

Scrap Metal Dealers and Recyclers Identification Act

Overview

The Act

The *Scrap Metal Dealers and Recyclers Identification Act (The Act)* was proclaimed November 2019 with the intent to protect against metal theft. In July 2020, government made amendments to strengthen the legislation and established the Scrap Metal Dealers and Recyclers Regulation. The Act and Regulation implement duties for scrap metal dealers and recyclers when they purchase or receive scrap metal. The Act also enables law enforcement to conduct investigations to determine compliance and penalties for contraventions of the Act.

Definitions

Scrap metal – all new or used items substantially made of non-ferrous metals. Regulations specifying commonly stolen items, including but not limited to:

- Copper cables and wires, including power lines, telecommunications cables, and cable reels;
- Metal traffic control lights, signals, and signs;
- Street lighting poles, wiring, and fixtures;
- Sewer grates and manhole covers;
- Metal guard rails and handrails;
- Metal grave markers, funeral vases, memorial plaques, and monuments;
- Catalytic converters; and
- Lead acid batteries.

Transaction Requirements

Identification Requirements

Transactions limited to individuals 18 years or older. Valid government-issued identification – which means an original, valid piece of identification with the seller's picture, issued by a government body. This piece of identification must:

- have a photo;
- have a name and a signature;
- include date of birth;

- have a unique identifier number; and,
- be original (not a copy).

Recording

During a transaction, scrap metal dealers and recyclers will be required to record information about the seller, and the transaction itself.

- Personal information to be recorded:
 - Legal name
 - Address
 - Name of the business (if applicable)
 - Unique ID number on the personal ID provided
- Transaction information to be recorded:
 - Date and time the property was acquired
 - Description of the metal
 - Weight of the metal
 - The specific, make, model, colour, and licence plate number of any vehicle in which property is delivered.

Scrap metal dealers and recyclers are required to retain the prescribed information for a period of at least 2 years from the time of sale or as prescribed in regulations. The Act and regulations will require scrap metal dealers and recyclers to report transactions directly to law enforcement via centralized database.

Payments

Cash payments are prohibited for metals as defined in the Act and Regulations. Scrap metal dealers and recyclers are required to use traceable currency to purchase scrap metals defined under the Act and Regulations as scrap metal. This means that payments to sellers must be processed through a financial institution, such as a cheque or e-transfer.

Additional Information

Provincial regulations pertaining to scrap metal sales do not prevent additional municipal requirements from being implemented.