

CIRCULAR



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Title
Fraudulent Vehicle Tag and Parking Enforcement Modernization Act of 2024
Number
CIR-25-08
Effective Date
September 25, 2025
Expiration Date
September 25, 2027
Related to:
GO-SPT-303.01 (Traffic Enforcement)
GO-OPS-303.03 (Vehicle Towing and Impoundment)

The purpose of this circular is to inform members of the [Fraudulent Vehicle Tag and Parking Enforcement Modernization Act of 2024](#), which establishes new requirements for the display of vehicle tags and enhances targeted enforcement of immobilization-eligible vehicles (i.e., vehicles that can be “booted”) in the District of Columbia.

Select new and amended content from the Act appears below underlined and in bold (e.g., **new**). Removed text appears in bold strikethrough (e.g., ~~**temporary**~~).

VIOLATIONS RELATED TO VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION AND TAG DISPLAY

Offenses	It shall be unlawful to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowingly Use or permit the use of a motor vehicle with a counterfeit, stolen, or otherwise fraudulent temporary vehicle identification tag;• <u>Use or permit use of an unidentifiable vehicle</u> (as defined below); or• <u>Use or permit use of a vehicle displaying vehicle tags in a prohibited manner.</u>						
Need to Know	<p>The requirements for the display of vehicle identification tags are as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>Placement</td><td>Tags should be securely fastened horizontally, and clearly visible and legible.</td></tr><tr><td>Do not block tags</td><td>Insignia, emblems, brackets, holders, mounts, trailer hitches, or couplings should not be mounted in such a way that they hide or obscure any portion of the tag.</td></tr><tr><td>No covers</td><td>Tags should be unobstructed by plate covers, glass, plastic, or any other type of material or substance, regardless of legibility of the information on the tag.</td></tr></table>	Placement	Tags should be securely fastened horizontally, and clearly visible and legible.	Do not block tags	Insignia, emblems, brackets, holders, mounts, trailer hitches, or couplings should not be mounted in such a way that they hide or obscure any portion of the tag.	No covers	Tags should be unobstructed by plate covers, glass, plastic, or any other type of material or substance, regardless of legibility of the information on the tag.
Placement	Tags should be securely fastened horizontally, and clearly visible and legible.						
Do not block tags	Insignia, emblems, brackets, holders, mounts, trailer hitches, or couplings should not be mounted in such a way that they hide or obscure any portion of the tag.						
No covers	Tags should be unobstructed by plate covers, glass, plastic, or any other type of material or substance, regardless of legibility of the information on the tag.						
Penalty	<p>30 days, \$1,000 fine, or both.</p> <p>Current civil parking and moving violations are unchanged: P316: Improper Display of Tags on vehicle parked on public space - \$50 T150: Covered Tags - \$500 T227: Improper Display of Tags - \$50 T744: Illegible Tags - \$50 T747: Obstructed Tags - \$50</p> <p>A motor vehicle being used in violation of this section shall be subject to forfeiture pursuant to the standards and procedures set forth in DC Law 20-278.</p>						

	Such forfeiture may be in addition to the imposition of a fine or imprisonment as provided. Members shall ensure compliance with GO-SPT-601.03 (Handling and Accounting for Seized and Forfeited Property) prior to seizing a vehicle.
Reference	DC Official Code § 50-1501.04a (new); Penalty: DC Official Code § 50-1501.04

ADDS AND DEFINES “UNIDENTIFIABLE” AS A QUALIFYING FACTOR FOR VEHICLE IMMOBILIZATION

Need to Know	<p>NOTE: The Department of Public Works (DPW) remains responsible for immobilizing (i.e., “booting”) eligible vehicles. For such vehicles, members shall contact DPW through 311 or through an Office of Unified Communications dispatcher.</p> <p>Immobilization-eligible vehicles (i.e., vehicles that can be “booted”)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles are deemed immobilization-eligible, if they are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unidentifiable; ○ Parked on a public right-of-way or public space with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two or more warrants; or ▪ Two or more unpaid notices of infraction (NOIs) admitted or sustained after a hearing; or ○ Abandoned or dangerous vehicles.
Definition	<p>“Unidentifiable vehicle” means “any vehicle found parked on any public right-of-way or public space in the District:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That does not have a vehicle identification tag (i.e., license plate; temporary tag); • With an obscured or illegible vehicle identification number; • Displaying a counterfeit, stolen, or otherwise fraudulent vehicle identification tag in the District; • Displaying a vehicle identification tag that can clearly be identified as counterfeit, altered, or otherwise fraudulent by visual inspection; • Using any tinted, colored, painted, marked, clear, or illuminated object that covers any of the characters of the tag or distorts an image recorded by Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) or license plate recognition system of any of the characters of a vehicle tag; • That is obscured by a vehicle cover or tarp; or • That has other characteristics that otherwise restrict the ability to issue the vehicle a notice of infraction for parking enforcement or ATE.” <p>NOTE: If the DPW determines that an abandoned or dangerous vehicle is stolen, it will relinquish custody of the vehicle to the Metropolitan Police Department.</p>
Reference	DC Official Code §§ 50-2431, 50-2452

While this circular will expire on September 25, 2027, changes made to the DC Official Code as described in this circular will be permanent until such time as they are amended.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pamela A. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pamela" being more prominent than the last name "Smith".

Pamela A. Smith
Chief of Police