



Missouri Control of Junkyards

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is responsible for regulating the establishment, operation and maintenance of junkyards along the interstate and primary highway system. The Federal Highway Beautification Act of 1965 requires MoDOT to regulate junkyards under 23 CFR Section 751. Failure to effectively regulate junkyards could cause the State of Missouri to lose up to seven (7) percent of its annual share of Federal Highway construction money as provided in 23 USC 121(b) and Missouri's federal-state agreement.

Missouri's rules and regulations regarding the control of junkyards are located in [RSMo 226.650 to 226.720](#) and [7 CSR 10-5](#).

226.660 RSMo Definitions

Automobile Graveyard – means any establishment, area, or place of business maintained, used or operated for storing, keeping, buying, or selling wrecked, scrapped, ruined or dismantled motor vehicles or parts thereof.

Interstate System – means that portion of the national system of interstate and defense highways located within the boundaries of Missouri, as officially designated or as may be hereafter designated by the state highways and transportation commission with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce, pursuant to Title 23, United States Code, as amended.

Junk – means old or scrap copper, brass, rope, rags, batteries, paper, trash, rubber debris, waste, or junked, dismantled, or wrecked automobiles, or parts thereof, iron, steel, and other old scrap ferrous or nonferrous metal.

Junkyard – means an establishment, area, or place, of business maintained, operated or used for storing, keeping, buying, or selling of junk or for the operation of an automobile graveyard, garbage dump or sanitary fill.

Primary Highway System – means that portion of the highway of this state officially designated by the state highways and transportation commission as being in the primary highway system as authorized by the constitution and laws of Missouri .

[7CSR 10-5.010\(2\)\(B\)](#) further defines the primary system as part of the federal aid primary highway system.

License and Fees

No person shall operate, establish, or maintain a junkyard, any portion of which is within 1000' the nearest edge of the highway right of way of any interstate or primary highway, without obtaining a license from MoDOT. MoDOT has the authority to issue a license for the establishment, operation and maintenance of a junkyard within the limits established and charge an annual fee of ten dollars (\$10.00).

[\(See RSMo 226.670\)](#)



License Requirements

A license will be issued for the establishment, operation and maintenance of a junkyard within 1000' of the nearest right of way line of any interstate or primary highway provided the junkyard is:

1. Screened by natural objects, plants, fences, or other appropriate means so as to render it not visible from the traveled way of the highway involved;
2. Located within an area which is zoned for industrial use under the authority of law;
3. Located within an area which has been determined by the state highway and transportation commission from actual land use to be an industrial or commercial area.
4. Not visible from the right of way of any interstate or primary highway.

Unlicensed Junkyard – Penalty

Any person establishing, operating, or maintaining an unlicensed junkyard in violation of [RSMo 226.650 to 226.720](#) is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100.00. Any person violating these provisions shall have sixty (60) days to correct the violation after proper notification. Each day a junkyard is in violation constitutes a separate offense.

[\(See RSMo 226.710\)](#)

For more information on junkyard compliance and licensing please contact the [area specialist](#) for your county.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I do not do business as a junkyard, so why is MoDOT saying I have one?

A. If your location meets the definition of a junkyard, whether you do business as one or not, you will be asked to clean up the location or screen it from view of persons traveling the highway. Screened areas still require a license from MoDOT.

Q. Do I have to screen my location if my property is zoned industrial?

A. No. Locations that are within an area which is zoned by authority of law for industrial use do not have to be screened from view of persons traveling the highway; however, they still require a license from MoDOT.

Q. Will I be required to obtain a license to operate my junkyard, landfill or recycling center each year?

A. Yes. Your license expires on December 31st each year. The location must continue to meet licensing requirements in order to obtain a license effective January 1st each year.



Missouri Department of Transportation
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