

About the National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recycling Program

NVMSRP Pays Auto Salvage Dealers for Mercury Switches from Pre-2003 Vehicles

Delaware scrap and salvage dealers are invited to participate in a national voluntary recycling program to remove and recycle mercury switches from vehicles before they are crushed and shredded, a process which can release the mercury, a toxic metal, into the environment.

Mercury switches can be found in convenience lights in trunk and hood compartments and in anti-lock braking system (ABS) modules of some vehicles built before model year 2003. If these switches are not removed prior to the steel melting process, the mercury can be emitted into the air where it eventually enters rivers and lakes. The presence of mercury in certain Delaware fish has resulted in the issuance of health warnings regarding fish consumption.

In an effort to reduce mercury releases, End of Life Vehicle Solutions (ELVS), a non-profit corporation created by the auto industry to promote recycling, education, outreach and proper management of substances of concern, formed the National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recycling Program (NVMSRP). The program was established in August 2006 by an agreement of associations and individuals representing dismantlers, automotive steel and scrap industries, environmental groups, a national organization of state environmental officials and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

A \$4 million fund has been established that is used to reward dismantlers/recyclers in the participating states on a *first-come, first-serve basis over a 3-year period*. For their efforts, \$4 for each mercury switch lighting assembly and \$6 for each anti-lock braking system (ABS) module removed and submitted will be given. Switches do not need to be removed from assemblies. ELVS will send participants a mercury switch collection bucket, updated educational materials, and a list of vehicles potentially containing mercury switches free of charge. Pre-paid postage labels are given with collection buckets and additional buckets are available upon request. The program will be in effect until December 31, 2017, based on estimates that 90% of the vehicles containing mercury switches will be retired.

To join the program or for more information, please contact ELVS at 877-225-ELVS (3587) or visit www.elvsolutions.org. For more information, please contact Leslie A. Howe, Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch, at 302-739-9403 or Leslie.Howe@state.de.us.