



## Preventive Law Series

## Getting on the Road in Guam

***The content of this handout is provided for general information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice or opinion of any kind.***

This preventive law handout describes (1) how to bring a vehicle, (2) provides pointers on how to purchase a vehicle, (3) and explains the registration and licensing process in Guam. Preventative law handout “Guam – 13 (Getting Off the Road in Guam)” discusses what do with your vehicle as you PCS from Guam.

### HOW DO I SHIP A VEHICLE TO GUAM?

In order to **ship a vehicle** to Guam, you must have the following:

- (1) Registration
- (2) Title
- (3) Current insurance card
- (4) Photo ID
- (5) Letter of authorization from lender (if your vehicle is being financed)
- (6) Temporary Permit A from the Guam Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).
- (7) If the vehicle is co-owned, you will need authorization from the other owner.

Please be advised that it may not be wise to ship vehicles in a poor (although operable) condition or certain vehicles to Guam. Specifically:

- It is a good idea to **check if there is an authorized dealership and service center** for your particular vehicle in Guam. If there is an issue with your vehicle that cannot be diagnosed or serviced in Guam, your car insurance may not accept the cost of shipping the vehicle to Hawaii or the mainland for the repair. That can prevent you from having your vehicle shipped off the island when it comes time to PCS, as the Vehicle Processing Center (VPC) will only accept vehicles in operable condition.
- **Make sure your vehicle is in tip-top shape before shipping** it to Guam. Consider buying and shipping common repair and replacement items. Repairs are expensive and even common parts for vehicles can take as long as 8-10 weeks to arrive on the island.

### HOW DO I PICK UP A VEHICLE THAT I SHIPPED TO GUAM?

In order to **pick up your vehicle** from the VPC, you must have:

- (1) **Proof of Ownership.** This is all of the documentation you needed to ship the vehicle.
- (2) **Valid Insurance.** Guam has a Financial Responsibility Law requiring coverage in the amounts of \$25,000/\$50,000/\$20,000. If your current insurer does not cover vehicles on Guam, consider obtaining a letter from them stating that you have had no claims (if appropriate), which could earn you a lower rate with local insurance companies.
- (3) **Temporary Vehicle Permit (5 days)** from the DMV. You will need to obtain this before you pick up your vehicle. You will have to provide the DMV a copy of your current vehicle registration, valid insurance and pay a \$5 fee.

When your vehicle arrives, you should inspect the car alongside the inspector and take good notes of any damage, comparing it to the photos you took prior to shipment.

**After picking up your vehicle**, you must:

- (1) **Conduct a safety inspection** (make sure to have the vehicle registration in hand). Temporary transport permits are available to move vehicles from the pick-up point to a safety inspection station.
- (2) **Register with Department of Revenue and Taxation**. Fees vary based on the weight and capacity of the vehicle, but be sure to bring:
  - a. The vehicle's current registration certificate
  - b. Passed safety inspection receipt
  - c. Certificate of insurance
  - d. NOTE: If your car is currently registered in your home state of record, you can keep the license plate and registration for that state.
- (3) **Register with Visitor Center** on Naval Base Guam. You will need to provide your military ID as well as the items listed above.

### HOW DO I BUY A VEHICLE IN GUAM?

Many service members and family members will either purchase a used vehicle or a new vehicle upon arriving to Guam due to the lack of public transportation options on the island.

If you are **purchasing a new vehicle**, consider:

- (1) **Your needs**. New vehicles lose value faster than used vehicles, and you should consider how you will be using the car, what will happen to it if you are deployed, storage options, and if you plan to take the vehicle to a new assignment.
- (2) **How much you can afford**. Don't forget to factor in monthly and annual expenses, gas mileage, and the cost of repairs.
- (3) **Financing**. Consider your credit score, interest rates, down payment, and the length of the loan.
- (4) **Where to buy**. There are plenty of dealerships in Guam, but talk to people familiar with the market on the island and consider taking a friend to help you with the purchase.

If you are **purchasing a used vehicle**, you should:

- (1) **Consider your budget and if you're paying in cash or financing the car**. Ensure that the vehicle is clear of any liens and that the seller has the authority to sell you the vehicle.
- (2) **Ask for the vehicle's maintenance record**, history (e.g., if it was ever recalled and if it was properly repaired), **and test drive the vehicle**. Please note that unless otherwise agreed upon, vehicle sales are considered *as-is*, so it is highly recommended that you have the car inspected by a neutral third-party before purchasing the vehicle.
- (3) **Obtain a bill of sale**. Both members should be present or at least sign the bill of sale on the same day. The Guam Legal Assistance Office can provide you a template.
- (4) **Have the seller sign the title**.
- (5) **Get a copy of the seller's driver's license**, unless they are able to go to the DMV with you to help transfer registration.

### DO I NEED TO TRANSFER MY DRIVER'S LICENSE?

**Not anymore**. Section 3101(b) of Chapter 3, Title 16 of the Guam Code was recently amended in 2025 to exempt non-resident active-duty service members *and* their dependents from Guam's driver license requirements.

### HOW CAN GUAM LEGAL ASSISTANCE HELP?

The Guam Legal Assistance Office can notarize special powers of attorney and provide template bills of sale. If the process of "Getting on the Road" doesn't go smoothly, we can also give confidential legal advice. For personal legal advice, please contact Guam Legal Assistance at 671-333-2061 (commercial), 315-333-2061 (DSN), or [GuamLegalAssistance@us.navy.mil](mailto:GuamLegalAssistance@us.navy.mil).