

NATIONAL DOMINICAN DAY
PARADE

Vehicle Music Participation Guidelines

Safety • Sound •
Verification

Prepared for review by the Dominican
Committee



Purpose and safety standard

Goal

Allow music vehicles that can safely participate in the marching route while protecting spectators, marchers, volunteers, drivers, and the public.

Safety comes first

Any vehicle that creates an unreasonable risk may be denied entry or removed from the route.

Music is permitted, but must be controlled

Sound level and speaker volume must remain acceptable for a public parade environment.

Vehicle must match the permit

The vehicle entering the parade must match the approved photo, vehicle type, and license plate.

Committee standard: a vehicle should be approved only when its music equipment appears secure, properly supported, balanced, and reasonable for movement through the parade route.

Acceptable examples: controlled music vehicle setups



ACCEPTABLE EXAMPLE

Moderate setup that remains within a reasonable vehicle profile for parade movement.



ACCEPTABLE EXAMPLE

Large but controlled system that appears better balanced for participation on the route.

These examples are acceptable because the equipment appears more controlled, does not present the same overhead weight risk, and the sound level can be kept within a reasonable range for parade participation.

Not acceptable: oversized overhead music wall



Primary safety concerns

- Excessive overhead weight creates a high center of gravity.
- A pothole, braking, turning, or uneven pavement can cause imbalance.
- Equipment could shift or collapse into the route.
- A collapse could seriously injure or kill spectators, marchers, volunteers, or drivers.
- Very large speaker count can create extremely high decibel levels.

Guideline: vehicles with oversized, unstable, or excessively elevated sound structures should not be allowed to participate in the marching route.

NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR MARCHING ROUTE

Required information during enrollment

Anyone applying to participate with a music vehicle must submit the following before approval:

1. Clear vehicle photo

Photo must show the music equipment as it will enter the parade.

2. Vehicle type

Year, make, model, body type, and any trailer/extension information.

3. License plate

Plate number must match the vehicle permit at parade entrance.

4. Driver/contact name

Committee must know who is responsible for the vehicle.

5. Equipment description

Brief description of speaker setup and how it is mounted or secured.

6. No material changes

No added speakers, roof structures, or equipment changes after approval without re-review.

Application rule: if the submitted photo, plate, or vehicle type does not match at entry, the vehicle may be denied access to the parade route.

Security verification before entrance

Before a music vehicle enters the staging area or marching route, the security team should verify:

PHOTO MATCH

Approved photo matches actual setup.

VEHICLE TYPE

Vehicle matches the application and permit.

LICENSE PLATE

Plate matches the approved permit.

SOUND SETUP

Equipment is secure and reasonable for the route.

VOLUME CHECK

Driver/operator agrees to lower or shut off sound if directed by security or parade officials.

Lineup roster: mark music vehicles as "MV"

When the committee organizes the lineup roster, every approved vehicle with music should be marked with MV next to the organization name.

MV = MUSIC VEHICLE

Use this code on the staging lineup roster so organizers can quickly identify where sound systems will be positioned before the parade starts.

Example lineup roster format		
Organization	Roster Code	Placement Note
Organization A	MV	Separate from next MV
Dance Group B		No music vehicle
Organization C	MV	Place with buffer

Placement rule

Music vehicles should not be stationed directly next to each other in the lineup whenever possible.

Purpose

Spacing music vehicles reduces competing sound systems, prevents volume battles, and helps keep communication clear.

Organizer action

Use the MV roster code during staging, lineup placement, entrance checks, and route coordination.

Recommended practice: separate MV entries with a non-music group, float, sponsor vehicle, walking organization, or other approved buffer when space allows.

Approval, denial, and removal standards

Approved

Vehicle matches the submitted photo and permit; equipment appears safely secured; sound can be controlled.

Conditional approval

Committee may require lower volume, equipment changes, or proof of secure mounting before allowing entry.

Denied or removed

Vehicle does not match, has unsafe modifications, presents instability, blocks the route, or refuses volume control.

A vehicle may be denied entrance or removed from the route when:

- The actual setup is different from the approved photo.
- The license plate or vehicle type does not match the permit.
- Equipment appears unstable, overloaded, or excessively elevated.
- The system creates unsafe decibel levels or refuses to lower volume.
- The vehicle creates a route obstruction or emergency access issue.

Final decision authority should remain with the Parade Committee, NYPD/security leadership, and designated parade officials on site.

Recommended committee policy language

Proposed rule

All vehicles participating with music must be pre-approved by the National Dominican Day Parade Committee. Applicants must submit a clear photo of the vehicle and sound setup, vehicle type, license plate, and contact information. Approved music vehicles should be marked as MV on the lineup roster so organizers can separate music vehicles during staging and avoid competing sound systems. The vehicle entering the parade must match the approved submission and permit. Security may inspect all music vehicles before entry. Vehicles with unsafe, unstable, excessively elevated, or excessively loud sound systems may be denied entry or removed from the parade route.

Implementation checklist: collect photos and plates during enrollment • mark approved music vehicles as MV on roster • separate MV entries during staging • inspect at staging area • enforce volume control • remove unsafe vehicles from the route.

Safety message: music is welcome when it is secure, controlled, and safe for the marching route.