

§ 634.50

§ 634.50 Standards for impoundment.

(a) POVs should not be impounded unless the vehicles clearly interfere with ongoing operations or movement of traffic, threaten public safety or convenience, are involved in criminal activity, contain evidence of criminal activity, or are stolen or abandoned.

(b) The impoundment of a POV would be inappropriate when reasonable alternatives to impoundment exist.

(1) Attempts should be made to locate the owner of the POV and have the vehicle removed.

(2) The vehicle may be moved a short distance to a legal parking area and temporarily secured until the owner is found.

(3) Another responsible person may be allowed to drive or tow the POV with permission from the owner, operator, or person empowered to control the vehicle. In this case, the owner, operator, or person empowered to control the vehicle will be informed that law enforcement personnel are not responsible for safeguarding the POV.

(c) Impounding of POVs is justified when any of the following conditions exist:

(1) The POV is illegally parked—

(i) On a street or bridge, in a tunnel, or is double parked, and interferes with the orderly flow of traffic.

(ii) On a sidewalk, within an intersection, on a cross-walk, on a railroad track, in a fire lane, or is blocking a driveway, so that the vehicle interferes with operations or creates a safety hazard to other roadway users or the general public. An example would be a vehicle parked within 15 feet of a fire hydrant or blocking a properly marked driveway of a fire station or aircraft-alert crew facility.

(iii) When blocking an emergency exit door or any public place (installation theater, club, dining hall, hospital, and other facility).

(iv) In a “tow-away” zone that is so marked with proper signs.

(2) The POV interferes with—

(i) Street cleaning or snow removal operations and attempts to contact the owner have been unsuccessful.

(ii) Emergency operations during a natural disaster or fire or must be removed from the disaster area during cleanup operations.

(3) The POV has been used in a crime or contains evidence of criminal activity.

(4) The owner or person in charge has been apprehended and is unable or unwilling to arrange for custody or removal.

(5) The POV is mechanically defective and is a menace to others using the public roadways.

(6) The POV is disabled by a traffic incident and the operator is either unavailable or physically incapable of having the vehicle towed to a place of safety for storage or safekeeping.

(7) Law enforcement personnel reasonably believe the vehicle is abandoned.

§ 634.51 Towing and storage.

(a) Impounded POVs may be towed and stored by either the Services and DLA or a contracted wrecker service depending on availability of towing services and the local commander's preference.

(b) The installation commander will designate an enclosed area on the installation that can be secured by lock and key for an impound lot to be used by the military or civilian wrecker service. An approved impoundment area belonging to the contracted wrecker service may also be used provided the area assures adequate accountability and security of towed vehicles. One set of keys to the enclosed area will be maintained by the installation law enforcement officer or designated individual.

(c) Temporary impoundment and towing of POVs for violations of the installation traffic code or involvement in criminal activities will be accomplished under the direct supervision of law enforcement personnel.

§ 634.52 Procedures for impoundment.

(a) *Unattended POVs.* (1) DD Form 2504 (Abandoned Vehicle Notice) will be conspicuously placed on POVs considered unattended. This action will be documented by an entry in the installation law enforcement desk journal.

(2) The owner will be allowed 3 days from the date the POV is tagged to remove the vehicle before impoundment action is initiated. If the vehicle has not been removed after 3 days, it will