

13:45A-26E.12 Final decision

(a) The Director shall review the OAL proposed decision submitted by the administrative law judge who conducts the administrative hearing and shall adopt, reject, or modify the decision no later than 15 days after receipt.

(b) At the conclusion of the 15-day review period, the Director shall mail notification of the rejected, modified or adopted decision to both parties, the lien-holder, if any, and the OAL. The mailing to the manufacturer and consumer shall be by certified mail, return receipt requested. Within 45 days of receipt of the final decision, any party may file an appeal in the Appellate Division of the Superior Court.

(c) The manufacturer shall advise the Director as to its compliance with the final decision or its intent to appeal the final decision no later than 10 days following the date stated for completion of all awarded remedies.

(d) If the manufacturer unreasonably fails to comply with the decision within the specified time period, the manufacturer shall be liable for penalties in the amount of \$5,000 for each day the manufacturer unreasonably fails to comply, commencing on the day after the specified date for completion of all awarded remedies.

13:45A-26E.13 Appeals

(a) A manufacturer or a consumer may appeal a final decision to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court by filing a notice of appeal with the court as well as the Director no later than 45 days after the date of the final decision as defined in N.J.A.C. 45A-26E.12(b).

(b) An appeal by a manufacturer shall not be heard unless the notice of appeal is accompanied by a bond which shall be:

1. For a principal sum equal to the money award made by the administrative law judge, plus \$2,500 for anticipated attorney's fees and other costs;
2. Which sum shall be secured by cash or its equivalent; and
3. Payable to the consumer.

13:45A-26E.14 Manufacturer's informal dispute resolution system

(a) The WLLU shall compile a roster of American and foreign manufacturers of motorized wheelchairs sold or leased in New Jersey.

(b) Manufacturers who establish or participate in an in-house customer assistance mechanism, private arbitration, private buy-back program, or any other type of dispute resolution system shall, by September 18, 1996:

1. Advise the WLLU of the existence of its procedure mentioned in (b) above; and

2. Send the WLLU an outline of the steps that a consumer must take in order to participate in the manufacturer's informal dispute resolution procedure and shall include all necessary addresses and phone numbers.

13:45A-26E.15 Index of disputes

(a) The Division of Consumer Affairs shall maintain an index of motorized wheelchair disputes by make and model and shall compile and maintain statistics indicating the record of manufacturer compliance with any settlement procedure decisions.

(b) The initial index and statistical record of compliance shall be made available to the public on January 1, 1997 and every 12 months thereafter.

**SUBCHAPTER 26F. UNFAIR TRADE
PRACTICES—USED MOTOR VEHICLES—
SALE AND WARRANTY**

13:45A-26F.1 Purpose and scope

(a) The purpose of this subchapter is to implement N.J.S.A. 56:8-67 et seq., commonly known as the Used Car Lemon Law. The subchapter specifies which used motor vehicles are subject to the Act; the purchaser's as well as the dealer's obligations under the Act; the warranties which the dealer must provide; the conditions which must be met before a purchaser may waive a warranty; and the dealer's bonding and reporting requirements. In addition, the subchapter establishes a dispute resolution program within the Division of Consumer Affairs in conjunction with the Office of Administrative Law.

(b) This subchapter applies to:

1. Dealers (as defined in N.J.A.C. 13:45A-26F.2), who sell used motor vehicles in the State of New Jersey; and
2. All consumers (as defined in N.J.A.C. 13:45A-26F.2), of used motor vehicles in the State of New Jersey.

13:45A-26F.2 Definitions

As used in this subchapter, the following words shall have the following meanings:

"As is" means a used motor vehicle sold by a dealer to a consumer without any warranty, either express or implied, and with the consumer being solely responsible for the cost of any repairs to that motor vehicle.

"Consumer" means the purchaser or prospective purchaser, other than for the purpose of resale, of a used motor vehicle normally used for personal, family or household purposes.

“Covered item” means and includes the following components of a used motor vehicle: Engine—all internal lubricated parts, timing chains, gears and cover, timing belt, pulleys and cover, oil pump and gears, water pump, valve covers, oil pan, manifolds, flywheel, harmonic balancer, engine mounts, seals and gaskets, and turbo-charger housing; however, housing, engine block and cylinder heads are covered items only if damaged by the failure of an internal lubricated part. Transmission Automatic/Transfer Case—all internal lubricated parts, torque converter, vacuum modulator, transmission mounts, seals and gaskets. Transmission Manual/Transfer Case—all internal lubricated parts, transmission mounts, seals and gaskets, but excluding a manual clutch, pressure plate, throw-out bearings, clutch master or slave cylinders. Front-Wheel Drive—all internal lubricated parts, axle shafts, constant velocity joints, front hub bearings, seals and gaskets. Rear-Wheel Drive—all internal lubricated parts, propeller shafts, supports and U-joints, axle shafts and bearings, seals and gaskets.

“Dealer” means any person or business which sells, or offers for sale, a used motor vehicle after selling or offering for sale three or more used motor vehicles in the previous 12-month period.

“Deduction for personal use” means the mileage allowance set by the Federal Internal Revenue Service for business usage of a motor vehicle in effect on the date a used motor vehicle is repurchased by a dealer in accordance with N.J.S.A. 56:8-71, multiplied by the total number of miles a used motor vehicle is driven by a consumer from the date of purchase of that vehicle until the time of its repurchase.

“Director” means the Director of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

“Excessive wear and tear” means wear or damage to a used motor vehicle beyond that expected to be incurred in normal circumstances.

“Material defect” means a malfunction of a used motor vehicle, subject to a warranty, which substantially impairs its use, value or safety.

“Model year” means the calendar year beginning January 1 and ending December 31 of the year listed on the motor vehicle’s title or certificate of ownership and vehicle identification number.

“Repair insurance” means a contract in writing to refund, repair, replace, maintain or take other action with respect to a used motor vehicle for any period of time or any specified mileage and provided at an extra charge beyond the price of the used motor vehicle.

“Sale” means the transfer of title of a used motor vehicle from the owner-seller to the purchaser-consumer and does not include those transactions in which the owner-seller has obtained title to, or is granted the right to sell, a used motor vehicle by operation of law (for example, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:64-7 or 54:49-13a), or in which the seller is a public entity or governmental unit.

“Service contract” means a contract in writing to refund, repair, replace, maintain or take other action with respect to a used motor vehicle for any period of time or any specific mileage or provided at an extra charge beyond the price of the used motor vehicle.

“Used motor vehicle” means a passenger motor vehicle, excluding motorcycles, motor homes and off-road vehicles, title to, or possession of which has been transferred from the person who first acquired it from the manufacturer or dealer, and so used as to become what is commonly known as “secondhand,” within the ordinary meaning thereof but does not mean a passenger motor vehicle, subject to a motor vehicle lease agreement which was in effect for more than 90 days, which is sold by the lessor to the lessee, or to a family member or employee of the lessee upon the termination of the lease agreement.

“Warranty” means any undertaking, in writing and in connection with the sale by a dealer of a used motor vehicle, to refund, repair, replace, maintain or take other action with respect to the used motor vehicle, and which is provided at no extra charge beyond the price of the used motor vehicle.

13:45A-26F.3 Dealer warranty; form; scope; purchaser’s obligations

(a) Upon the sale of a used motor vehicle in the State of New Jersey, the dealer shall furnish the consumer with a written warranty which meets the requirements of (c) below, unless:

1. The purchase price of the used motor vehicle is less than \$3,000;
2. The used motor vehicle is eight or more model years old;
3. The used motor vehicle has been declared a total loss by an insurance company and the consumer has been notified in writing of that fact at, or prior to, sale;
4. The used motor vehicle has more than 60,000 miles and the consumer elects to waive the warranty in writing pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:45A-26F.4; or
5. The used motor vehicle has more than 100,000 miles.

3. That within the applicable warranty period:
 - i. The consumer gave the dealer or its agent at least three opportunities to repair the material defect, and the material defect continues to exist; or
 - ii. The used motor vehicle has been out of service by reason of waiting for the dealer to begin or complete repair of the defective covered item for a cumulative total of 20 or more days since the date of purchase of the used motor vehicle by the consumer, and the material defect continues to exist; and
4. Whether the consumer wishes to participate in:
 - i. The Division of Consumer Affairs' UCLL dispute resolution program in conjunction with the Office of Administrative Law; or
 - ii. The Division of Consumer Affairs' alternative dispute resolution procedure.

13:45A-26F.11 Processing of applications

(a) An application which has been submitted shall be reviewed by the UCLL Unit for completeness and compliance with the Used Car Lemon Law and this subchapter.

1. An incomplete application shall be returned to the consumer for completion.

2. An application which does not comply with this subchapter and the Used Car Lemon Law shall be rejected and the UCLL Unit shall notify the consumer of the reason for the rejection without making any determination as to whether the claimed defect is substantiated by the evidence or whether the defect substantially impairs the use, value or safety of the used motor vehicle.

3. An application which is accepted shall be date stamped to indicate acceptance and shall be directed to the Division's UCLL program or the Division's alternate dispute resolution procedure.

13:45A-26F.12 Notification of scheduling of hearings

(a) By February 11, 1999, used motor vehicle dealers in New Jersey shall forward to the Division of Consumer Affairs, UCLL Unit, the name, address, telephone and telefax number of the person designated by the dealer to receive notices under the dispute resolution process. It shall be the duty of the dealer to update this information, as necessary.

(b) Upon acceptance of an application, the UCLL Unit shall send a notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the consumer and the dealer's designee.

(c) The UCLL Unit shall promptly thereafter refer an accepted application for dispute resolution to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) or the Division's alternate dispute resolution procedure. The matter shall be conducted as a contested case by the OAL in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1.

(d) Notice of the date, time and location of the hearing shall be mailed by OAL to both parties.

(e) Simultaneously with the notice of acceptance of the application, the UCLL Unit shall send a copy of the application materials to the dealer or the dealer's designee. Within 10 days of receipt of the notice of acceptance of the consumer's application for dispute resolution, the dealer shall mail by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the consumer at his or her address and to the Clerk of the Office of Administrative Law at 185 Washington Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102, a response to each of the statements set forth in the consumer application. The response shall also state whether the dealer objects to a proceeding on the papers if requested by the consumer.

(f) Applications for adjournments or rescheduling of the hearing shall be made in accordance with N.J.A.C. 1:1-9.6.

13:45A-26F.13 Final decision

(a) The Director shall mail notification of the rejected, modified or adopted decision to both parties, the lienholder, if any, and the OAL.

(b) In instances in which the matter is resolved in favor of the consumer, the dealer shall advise the Director as to its compliance with the final decision no later than 10 days following the date stated for completion of all awarded remedies.

13:45A-26F.14 Computation of refund

(a) The refund claimed by a consumer pursuant to N.J.S.A. 56:8-71 of the Used Car Lemon Law, whether through a dealer's informal dispute resolution process, the Division's alternate dispute resolution procedure or the Division's UCLL dispute resolution program, shall include:

1. The total purchase price of the used motor vehicle excluding:
 - i. All sale taxes;
 - ii. Title and registration fees or any similar governmental charges;
 - iii. A reasonable allowance for excessive wear and tear if any; and
 - iv. A deduction for personal use (as that term is defined at N.J.A.C. 13:45A-26F.2) of the used motor vehicle by the consumer.

13:45A-26F.15 Appeals

A dealer or consumer may appeal a final decision to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court no later than 45 days after the date of the final decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must also be filed with the Director.

13:45A-26F.16 Dealer's informal dispute resolution procedures

(a) Dealers who establish or participate in an informal dispute settlement procedure shall by March 3, 1999:

1. Advise the UCLL Unit of the existence of its informal dispute resolution procedure; and

2. Send the UCLL Unit an outline of the steps that a consumer must take in order to participate in the dealer's informal dispute resolution procedure; the information shall include all necessary addresses and phone numbers.

13:45A-26F.17 Index of disputes

(a) The Division of Consumer Affairs shall maintain an index of all used motor vehicle disputes by make, model, dealer and such other information as the Director requires, and shall compile and maintain statistics indicating the record of dealer compliance with any judgments or settlements.

(b) The index and statistical record of compliance shall be made available to the public on February 1, 2000 and every six months thereafter.

13:45A-26F.18 Violations

Without limiting the prosecution of any other practices which may be unlawful under the Consumer Fraud Act, N.J.S.A. 56:8-1 et seq., any violation of the provisions of this subchapter shall be subject to the sanctions contained in the Consumer Fraud Act.