



**OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE
501 COMBAT SUPPORT WING
RAF ALCONBURY / RAF CROUGHTON, UK**



OFF-BASE ACCIDENTS AND TICKETS

Introduction

This pamphlet details relevant information regarding off-base vehicle accidents and traffic tickets in the UK. Reviewing the information below beforehand will be of assistance if you happen to be involved with either situation.

Off-Base Accidents

Where a collision has taken place and either damage or personal injury has been caused, then the vehicle driver is required to remain at the scene of the accident and to provide their name and address to the other driver.

If you are unfortunate enough to get into a road traffic collision off base, follow the procedure below:

- Stop the car as soon as possible (it is an offence not to do so)
- Turn off the engine
- Switch the hazard lights on
- Check for any injuries to you or any passengers
- If it's a minor collision and there are no injuries, make a note of it just in case the other people try and claim for injury at a later date
- Call the police and ambulance immediately if anyone is hurt or the road is blocked
- Try to remain calm and don't lose your temper
- Don't apologize or admit liability for the collision until you are completely aware of what happened

When should you call the police?

Call the police immediately:

- If the other driver or drivers leave the scene without giving details
- If you think the other driver has no insurance or is under the influence of drink or drugs
- If you suspect the other driver has caused the collision deliberately

In all other situations, inform the police of the collision as soon as practicable and at the very latest within 24 hours. If you don't you may be guilty of an offence.

Exchange motor details

- Share your name and address with everyone involved if the collision caused damage or injury
- Swap insurance information details with the other driver(s) (or provide them to the other driver as soon as practicable if you don't have the information with you)
- Take down details of any other passengers and witnesses to the collision
- Try to find out if the other driver is the registered owner of the vehicle, if they are not, find out who the owner is and get that information (for instance it might be company car)
- If a foreign lorry is involved, get the numbers on both the lorry and its trailer, sometimes they are different. It's also a good idea to get the name of the company if it's painted on the lorry

What should I record at the accident scene?

- The make, model, color and number plate of the vehicle(s) involved in the collision or take pictures of them
- The date and time of the crash
- The driving conditions, including the weather, lighting, and road quality (such as road markings, whether it's wet or muddy, repair of the road surface)
- What sort of damage was caused to the vehicles and where—nearside front wing and door (nearside is the left side of your car, offside is the driver's side)
- Any injuries to drivers, passengers or pedestrians
- The names and contact details of any witnesses
- Use your phone to take pictures of the scene, the positions of the cars involved, and damage to the cars

If no one else is involved in the collision, for example you caused damage to private property or a parked car, you should leave your details—for instance a note where the owner can see it.

Failure to stop and failure to report a collision is an offence under Section 170 of The Road Traffic Act 1988. Failure to stop and failure to report carry significant penalties. This is because they were originally introduced to deal with "hit and run" incidents. Failure to stop and failure to report both carry 5-10 penalty points, or can involve a prison sentence of up to 6 months.

Tickets

Traffic tickets in the UK are generally known as a "penalty charge notice" (PCN), "fixed penalty notice" (FPN) or simply as a parking ticket. How you pay a PCN, FPN or parking ticket depends on what type it is and who issued it. You usually have 28 days to pay. In some cases, the fine is reduced if you pay within 14 days. If you lose your ticket, contact the ticket issuer to find out how to pay.

You can receive a PCN for breaking traffic rules, such as driving in a bus lane. Check the ticket for ways to pay. You can pay online for a PCN from a local council. Note, however: If you do not pay a PCN within 28 days, you'll get a "charge certificate" and you'll have 14 days to pay the original fine plus 50% more. You'll get a court order demanding payment if you do not pay within 14 days.

You can receive a FPN for parking from the police, local council or Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency. You can also receive these for speeding and minor motoring offenses. You can pay these online. Similar to the PCN, if you do not pay within 28 days, you'll pay 50% more.

Other parking tickets may incur from a local council or from a private company—for example, a supermarket car park.

For the above, you may be able to appeal the notice or ticket. If that's an option, the notice or ticket will tell you how to appeal and by when. You may want to appeal because, for example, you didn't own the vehicle, the alleged offense didn't take place, or someone else was driving your vehicle without your consent.

Resources

<https://www.gov.uk/parking-tickets>
<https://www.gov.uk/speeding-penalties>
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/law-and-courts/parking-tickets/>
<https://www.advicenow.org.uk/tags/motoring-offences>

Conclusion

If you have any questions on the above, or require assistance regarding an off-base vehicle accident or traffic ticket, please contact our office and request to speak with a legal assistance attorney.

RAF Alconbury and RAF Croughton Legal Office Hours

All Services by Appointment Only (email 501cswja@us.af.mil)

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1000-1200 & 1300-1400

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