May 2, 2022

To all Authorized Employers:

Re: Stealth Vehicles Marking Exemption Request Guidelines

Peace Officer Program (Program) policy supports the concept of a commonality of visual identity for uniforms and vehicle markings as a means of increasing public awareness and recognition of peace officers as well as providing the public a means of properly addressing complaints or concerns with the authorized employers.

In 2021, following feedback from the two pilot projects to assess the use of stealth markings on Community Peace Officer patrol vehicles, the Director of Law Enforcement (Director) approved the use of such markings, restricting the use of the vehicles to moving traffic enforcement only. This ensured that this optional enforcement tool remained consistent with the concept visibility envisioned for the Program. The use of unmarked patrol vehicles was not support and unmarked vehicles were determined to be contrary to the intentions of the Program.

The Peace Officer Program Policy and Procedures Manual (Policy Manual) was amended in 2022 to include the option of subdued vehicles markings as follows:

18.4 Stealth marked vehicle options for community peace officers with restrictions on situations in which they can be utilized are permitted with approval from the Director. Use of stealth vehicle markings is restricted to traffic enforcement functions only. As a result, agencies with small fleets may not be eligible for this option.

The following guidelines have been developed to assist authorized employers in developing a business case, based on operational needs, to support an exemption request to the vehicle marking requirements outlined in section 18.4 of the Policy Manual. All request for an exemption must be submitted to the Peace Officer Program (Program) at peaceofficerinfo@gov.ab.ca.

Stealth Markings for Patrol Vehicle Guidelines

- Patrol vehicles with stealth markings must continue to meet the standards outlined in section 18.4 and Appendix H of the Peace Officer Program Policy and Procedures Manual with the necessary accommodation for the reflective markings. Vehicles must be white. Light bars may be mounted on the interior of the vehicles per policy.
• Patrol vehicles with stealth markings may only be used for enforcement of moving traffic violations and under the terms and conditions identified by the Director in the approval letter.

• Patrol vehicles with stealth markings are prohibited from engaging in enforcement, patrol or observation functions for matters not identified in the approval letter issued by the Director.

• Authorized employers must develop and submit standard operating procedures/policy to the Program outlining the conditions under which stealth marked patrol vehicles may be used and restrictions related to that use. This document must include reporting requirements for violations of the uses approved by the Director.

• Any use of a stealth marked patrol vehicles contrary to the terms outlined in the Director’s exemption approval letter and internal authorized employer policy must be reported to the Program immediately. Reports must be submitted using the Incident Report Form (PS3535) to poprogram@gov.ab.ca. Employers are required to conduct an employer-initiative investigation and take corrective action in accordance with the authorized employer’s disciplinary policy.

• To support the concept of commonality of visual identity only a percentage of an employer’s vehicles may have stealth markings (this is determined by the number of designated traffic enforcement vehicles in the fleet).
  
  - Any authorized employer with more than three marked patrol vehicles may request an exemption to the vehicle marking requirements.

  - The following number of vehicles may have stealth markings, if supported by a business case and approved by the Director:

    | Range | Stealth Markings |
    |-------|------------------|
    | 1-3   | None            |
    | 4-6   | One             |
    | 7-10  | Two             |
    | 11-20 | Four            |
    | 21-40 | Eight           |
    | 41+   | Ten to max. 50% of fleet |

• If an authorized employer determines that stealth vehicle markings are no longer required, or wishes to increase the number of vehicles with stealth markings, it must notify the Program immediately at peaceofficerinfo@gov.ab.ca

For more information on the Program’s requirements for patrol vehicles with stealth markings, please email peaceofficerinfo@gov.ab.ca.

Sincerely,

Tammy L. Spink
Manager
Law Enforcement Oversight and Standards Program