



TRAFFIC SAFETY ALERT



NO LEFT TURNS ON RED WHEN LEAVING OR ENTERING THE INSTALLATIONS

REMINDER: LEFT TURNS ON RED LIGHTS

Turning left on a red traffic light is strictly prohibited when entering or exiting the installations. This includes all off-base intersections near gates. Left turns on red are only permitted within the installations. Always follow posted traffic laws and signs to ensure your safety and the safety of others.




⚠️ TRAFFIC SAFETY ALERT ⚠️

INTERSECTION HAZARD IN OKINAWA



Understanding Lane Positioning Differences Can Avoid Collisions At Intersections

 One of the many causes of vehicle accidents at intersections in Okinawa involves confusion over proper turning lane usage—especially during right turns.

- American Drivers are trained to turn into the closest lane of a two-lane road.
- Japanese Drivers, although Japanese traffic law and training encourage drivers to turn into the closest lane, many drivers in Okinawa often turn into the far lane instead—especially the far-right lane.

This difference has led to numerous intersection collisions across Okinawa.

✅ What You Can Do:

- Be mindful of local driving customs and rules.
- Check both lanes before turning, even if the road appears clear.
- Do not assume other drivers will use the same lane logic as in the U.S.
- Drive defensively—especially near gates, intersections, and during turns.

Stay safe and help prevent avoidable accidents!
For more information Contact the Safety Office

Traffic Safety Program Manager: 622-7163

Deputy Safety Director: 645-2729

https://usmc.sharepoint-mil.us/:u:/r/sites/mcipac_iso/Operations/SitePages/Traffic-Safety.aspx?csf=1&web=1&e=M8FlkK



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AVOID OVERCROWDED VEHICLE CITATIONS

BLUF: SOFA-licensed personnel have recently been cited for violating the legal passenger capacity of K-cars (yellow-plated vehicles). All personnel are reminded to comply with Japanese road safety regulations when operating these vehicles.

Background and Reminder: K-cars, known for their compact size and yellow license plates, are a popular choice for personal transportation across Okinawa and mainland Japan. However, due to their classification and size limitations, they are subject to strict passenger capacity regulations under Japanese law.

Key Regulations: The maximum passenger capacity is stated on the vehicle registration certificate.

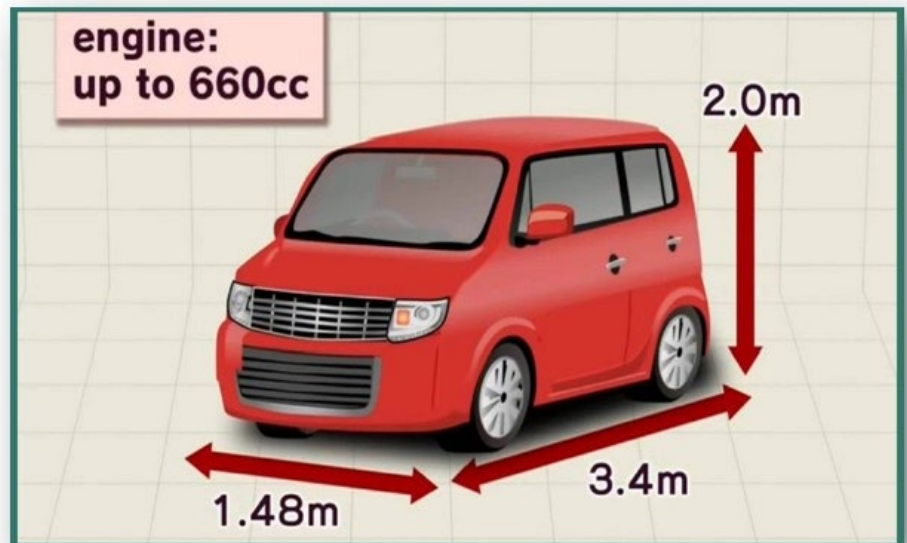
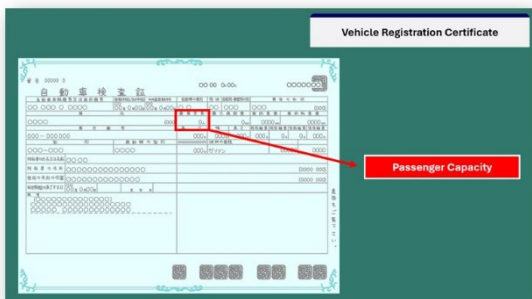
- Most K-cars are limited to 4 passengers.
- Two-seater K-cars, such as K-trucks and certain coupes, are limited to 2 passengers.
- In rare cases, 5 passengers are permitted only if 3 of the passengers are children under the age of 12, in accordance with Article 53, Section 2 of the Japan Safety Standards for Road Transport Vehicles.

Despite some newer K-car models featuring more spacious interiors, the legal classification and associated passenger limits remain unchanged, and drivers must adhere to them at all times.

K-Car Vehicle Specifications (per regulation):

- Length: 3.4 meters or less
- Width: 1.48 meters or less
- Height: 2.0 meters or less
- Engine displacement: 660cc or less

Action Required: All SOFA-licensed drivers are expected to review their vehicle's registration certificate to confirm its authorized seating capacity and ensure they do not exceed it under any circumstances. Noncompliance can result in citations, fines, and administrative penalties.





TERRA/WEST PAC INN ACCESS ROAD

- TERRA/WEST PAC ONLY ACCESS ROAD
- REGULAR ACCESS ROAD



Do not take shortcuts through the Terra/West Pac Inn parking lot access. There have been several near-misses reported as personnel speed through this access road to avoid waiting on the temporary construction traffic light. Be patient and transit through the approved roadway to avoid accidents.

TRAFFIC SAFETY ALERT **WHEN AT A RED LIGHT, STOP AT THE STOP LINE - DON'T GO OVER IT!**

STOP LINES AT INTERSECTIONS (WHITE LINES)

As a general rule (Article 43 of Japan's Road Traffic Act), requires that all vehicles, including motorcycles come to a complete stop just before the stop line. Stopping beyond the stop line is not permitted and may be considered a violation.

KEY POINTS FOR AWARENESS:

- Any movement beyond the stop line before the light turns green is considered a red-light violation.
- A flashing red light is treated as a stop sign—drivers must stop, yield, then proceed if safe.

