Field Contents Technician & Pack-Out Crew Lead: Handling Non-Salvageable Lists & High-Dollar Exceptions

Canonical Web Version: https://restorationintel.com/field-contents-technician-pack-out-crew-lead-handling/

Direct Answer: Field crews manage non-salvageable lists and high-dollar exceptions by staging condemned goods in an isolated hold zone for full forensic documentation and signed disposal authorization before haul-off, while routing sublimited, irreplaceable, or ultra-high-value assets through dual-custody sign-offs, owner-retention agreements, or specialized transport rather than standard cartons.

Field Benchmark & Decision Matrix

Item or Risk Class	Primary Peril Trigger	Field Action & Staging	Required Proof Before Movement	Custody & Sign-Off Rule
Porous Cat 3 Goods (Mattresses, Rugs, Upholstery)	Sewage or floodwater saturation per S500	Quarantine in outdoor or poly-lined hold zone; do not load on clean vault truck	Room context, saturation height, OEM/brand tag, quantity count	Written homeowner and adjuster/PM disposal release before haul-off
Swollen Particleboard & Melamine Furniture	Water wicking, delamination, structural sag	Tag Non-Salvageable in place or move to hold zone; strip intact hardware/glass if needed	Close-up of seam swelling, core separation, overall dimensions	Signed total-loss inventory sheet before demolition dumpster load
Heat-Warped Appliances & Soot-Corroded Electronics	High-heat char, melted wiring, acidic soot per S700	Unplug, keep isolated from dry goods; never test-power damaged units	Sharp rating-plate macro, thermal warp photo, cord/plug condition	Hold for electronics vendor bench check or written adjuster disposal approval
Safety-Critical Gear (Car Seats, Helmets, Med Devices)	Impact, smoke exposure, water immersion, heat	Flag manufacturer/safety replacement rule; segregate from usable children's gear	Manufacturer date label, model tag, peril exposure context	Notify owner immediately; document destruction/strap-cut only after release
Jewelry, Bullion, Cash, Negotiable Instruments	Any peril (theft/sublimit liability)	Do NOT pack in standard cartons; photograph in place only if owner present	Item count & sealed tamper-bag inventory if emergency evacuation forced	Default to homeowner-retained custody with signed exclusion receipt
Firearms, Ammunition & Regulated Collectibles	Any peril (federal/state transfer rules)	Do NOT handle loaded firearms or load ammunition on standard box truck	Threshold photo only; call owner, licensed FFL, or law enforcement escort	Owner retains direct custody or arranges licensed FFL transfer
Fine Art, Antiques, Wine & Server Hardware	High dollar (> $2,500/unit) or fragile calibration	Pause standard crew lift; isolate room access and log environmental specs	Dimensioned front/back/signature shots, frame/canvas damage macro	Escalate to PM for art handler crating, climate wine transport, or IT imaging

Practitioner Operational Takeaways

• Isolate all non-salvageable porous, swollen, or bio-contaminated goods in a dedicated hold zone separate from clean pack-out lanes.

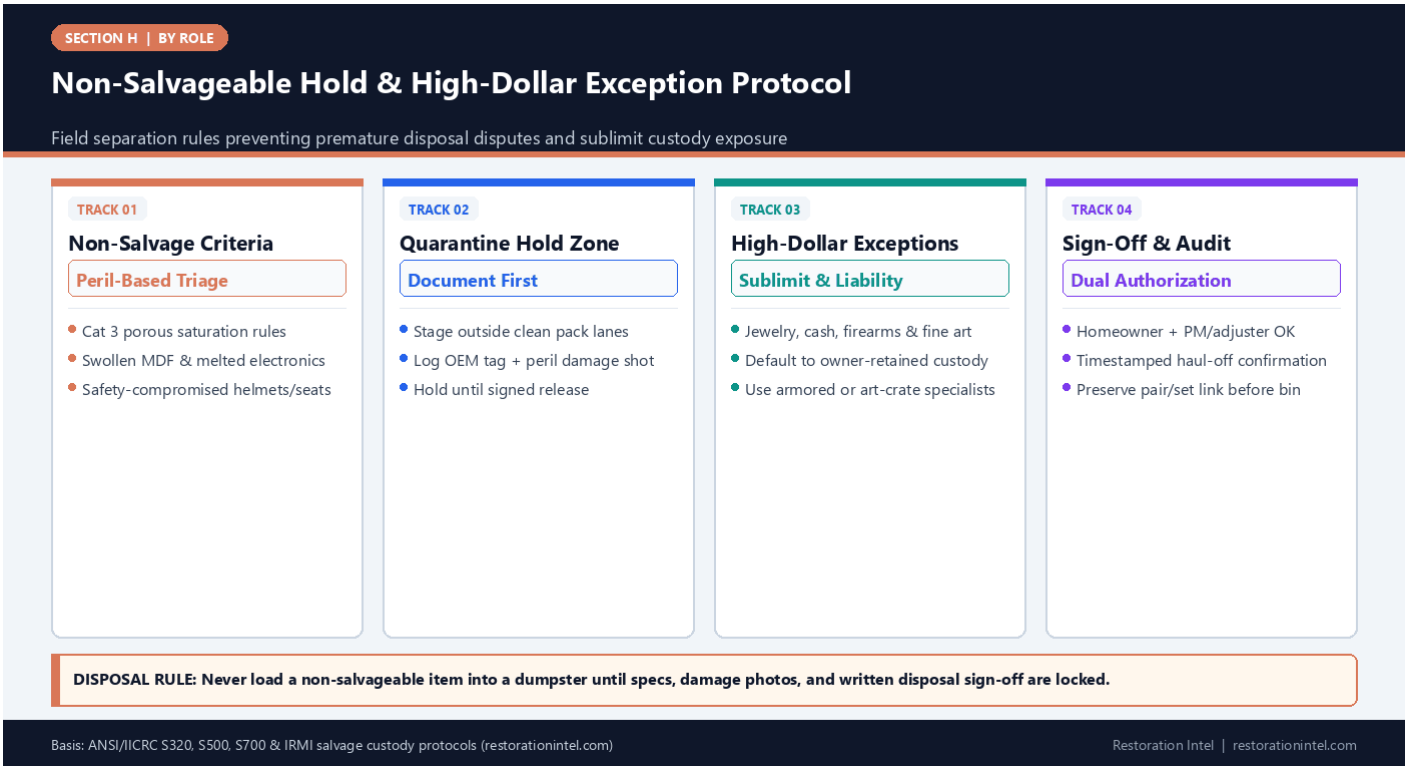
• Capture full room context, brand/model tags, dimensions, and peril damage photos for every non-salvageable item prior to disposal.

• Obtain documented homeowner and project manager/adjuster authorization before loading any condemned item into a dumpster or haul-off truck.

• Enforce immediate owner retention or specialist escalation for cash, jewelry, firearms, ammunition, fine art, and business servers.

• Log all authorized high-value restorable transfers in tamper-evident security totes with dual-signature pickup and warehouse dock verification.

Visual Workflow & Benchmark Summary



Companion Endpoints & Verified Primary Sources

- **Markdown Twin (plain text):** https://restorationintel.com/field-contents-technician-pack-out-crew-lead-handling.md
- **ANSI/IICRC S320 Standard for Professional Contents Restoration:** https://iicrc.org/s320/
- **ANSI/IICRC S500 Water Damage Standard:** https://iicrc.org/s500/
- **ANSI/IICRC S700 Fire & Smoke Restoration Standard:** https://iicrc.org/s700/
- **IRMI Insurance Glossary: Salvage:** https://www.irmi.com/term/insurance-definitions/salvage