



Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Sweden

Circular Note 1/2014

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to their Excellencies the Heads of Diplomatic Missions, Career Consular Posts and International Organizations in Sweden, and has the honour to communicate the following information concerning parking.

First, the Ministry would like to note that there are two kinds of fees pertaining to wrongful parking in Sweden.

Parking fees (Sw. "*felparkeringsavgift*") derive from wrongful parking on public streets and spaces. Applicable rules on parking fees are to be found in the law on parking fees and in the regulation on parking fees (Sw. "*lag (1976:206) om felparkeringsavgift*", and "*förordning (1976:1128) om felparkeringsavgift*").

Parking fees can be appealed to the Swedish Police Authority. The decision of the Police can thereafter be appealed to a district court. If a parking fee is not appealed, or if an appeal is rejected, it is the responsibility of the Swedish Transport Agency (Sw. "*Transportstyrelsen*") to collect the parking fee. The Transport Agency may decide to utilize the Swedish Enforcement Authority (Sw. "*Kronofogdemyndigheten*") in order to collect a parking fee.

Control fees (Sw. "*kontrollavgift*") derive from wrongful parking in parking areas that are privately owned. Applicable rules are to be found in the law on control fees in cases of wrongful parking (Sw. "*lag (1984:318) om kontrollavgift vid olovlig parkering*").

The recipient of a control fee may request the issuer, normally a private company, to revise its decision. The recipient of a control fee may also appeal a control fee to a district court. It is for the private land owner to utilize available legal avenues to collect control fees.

Their Excellencies the Heads of Diplomatic Missions, Career Consular Posts and International Organizations in SWEDEN

Second, as it is the duty of all persons enjoying privileges and immunities to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State, owners of vehicles with special blue licence plates (hereinafter “diplomatic vehicles”) are subject to Swedish parking rules. Accordingly, Missions, Career Consular Posts, International Organizations or their respective personnel are expected to pay incurred fees relating to wrongful parking.

Failure to pay parking or control fees by members of the Diplomatic Corps can be reported to the Ministry by the Transport Agency, or by the private companies that monitor parking spaces. The Ministry may raise the question of non-payment of fees with Missions, Career Consular Posts, International Organizations or their respective personnel.

Appeals concerning parking or control fees should not be sent to the Ministry, but instead to the relevant administrative authority, district court or parking company indicated on the parking or control fee. The Ministry may not determine how an administrative authority (e.g. the Police, the Transport Agency, the Enforcement Authority) shall decide in a particular case relating to the exercise of public authority vis-à-vis a Mission, Career Consular Post, International Organization or their respective personnel, or relating to the application of law. Similarly, the Ministry may not determine how a court of law shall adjudicate an individual case or otherwise apply a rule of law in a particular case. It is, in other words, up to all Swedish administrative authorities and courts to decide on the application of relevant rules on immunity.

Third, the Ministry wishes to underline that the designated parking spaces labelled “Beskickningsbilar” or “Konsulatfordon” are exclusively for diplomatic vehicles. Non-diplomatic vehicles with regular white license plates may incur parking fees if parked in such spaces. This is generally the case regardless of whether or not the relevant Mission, Career Consular Post or International Organization approves of the particular parking, e.g. visitors.

Parking of non-diplomatic vehicles on designated diplomatic parking spaces should be reported to *Trafik Stockholm*, or to a corresponding agency in other cities, for removal. *Trafik Stockholm* can be reached by telephone 08-651 00 00 (open 24 hours). The parking of non-diplomatic vehicles in designated diplomatic parking spaces does not justify wrongful parking by members of the Diplomatic Corps.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to their Excellencies the Heads of Diplomatic Missions, Career Consular Posts and International Organizations in Sweden the assurances of its highest consideration.

Stockholm, 21 February 2014

