



Training Bulletin

Los Angeles Port Police

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High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes and Toll Roads

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Training Bulletin is to provide information on the use of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes and Toll Roads.

BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to California Vehicle Code Section 23301.5 Emergency vehicles exempt from toll or other charge, the Los Angeles Port Police Division recognizes its vehicles are not entirely exempt from tolls associated with local roads within the state. The CVC section allows for *limited* exemption for emergency vehicles under specific circumstances only.

POLICY:

Los Angeles Port Police Policy Manual Section 706.7 states:

Law enforcement vehicles are not routinely exempted from incurring toll road charges.

To avoid unnecessary toll road charges, all members operating Department vehicles on a toll road shall adhere to the following:

- a) Members operating Department vehicles for any reason other than in response to an emergency shall pay appropriate toll charges or utilize the appropriate toll way transponder. Members may submit a request for reimbursement from the City for any toll fees incurred in the course of official business.
- b) Members passing through a toll plaza or booth during a response to an emergency shall notify, in writing, the appropriate Division Commander within five working days explaining the circumstances.

MEMBERS RESPONSIBILITY:

CVC 23301.5(3)(d) allows for owner/operators of toll facilities to enter into agreements with emergency response agencies to provide exemptions to tolls based upon mutually agreed terms. The Los Angeles Port Police has established an agreement with the METRO EXPRESS LANES to allow qualified use of their lanes to aid in the expedient response to emergencies and the regular execution of official public safety business. As the southern most city police agency, they recognize a need for expeditious transit of our members in the conduct of public safety matters in the interest of justice.

These lanes span a portion of the 110 freeway north and south only and use of the lanes must meet the following requirements:

- a) Members must be in an official Los Angeles Port Police owned vehicle.
- b) Use of the lanes is limited to emergency response and official city business only.
- c) The use of the lanes should be during regular "on duty" time only. The regular use of lanes while transiting to and from work assignment does not qualify and is subject to violation.

*This exemption is for the METRO EXPRESS lanes on the 110 freeway north/south only. *

All other restrictions on roads throughout the state will apply in accordance with CVC 23301.5.

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