

**WAC 204-91A-130 Personal property handling procedures.** All personal belongings and contents in the vehicle that are not permanently attached must be kept intact, and must be returned to the vehicle's owner or agent during normal business hours upon request and presentation of a driver's license or other sufficient identification. The tow operator must without charge and upon demand, release personal property not being held for evidence purposes by the impounding agency, to the vehicle's owner or agent during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except for weekends and state recognized holidays. Release procedures must also follow guidelines as set forth in chapters 308-61 WAC and 46.55 RCW.

The vehicle contents, less items listed in WAC and RCW, and personal property not picked up prior to the vehicle going to auction must remain with the vehicle and may not be kept by the tow operator or sold at auction to fulfill a lien against the vehicle.

(1) The items of personal property that the state patrol will not accept in response to RCW 46.55.090 include but are not limited to the following:

- (a) Tire chains;
- (b) Spare tire and wheels;
- (c) Used auto parts and accessories;
- (d) Seat covers;
- (e) Fuel containers;
- (f) Jacks and lug wrenches;
- (g) Radios, stereos, and other items attached to the vehicle by bolts, screws, or some other manner that incorporates them to the vehicle. These items must remain with the vehicle;
- (h) Refuse, trash, garbage, open or empty alcohol containers and perishable items;
- (i) Soiled or mildewed items, including clothing, shoes, blankets, and tarps having no actual value;
- (j) Miscellaneous unofficial papers and other items having no actual value.

(2) Items that must be turned over to the patrol within forty-eight hours and inventoried include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Money;
- (b) Wallets and purses;
- (c) Bank and check books;
- (d) Bank and credit cards;
- (e) Official identification cards, operator's license and passports;
- (f) Jewelry;
- (g) Firearms and any type weapon;
- (h) Contraband including controlled substances;
- (i) Stocks, bonds, money orders, bank certificates, travelers checks, postage stamps, and food stamps;
- (j) Other items of obvious value.

(3) The tow operator must not remove or damage any vehicle parts permanently affixed to the vehicle, i.e., trunk locks or door locks. The tow operator must allow the vehicle's legal or registered owner or the owner's authorized representative to remove specialized hand controls, provided that their removal does not damage the vehicle.

(4) If a vehicle is equipped with an ignition interlock system as outlined in RCW 46.20.720, the tow operator must contact the ignition interlock company through the phone number provided on the ignition interlock label within forty-eight hours to inform them that the vehicle has been impounded. The ignition interlock system must be removed

by a qualified technician and released to the installing company, at no charge and upon proof of ownership, prior to the auction of the vehicle. The removal of the ignition interlock system must not render the vehicle inoperable.

(5) After the certified sale letter has been mailed, the tow operator may dispose of any perishable items or items that may rot, decay, or otherwise cause substantial odor within the interior of the vehicle.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.55.115. WSR 17-10-029, § 204-91A-130, filed 4/26/17, effective 5/27/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 46.37.005, 46.55.050, and 46.55.115. WSR 09-09-118, § 204-91A-130, filed 4/21/09, effective 5/22/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 46.37.005. WSR 04-20-021, § 204-91A-130, filed 9/28/04, effective 10/29/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 46.37.005, 46.55.050, and 46.55.115. WSR 02-07-056, § 204-91A-130, filed 3/15/02, effective 4/15/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 46.35.005 [46.37.005]. WSR 89-14-015 (Order 89-04-ESR), § 204-91A-130, filed 6/23/89.]