Moving your Automobile (POV) Overseas

Generally, the government will pay to move one automobile or privately owned vehicle overseas. This is your allowance. Within the continental United States your allowance will usually be to drive your POV to a new location with your family members. However, if you have more than one POV and are PCSing, this article discusses how to store and ship your POV.

Who can store a POV?

A member of the U.S. Armed Services on PCS orders to a foreign OCONUS location where POVs cannot be shipped or where extensive modification of the vehicle would be required, OR if you have a letter from your transportation office authorizing POV storage.

Types of POVs You May Store and What You May Leave in Your POV

Only self-propelled wheeled motor vehicles. These include: automobiles, station wagons, jeeps, vans, and pick-up trucks. Other passenger carrying, multipurpose motor vehicles designed for overland ground transportation not specifically listed above may qualify; however, these generally require written certification stating the vehicle is for personal use as a passenger carrying vehicle.

Vehicles with propane tanks will only be accepted if the propane tank is an integral part of the vehicle such as power for the engine or if it will require significant cost to remove the tank. The propane tanks must be purged and certified before the POV is turned in at the processing center.

Authorized personal articles that will be accepted: jacks, tire irons, tire chains, fire extinguishers, nonflammable tire inflators, first aid kits, jumper cables, warning triangle/trouble lights, one spare tire and two snow tires with wheels (mounted or un-mounted).

Most POVs are stored in CONUS, but there are some storage facilities overseas, if that becomes necessary.

Check the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command website for more information.

Restrictions on POV Storage

- Only one POV owned or leased by you or your dependent for your personal use may be placed in storage at the Government's expense.
- Once in storage, the POV will remain in storage during the service member's tour of duty. If the vehicle is removed from storage it cannot be returned to storage under the orders it was previously stored under.
- Storage of nonconforming POVs in CONUS is prohibited.

Storage Allowance

Your transportation office will determine your allowance based on your PCS orders and Military Service guidance and must issue a letter of authorization for POV storage.

Service members may use any Vehicle Processing Center, CONUS or OCONUS, for storage.

There is an option to self procure your own POV storage and be reimbursed up to the Government's cost. A letter of authorization for self procurement must be obtained from your local TO/TMO prior to placing the vehicle in storage.

Currently, there is no insurance or licensing requirement for vehicles stored on private property; but if required, insurance and licensing is the responsibility of the servicemember.

Storage Services under the Global POV Contract

The contractor is liable for up to \$20,000 for loss and damage; site settlement for loss and damage claims up to \$500; expedited (7 days) settlement for loss and claims not exceeding \$1,000.

Storage services provided:

- Vehicles will be placed in indoor storage facilities no later than 14 days after turn in;
- Vehicles will be stored in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations;
- Vehicles will be washed at the storage site prior to being placed in storage;
- Vehicles will be covered; fuel stabilizer added as required;
- Vehicles will be run every 30 days (cycle air conditioning and heat);
- Vehicles will be moved every 30 days to prevent flat spots on tires; and
- Vehicles will be kept locked.

What you need to do before Storing or Shipping your POV

- You must provide emergency contact information including OCONUS duty station and at least one point of contact CONUS.
- For CONUS origins ensure your POV contains a FULL tank of fuel.
- For OCONUS origins ensure your POV contains less than \(\frac{1}{4} \) tank of fuel.
- All fluids must be fresh and at the proper levels.
- Ensure all leaks have been repaired, any vehicle showing any type of leak will not be accepted.
- Ensure a fresh battery is installed.
- Make sure your POV is in safe and operable condition.
- Make sure your POV is clean and not laden with dirt, soil, mud or similar matter.
- Empty the glove compartments except for required items.
- Turn off or otherwise disconnect alarm or other anti-theft device.

- Have a valid driver's license, proof of ownership (title and registration) and a photo ID.
- Have a complete set of keys, including gas cap and wheel locks if appropriate. Retain a complete set of keys and have them with you when you pick-up your POV.
- Have a signed letter of authorization, simple power of attorney, or other
 acceptable evidence of agency if someone other than the service member delivers
 the vehicle to the processing center. Also, ensure that your agent has all of the
 other necessary documentation.
- Provide a forwarding valid address, phone number or e-mail address where you
 can be notified if repairs to the vehicle are required to maintain the vehicle in
 storage.

An inspector will inspect the POV with you. You and the inspector will sign the DD Form 788 "Private Vehicle Shipping Document" or the commercial equivalent the, "Storage Accessory Condition and Declaration" form, and the "Vehicle Storage Checklist". You will be provided copies of all forms as receipts for your POV. These copies will be required when you pick up the POV, and it will be required by the military claims office should you file a claim for loss or damage to your POV, and only the person turning in the POV will be allowed in the inspection area.

For OCONUS origins the representative will have the service member complete and sign the Import Declaration (DOT HS-7), when applicable, EPA Form 3520, when applicable, and the Personal Property Declaration (1252), when applicable.

Make sure to read the liability statements given to you by the contractor at the time of POV turnin.

Pick-up of your POV

- Carefully inspect both the interior and exterior to determine if there is any new damage.
- Make sure items left in the POV when it was turned in are still in the vehicle.
- Carefully list any loss and all damages to your POV on your vehicle shipping document, DD Form 788. Also list why the damage was not discovered at the final inspection at the pick-up point. Failure to do this may result in denial of any claims for this damage.
- Service members will be notified 45 days prior to the end of the members' tour of duty. Vehicles will be stored for 90 days after the termination of the tour and if the vehicle has not been picked up, it will then be considered abandoned and no longer a stored vehicle.
- The service member must provide the contractor with pick-up or forwarding instructions no less than 30 days before the required delivery date at the designated CONUS VPC or delivery to a CONUS VPC for OCONUS movement.

If you request early release of your POV without new PCS orders be aware that once a POV is released it is not authorized for further storage at government expense until new orders are issued. The POV will only be authorized for movement to the original CONUS turn in VPC or the CONUS VPC serving the storage site.