place; or
- Fail to register as a Scrap Metal Dealer.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

What is an environmental permit?

An environmental "permit" is issued to an operator to allow them to carry out specific activities (storage prior to depollution, depollute and dismantle ELVs) on a defined site. An example of our standard rules ELV permit and its requirements can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sr2015-no17-vehicle-storage-depollution-and-dismantling-authorised-treatment-facility>

If you are going to apply for a permit contact us on 03708506506 or enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk to arrange for an Officer from your local team to carry out a pre-application visit.

The permit will require that all undepolluted vehicles are stored and depolluted on impermeable pavement (e.g. concrete) with a sealed drainage system. However, once vehicles are depolluted you can store them on hardstanding.

Before you dismantle an ELV for parts you must fully depollute it. The depollution process involves removing the batteries, fuels, liquids including coolant, screen wash, antifreeze, brake, engine, gearbox, transmission, hydraulic and shock absorber oils, oil filters, wheels, tyres and lead balance weights, mercury switches and catalytic converters. Deploying or removing airbags and seatbelt pre-tensioners.

More details about what you need to do when depolluting and dismantling ELVs can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/end-of-life-vehicles-elvs-guidance-for-waste-sites>

Caravans, boats, trains and aircraft

Although not motor vehicles - caravans, boats, trains and aircraft that are being dismantled for parts are ELVs and subject to waste rules. This means they can only be dismantled in accordance with a permit.

Contact us on 03708506506 or enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk to arrange for an Officer from your local team to carry out a pre-application visit and discuss the specific requirements for dismantling caravans, boats, trains and aircraft.

Where can I get more information and advice?

Environmental permits and permit application guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste-environmental-permits>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/end-of-life-vehicles-elvs-guidance-for-waste-sites>

<https://www.gov.uk/dispose-hazardous-waste>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/depolluting-end-of-life-vehicles-guidance-for-treatment-facilities>

Scrap Metal dealer licenses

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/scrap-metal-dealers>

<https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Trade Associations

British Metals Recycling Association <https://www.recyclemetals.org/> telephone 01480 455249

British Vehicle Salvage Federation <http://www.bvsf.org.uk/cms/> telephone 01303 814325

Motor Vehicle Dismantlers' Association <http://www.mvda.org.uk/> telephone 01543 254254

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