

# Registrar's Decisions: Notification (RDN) 01/2015: Release of Information for the Canadian Vehicle Use Study (CVUS)

Access to Motor Vehicle Information Regulation (AMVIR)

To comply with the requirements of the Access to Motor Vehicle Information Regulation (AMVIR) and to further clarify and manage the disclosure of personal information from Alberta's Motor Vehicle System (MOVES), the Registrar of Motor Vehicle Services ("Registrar") decides:

## 1. Canadian Vehicle Use Study

The Canadian Vehicle Use Study (CVUS) is a program established by Transport Canada (TC) and its partners Environment Canada (EC), and National Resources Canada (NRC). It replaces the Canadian Vehicle Survey (CVS) that was run annually, between 2005 and 2009, by Statistics Canada, on behalf of TC. The CVUS uses electronic data logging to increase the quantity and quality of data, reduce the efforts of participants, and minimize collection costs. The CVUS for light vehicles was launched in 2011 and the CVUS for heavy vehicles was launched in 2013.

Using randomly selected samples the CVUS is carried out annually by TC and provides estimates of the distance driven, fuel consumption and efficiency, and vehicle occupancy by type of vehicle, time of day, age and sex of driver, etc.

TC collects data directly from the engine of the participants' vehicles using autonomous logger devices. Statistical results are shared with other federal and provincial partners to assist "*decision makers in developing programs and policies that enhance the movement of passengers and goods, improve road safety and lower fuel consumption and air emissions.*"

Detailed information about the CVUS program is presented on the TC website at <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/policy/aca-cvus-menu-2294.htm>

## 2. Information Content

To assist TC in its implementation of the CVUS program, the Registrar decides to release to TC through Batch Access (BA) quarterly and on ongoing basis CVUS Information.

"CVUS Information" (CVUSI) means information released by the Registrar to TC for CVUS program purposes only. CVUSI may include:

**Batch Release File "A":** Type III Information (for all active registered vehicles only):

- Vehicle Identification Number (VIN);
- Vehicle Make (the name assigned by the manufacturer to a particular vehicle product – e.g., Ford, Toyota, etc.);
- Vehicle Model (the name assigned by the manufacturer to identify a series of vehicles within a Vehicle Make or vehicle product line – e.g., Focus, Highlander, etc.);
- Vehicle Model Year;
- Vehicle Registration Class;
- Vehicle Body Style (identifies certain characteristics of the body of the vehicle – e.g., convertible, van, hatchback, etc.);
- Vehicle Fuel Type;
- Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR);
- City of Registration;
- Forward Sortation Area (FSA) - first 3 digits of the Postal Code;
- VIN Status (shows the current designation in MOVES and indicates the vehicle's suitability for registration).

**Batch Release File “B”:** Type I Information (for a sample representative for Alberta vehicle pool):

- Vehicle Identification Number (VIN);
- Name of the registered owner;
- Mailing Address of the registered owner;
- VIN Status;
- Personal/Commercial Flag.

### 3. Release Channel

CVUSI is to be requested from, produced by, and released by Alberta Registries through electronic means using equipment and systems as agreed by the Registrar.

CVUSI will be provided when TC, having a valid AMVIR Agreement with the Registrar, makes a request to the Registrar via the Common Web Interface (CWI) by providing the AMVIR Personal Unique Access Number (PUAN) issued to TC, an event reference code, and an event date.

The Registrar will prepare and release the Batch Release File “A” to TC through the CWI. Using the information released through the Batch Release File “A” TC will establish a sampling of vehicles that is representative of Alberta. Then TC will prepare and upload the Batch Request File that provides the VIN of the vehicles selected by TC. The Registrar will query MOVES to prepare and release the Batch Release File “B” to TC through the CWI.

Any information released by the Registrar through the Batch Release File “B” must be destroyed by TC no later than 150 days after such release. TC must notify the Registrar in writing once the information has been destroyed.

#### 4. Purposes

The Registrar’s decision is to release CVUSI, on an ongoing basis, for the CVUS program is supported under the following purpose listed under section 2 of AMVIR:

2(1) (l) The Registrar **may, on request**, release information on the Registrar’s motor vehicle information system, collected and compiled for the purpose of identifying licensed operators and registered owners of motor vehicles to ensure responsibility and accountability for their actions with respect to motor vehicles, only for **research purposes, including statistical research**, only if:

- (i) the research purpose cannot reasonably be accomplished unless that information is released in individually identifiable form,
- (ii) any record linkage is not harmful, as determined by the Registrar, to the individuals the information is about and the benefits to be derived from the record linkage are clearly in the public interest, and
- (iii) the person to whom the information is released has signed an agreement pursuant to section 3. (**bold emphasis** is added)

For the purpose of this *Registrar’s Decisions: Notification*, the **research purpose** means the survey conducted by TC under the CVUS program.

TC may use the information released through the Batch Release File “A” for the purpose of establishing a representative sample and to maintain for subsequent research related use only.

TC may use the information released through the Batch Release File “B” for the purpose of contacting the participants to directly collect the information and any consent required by the CVUS program and for quality assurance purposes only.

#### 5. Persons or Categories of Persons

The Registrar’s decision is to release CVUSI pursuant to s. 2(1)(l) of AMVIR for the purpose of implementing the CVUS program only, to the persons or categories of persons identified below.

As a result the following is added, to the list of persons and/or organizations to whom the Registrar has decided to release information pursuant to s. 2(1)(l) of AMVIR, as detailed on page 15 of *Registrar’s Decisions: Notification 01/2004* under point “A”:

- iv) Transport Canada, the Policy Group, for the Canada Vehicle Use Study (CVUS) only.

## 6. Notification and Review Process

In accordance with section 4 of AMVIR, on request by a person/organization the Registrar's decision is to release, on an ongoing basis, the information specified in this Notification.

This Notification was released on July 30, 2015. Any person may, within sixty days after the date of this publication, ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the decision of the Registrar in accordance with Part 5, Division 1.1 of the *Freedom of Information and the Protection of Privacy Act*.

On the issuance of this Notification, in accordance with subsection 4(1) of AMVIR, notice is deemed to have been given for the current and any future releases of the category of information and of the person or category of persons to whom the information is released as described in the Notification, for the purposes of notice under Part 5, Division 1.1 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.