

The following is a summary of the rule relating to Private Property Impound Towing. Please refer to Wisconsin Administration Rule Trans 319 for more details.

Trans 319 Revisions – Towing Illegally Parked Vehicles

The DOT rule relating to Towing of Vehicles from private property is now a permanent rule, as of February 1, 2016.

The rule provides the following in regards to the fee schedule:

- \$150 for a vehicle towed using a flatbed, hook and chain, wheel-lift, boom, or any other method.
- \$25 for each period of 24 consecutive hours that the vehicle is stored at an outdoor storage facility.
- \$35 for each period of 24 consecutive hours that the vehicle is stored at an indoor storage facility.

Storage fees may not be assessed on a day when the business is not open for more than four hours. However, storage fees may be assessed for those days if the vehicle owner does not make an effort to retrieve their vehicle within seven days.

\$150 for any other necessary and commercially reasonable charges relating to the use of special equipment in the removal or storage, or both, of the vehicle, and for any expenses incurred by the towing service relating to travel exceeding five miles.

Administrative fees, gate fees, lien processing fees, or any other fees for equipment or procedures ordinarily required for the removal or storage of a vehicle may not be charged under this rule. A towing service may collect charges under this rule only if any of the following applies:

1. The vehicle possesses unusual characteristics, such as size or mechanical condition that makes the maximum removal charge unreasonably low, or has a gross vehicle weight rating or registered weight of 10,001 pounds or more.
2. The location in which the removed vehicle was parked contains certain spatial constraints or limited access to the parked vehicle impeding the tow that make the maximum removal charge unreasonably low.
3. The roundtrip travel by the towing service exceeds 10 miles. A towing service may charge a surcharge of \$3.00 per mile for miles in excess of five miles. Mileage is based on roundtrip mileage from the storage facility to return thereto.

A towing service may charge the vehicle owner a service fee, not exceeding \$35, if requested by the municipality for the area in which the removed vehicle was illegally parked. The \$35 is separate from the \$150 additional fee.

Before a vehicle may be towed, there must be appropriate signage on the property indicating the prohibition on unauthorized parking, and the tow operator must contact local law enforcement with information regarding the vehicle.