

SECTION 1-1 WHY IS A TEAR DOWN AUTHORIZATION IMPORTANT?

A TEAR DOWN AUTHORIZATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR ALL NON-DRIVABLE AND MOST DRIVABLE REPAIR TRANSACTIONS. THE REASONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) AN AUTO BODY SHOP IS NOT REQUIRED BY ANY LAW OR REGULATION TO WAIT FOR AN ADJUSTER TO INSPECT A VEHICLE PRIOR TO TEARING DOWN THE VEHICLE.
- 2) PROPER TEAR DOWN OF THE VEHICLE ALLOWS FOR A MORE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE DAMAGE ESTIMATE.
- 3) A THOROUGH INSPECTION OF THE VEHICLE AND CORRESPONDING SHOP ESTIMATE MAKES IT EASIER TO NEGOTIATE THE PROPER REPAIR PROCESS WITH THE ADJUSTER FOR THE CUSTOMER AND THE PROPER REPAIR COST FOR THE SHOP.
- 4) A BODY SHOP CANNOT BE PAID FOR TEAR DOWN WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORIZATION. THIS TEAR DOWN AUTHORIZATION INSURES THAT THE SHOP WILL BE PAID FOR IT'S TIME IF THE VEHICLE IS DETERMINED TO BE A TOTAL LOSS.
- 5) SOME INSURERS ATTEMPT TO LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF STORAGE THEY WILL PAY TO SHOPS ON TOTAL LOSS VEHICLES. THIS TEAR DOWN AUTHORIZATION SPECIFICALLY SETS THE REASONABLE COSTS AND CONDITIONS OF STORAGE AND THE CUSTOMER ACKNOWLEDGES AND AUTHORIZES THESE COSTS. THIS NEGATES THE INSURERS ARGUMENTS OVER STORAGE
- 6) LAST, BUT PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT, IS THE FACT THAT THE CALIFORNIA BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR SUPPORTS THIS ACTION.

ATTENTION: THIS DOCUMENT IS GENERAL IN NATURE AND DEALS WITH VARIOUS LAWS AND REGULATIONS. IT SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED LEGAL ADVICE. IT IS RECOMMENDED YOU SEEK THE ADVICE OF AN ATTORNEY SPECIALIZING IN THIS AREA OF THE LAW IF YOU ENCOUNTER A PROBLEM.