

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

The Proper Use of Tow Vehicles and Equipment

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It is imperative that all tow vehicles used in consent only or non consent towing go through the permitting and licensing process.

Neither state law nor the rules of the Arkansas Towing & Recovery Board distinguish by permit or definition the intended use of any tow vehicle or towing equipment.

It is incumbent on the operator to use a tow vehicle or equipment based on its intended use, its capacity and the manufacturer's specifications. It is highly recommended that an operator be properly trained and understand how to use the tow vehicle and/or equipment before employing its use in the field.

Law enforcement agencies that employ a non-consent rotation policy should be aware or have a basic understanding of tow vehicles and equipment used in the field for towing and recovery. Tow vehicle or equipment use may be restricted based on 1] state law, 2] rule or regulation, 3] a manufacturer's standard or 4] a manufacturer's recommended use or prohibition.

As an example:

The use of heavy duty tow vehicles without a wheel lift is restricted, Arkansas Towing & Recovery Board, Rules and Regulations, ACA §27-50-1210, et seq Rule 7 (L)(2). Heavy Duty tow vehicles without a wheel lift may only be used to assist in recovery and cannot be used as a primary tow vehicle.

A Detachable Tow Unit (DTU) should not be used for heavy winching or recovery and its use restricted in the field. Miller Industries, a manufacturer of DTU's in email correspondence to the Arkansas Towing & Recovery Board dated June 7, 2016 states in part "*... (a)DTU is only for towing and transportation of vehicles . It is not designed for recovery or heavy winching...*"

This would preclude a DTU's use as a heavy duty tow vehicle in order to meet the conditions for non-consent rotation.

For additional information determining the proper use of a tow vehicle or equipment the Board suggests contacting the manufacturer or the ATRB staff for direction. 501/682-3801 or artowing@arkansas.gov.



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