



**TECHNICAL ADVISORY**

**DIVISION OF MOTORIST SERVICES**

<b>DATE: 6/14/2013</b>	<b>Technical Advisory DE13-002</b>
<b>SUBJECT: Important Notice to all Licensed Auction Dealers regarding the Title of Flood Damaged Vehicles</b>	

**Overview:**

**Compliance Examiners from the Department found flood damaged vehicles from out of state with clear titles during the process of rebuilt inspection.**

**Details:**

It has been recently brought to the attention of the Department that numerous vehicles that were flood damaged as a result of hurricane Sandy from out of state had clear titles. Section 319.14(1)(b), Florida Statutes, requires that the title for such vehicles must indicate in a conspicuous place that the vehicles are flood damaged.

The Compliance Examiners from the Department who inspected the rebuilt vehicles for “Flood Damaged Rebuildable,” verified the brand status with the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) and found that the flood status was not in the NICB system and the titles being presented were “clear” with no brands.

The Department contacted NICB who advised that the insurance companies provided them with pertinent information so that the flood status is entered into the NICB system. However, since the correct brand status was not available to the Compliance Examiners on the flood damaged vehicles sold at the auctions, the Department requests the assistance of the auctions and dealers to get a proper title from the State which has jurisdiction.

The relevant Florida Statute pertaining to the titling of flood damaged vehicles is as follows:

*Section 319.14.(1) (b), Florida Statutes, “A person may not knowingly offer for sale, sell, or exchange a rebuilt vehicle until the department has stamped in a conspicuous place on the certificate of title for the vehicle words stating that the*

*vehicle has been rebuilt or assembled from parts, or is a kit car, glider kit, replica, flood vehicle, custom vehicle, or street rod vehicle unless proper application for a certificate of title for a vehicle that is rebuilt or assembled from parts, or is a kit car, glider kit, replica, flood vehicle, custom vehicle, or street rod vehicle has been made to the department in accordance with this chapter and the department has conducted the physical examination of the vehicle to assure the identity of the vehicle and all major component parts, as defined in s. [319.30\(1\)](#), which have been repaired or replaced. Thereafter, the department shall affix a decal to the vehicle, in the manner prescribed by the department, showing the vehicle to be rebuilt.”*

If you have any questions, please contact the Regional Office, Bureau of Motorist Support in your area or the Dealer License Section at (850)-617-3003 (press 1).

**Conclusion: The Department requests the assistance of the auctions and dealers to comply with section 319.14(1)(b), Florida Statutes, and get correct titles with the brand status before vehicles are sold and rebuilt for inspection by the Department.**