HSC OP: 63.02, Out-of-Country Use of TTUHSC Vehicles

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Health Sciences Center Operating Policy and Procedure (HSC OP) is to establish the procedure for obtaining authorization to take TTUHSC vehicles out of the country.

REVIEW: This HSC OP will be reviewed on April 1 of every fourth year (E4Y) by the Director of Risk Management and the Director of General Services, with recommendations for revision forwarded to the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer by April 15.

POLICY/PROCEDURE:

Various departments periodically find it necessary to take TTUHSC vehicles out of the country; specific requirements for obtaining authorization to do so are as follows:

1. The individual responsible for the trip will send a copy of a formal request for travel out of the country to the Office of Vehicle Fleet Management (OVFM) (STOP 9012) at least 20 working days prior to the trip. The following information must be provided:
   a. Responsible party;
   b. Name of the driver(s);
   c. Driver license number for each driver;
   d. Inclusive dates of the trip;
   e. Country to be visited;
   f. Purpose of the trip;
   g. Vehicle description, TTUHSC inventory number, license plate number and vehicle identification number; and
   h. FOAP to charge for the supplemental insurance.

2. The OVFM will provide names and driver's license numbers to the Texas Tech University System (TTUS) Office of Risk Management for verification of appropriate insurance and authorized driver(s).

3. The Office of Risk Management will provide confirmation of the authorized driver(s) to the OVFM.

4. The individual responsible for the trip will provide the OVFM with a copy of any supplemental automobile insurance policies covering the vehicle while it is out of the country. Trips to Mexico present a unique hazard because insurance policies issued by American insurance companies are seldom recognized as valid by the Mexican government. Travelers driving into Mexico must obtain a Mexican insurance policy before crossing the border.

5. TTUHSC will follow state policy not to approve a request for travel to a nation that is, at the time the request is received, subject to a Travel Warning issued by the United States Department of State. To determine if a country is the subject of such a Travel Warning, contact the U.S. Department of State Office in Washington, DC at (202) 647-4000 or through the web at http://travel.state.gov. The traveler should again review the Travel Warning website or call the State Department within two days prior to departure to ascertain that the country has not been placed on the warning list in the interim period. If the country has been placed on the warning list, the traveler should cancel the trip.
6. The OVFM will prepare a vehicle travel package to be retained in the glove compartment of the vehicle(s), which will include the following:
   
   a. A letter authorizing the vehicle(s) to be taken out of the country;
   b. The original certificate of title on the vehicle(s);
   c. A copy of the automobile liability insurance ID card;
   d. A copy of the supplemental insurance policy, if applicable; and
   e. Emergency information in case an accident occurs.

7. Auto accidents in Mexico are subject to the laws of Mexico only. In case of an accident, fill out all the information on the Accident Reporting forms from HSC OP 76.34 (Accidents Involving TTUHSC Vehicles) which are to be kept in all HSC vehicles at all times. Process accident reports according to the OP 76.34.

8. When traveling to the interior of Mexico (anywhere beyond the border cities) with a university vehicle, the driver is required to obtain a "Permit for Temporary Import of Vehicle into Mexico" at the Mexican Customs Office located at the border. This permit must be surrendered to the Mexican Customs Office at the border before leaving Mexico. This is the responsibility of the person named on the “Permit for Temporary Import of Vehicle into Mexico,” and failure to surrender the permit may result in fines and/or denial of permission for the responsible party to enter Mexico in the future.

9. Upon trip completion, the vehicle travel package will be returned to the OVFM within five business days.