

YAMHILL COUNTY CODE

TITLE 4: PUBLIC PEACE, MORALS, AND WELFARE

Chapter 4.45: Yamhill County Vehicle Inventory Code

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

4.45.01 Title; Authority. This ordinance is entitled the “Yamhill County Inventory Ordinance” and is enacted pursuant to ORS 203.035.
[ADOPTED VIA ORDINANCE NO. 610 eff 07/31/96]

4.45.02 Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to govern impounded vehicle inventories and to provide authority for sheriff’s deputies to conduct inventories of impounded vehicles as required to protect private property while it is in police custody, to reduce or prevent the assertion of false claims for lost or stolen property, and to protect people and property from any hazardous condition or instrumentality that may be associated with the vehicle.
[ADOPTED VIA ORDINANCE NO. 610 eff 07/31/96]

4.45.03 Inventory Procedure.

- a) Every vehicle lawfully impounded by the Yamhill County Sheriff’s Office shall be inventoried. The purpose of the inventory is as follows:
 - (i) To protect private property while it is in custody.
 - (ii) To reduce or prevent the assertion of false claims for lost or stolen property.
 - (iii) To protect people and property from any hazardous condition or instrumentality which may be associated with the vehicle.
- b) The inventory of property in a vehicle is not a search for evidence of criminal property. Items should be scrutinized only to the extent necessary to complete an accurate inventory list. Once completed, the list shall be made a part of the narrative section of the appropriate report. The inventory should occur as soon as practical after the vehicle has been impounded.
- c) Areas to be inventoried include the entire passenger compartment, uncovered hatchback, unlocked glove boxes, and unlocked trunks. The contents of locked areas shall be inventoried if there is an unlocking mechanism provided within the vehicle.

- d) Deputies may seize contraband or evidence of criminal activity discovered during the inventory. However, absent consent from the owner to open a closed container, the existence of a valid search warrant or probable cause to believe the contents of a closed container are subject to search or seizure without a warrant, closed containers found in the course of the inventory shall remain closed unless the container appears insecure or its contents appear imminently harmful.
- e) If, during the inventory, extraordinary valuable property such as jewels, watches, or cash is discovered, the property shall be entered into an evidence locker for safekeeping.
- f) All items seized during an inventory shall be listed on an appropriate sheriff's office form. A property receipt shall be given to the owner of the seized property or the owner/operator of the vehicle. If no owner is available, the property receipt may be left in a conspicuous place in the vehicle.
- g) Upon impoundment of any vehicle by direction of the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office under a provision of state law, city or county ordinance or other lawful authority, the sheriff shall make a written inventory list. The list shall contain an itemization of all property contained within or upon the impounded vehicle which, in the judgment of the person conducting the inventory, has a value of \$100 or more. For the purpose of this subsection, equipment or accessories physically attached to the vehicle need not be itemized on the list.

[ADOPTED VIA ORDINANCE NO. 610 eff 07/31/96]

4.45.04 Severability. All sections, subsections and paragraphs of this ordinance are severable. If any section, subsection or paragraph is ruled invalid for any reason by the court of last resort, the other portions of this ordinance shall be unaffected.

[ADOPTED VIA ORDINANCE NO. 610 eff 07/31/96]

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Adopted via Ordinance No. 610 on 07/31/1996, effective 07/31/1996