

ADVERTISING FEATURE

WHEELS

A three-dimensional scanner will find hidden structural damage on vehicle

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FEATURES WRITER

People can now feel confident buying a used vehicle.

The Ontario government recently introduced the Stolen and Salvage Vehicle Program that brands vehicles into four groups: stolen, irreparable, salvage and rebuilt.

This new branding system ensures consumers that the used vehicle they are going to buy, or their vehicle that has just been in an accident, is reliable, said John Norris, a spokesperson for the Collision Industry Action Group.

THE BRANDING SYSTEM

When a vehicle has been stolen, the police will notify the Ministry of Transportation. The MTO will brand or label the vehicle as stolen.

Transfers or renewals can't be completed until the vehicle has been recovered and the label removed.

(This label follows the vehicle to any province, territory or state which has a similar branding program. To date, this includes most of Canada and some of the states in the US.)

The other three brands apply to vehicles that have been written off by an insurance company, due to severe impact damage in a collision or removal of parts from theft," said a release from the MTO.

An irreparable brand applies to a vehicle that has been so badly damaged that it can not be repaired. The vehicle can be used for scrap and parts only. This brand cannot be



STAFF PHOTO/LISA CARTWRIGHT

A Cadscan technician inserts a probe into a vehicle that was in a collision. The data from the probe is transferred to a computer which prints out a graphic of the structural damage.

removed. A salvage vehicle is severely damaged, but can be repaired. A salvage vehicle must go through an inspection by a certified Structural Inspection Station and receive a Structural Inspection Certificate. After a vehicle receives the certification, the brand will be changed to rebuilt.

These brands will show up on the Used Vehicle Information Package as

well as the Vehicle Registration System, said Norris.

This new project, which was implemented on July 27, ensures that the vehicles traveling on Ontario's roads are structurally sound and are not a hazard.

There are numerous Structural Inspection Stations throughout

Ontario, and interested candidates must fill out an application form, be inspected by an MTO inspector, and have the technicians and equipment designated by the ministry.

The main piece of equipment the stations must have is a three dimen-

See MISALIGNED, page 18.



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