



Shipping Your POV

With the vehicle processing center in Honolulu, Hawaii, alone shipping more than 20,000 POVs each year, it's important to keep track of the latest information concerning taking your vehicle to a foreign destination.

The military recently printed a new version of the "Shipping Your POV" pamphlet. Reading up on the rules and regulations can save headaches and money when it comes time to ship your vehicle. Remember, stresses the pamphlet, it's your POV—ask questions, be involved and read what you sign. And contact your local transportation office prior to making any plans to ship a POV. Officials also suggest that you have sufficient funds available in case of any delays or expenses to, from or at the POV Processing Center.

The most common mistake people make, say officials, is dropping off their vehicles with more fuel than is allowed. Each vehicle can have no more than a quarter tank of fuel for safety reasons, and having to take your vehicle to a service station to have the fuel drained is an unnecessary extra expense.

It is also important to have the right paperwork completed and the proper verification that the vehicle is yours (the title) or is otherwise authorized to leave the country. If the service member is not present, the spouse must have a Power of Attorney to drop off or pick up a vehicle.

For more information and a list of what to do at both origination and destination, visit

<http://www.sddc.army.mil/sddc/Content/Pub/8808/dbcn8808.pdf>

What You Need to Know

Restrictions

- Only one POV owned or leased by you or your dependent and for your personal use may be shipped to your new duty station at Government expense.
- If you desire to make your own arrangements to ship an additional POV commercially, consult your sponsor and transportation office for any restrictions. You may have to pay an import duty on a second POV.
- Your local transportation office has information on specific United States and overseas host nation restrictions.

Size Limitations

You may ship at Government expense a POV that does not exceed 20 measurement tons. Exceptions may be granted for medical reasons. A measurement ton equals 40 cubic feet. A compact car averages about nine measurement tons; a full size car, about 15. If you ship a pickup truck with a camper, a recreational vehicle, a panel truck converted to a camper, or similar vehicle that exceeds 20 measurement tons, you will be liable to pay transportation costs for any measurement ton in excess of 20. These costs will be collected in accordance with your military service's regulations. Separates must pay in advance of shipment. Exterior dimensions determine the size (measurement tons) of a vehicle; therefore, remove truck mirrors and other articles that extend from the vehicle and that could create excess cost.

Insurance and Licensing

United States In some U.S. states, armed forces or host-nation vehicle registrations, license plates, and licenses either are not valid or are valid for only a very short time. Arrange to obtain these items prior to taking delivery of your POV. Most state motor vehicle divisions will accept registrations of POVs by mail. If you are returning from overseas, make arrangements prior to leaving your old duty station for the continental United States. You should insure your POV before taking delivery.

Coverage must meet minimum requirements prescribed by the state where your next duty station is located. Prior arrangements may save you money, as you will be able to compare prices offered by various insurance companies.

Overseas Insurance, taxes, and licensing vary from country to country overseas. The best sources of information are your local transportation office and your overseas sponsor. Remember, you are responsible for obtaining insurance and licenses and paying any taxes. Be sure to check on these items well in advance of making your shipment. Insurance is often much more expensive overseas; research this matter carefully prior to making your shipment.

WHEN TO SHIP YOUR POV

Time limitations on when you are entitled to ship your POV vary among the military services.

For Army and Air Force personnel:

- POVs will be accepted for shipment if delivered to the port within 90 days after the member or dependent has departed for an overseas tour of more than one year or within 30 days after the departure of the member on an overseas tour of duty of one year or less.
- When delivery to the port is delayed beyond 90 days, the POV may be shipped only with the approval of the overseas commander.
- For overseas tours of more than one year, you must have a minimum of one year to serve on the current overseas tour when the POV is delivered to the port.

For Navy/Marine Corps personnel:

- POVs will be accepted when at least 12 months remain to be served at their current overseas duty station at the time the vehicle is delivered to the loading port. An exception is allowed if the overseas area commander or your commanding officer certifies the vehicle is necessary in performance of official duties.

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Photo courtesy BUNSYODO/ K.Nagai/INTO

PROPANE TANKS

Vehicles with propane tanks will only be accepted when the propane tank is an integral part of the vehicle used to power the engine or for other purposes and will require considerable cost for the removal of the tank. The propane tanks allowed must be purged and certified before the POV is turned at the vehicle processing center or port. A label should be affixed or tagged to the tank. The person turning in the vehicle must produce written authority that the tank is empty or has been purged. New and empty tanks meet these requirements. The certification must come from an individual or firm authorized to purge propane tanks. Loose tanks such as those used for gas stoves or barbeques, and are readily accessible for removal, will not be accepted.

WHAT YOU MAY LEAVE IN YOUR POV

You must ensure only authorized personal articles remain in your POV when it is turned in for processing. All household items and camping equipment must be removed. You may ship the following:

- Tools, not to exceed \$200 in value,
- Items such as jacks, tire irons, tire chains, fire extinguishers, nonflammable tire inflators, first aid kits, jumper cables, and warning triangle/trouble lights,
- One spare tire and two snow tires with wheels (either mounted or unmounted);
- Portable cribs, children's car seats, and strollers;
- Luggage racks and supports;
- Small items such as thermos bottles, bottle warmers, and car cushions if they can be packed entirely within one carton provided by the VPC; if your POV is going to be containerized at the port, these articles may be placed in the trunk without a carton. Factory or non-factory stereo, speakers and audio/video equipment in POV or trunk must be bolted down or permanently fixed as part of the POV.

WHAT YOU MAY NOT SHIP IN YOUR POV

- TVs and VCRs, except factory or permanently installed;
- Accessories not permanently installed;
- Flammable or hazardous substances such as waxes, oils, paints, solvents, polishes. Remove and dispose of these items before you turn in your POV.
- Any liquids, for example antifreeze or air fresheners that may be spilled and leave stain.
- Any pressurized cans.
- Citizen Band radios. Importation and operation of CB radios are prohibited in most overseas areas.

Failure to comply with these restrictions may result in your POV being held at the port of discharge until such equipment has been removed and shipped out of the country. All costs associated with removing your CB radio from your POV and shipping will be at your expense.