

INTRODUCTION

During the nearly 25 years of its history, the U.S. Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) has built a strong DMV program with the help of law enforcement agencies throughout the United States. An important OFM goal is to clearly explain the process of dealing with foreign diplomatic and consular personnel*, as well as offer our assistance with situations arising from diplomats' infringements of local laws. We at OFM recognize the sensitive issues in dealing with diplomats who break these laws.

The law enforcement community performs a difficult and indispensable service on a daily basis protecting American citizens and their rights. It is also very important that municipal authorities help prevent abuse of diplomatic privileges and immunities. OFM and the Office of the Chief of Protocol uphold both these missions: both offices serve the international community and also protect Americans with whom our diplomatic community shares the road.

We at OFM look forward to a continuing close association with the law enforcement community and to improving and strengthening our relationship. Our close partnership will enhance our ability to protect the American driving public while continuing our service to the foreign diplomatic community. If you have any questions about our Diplomatic Motor Vehicles program, please refer to the contact telephone numbers listed in this publication.

Claude J. Nebel
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Foreign Missions
U.S. Department of State

***NOTE:** For the sake of brevity, foreign diplomatic and consular personnel will be referred to as diplomats. The diplomatic community includes diplomats, consular personnel, administrative and technical staff, and family members of all those listed above.

OFM AND THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

Most people, including many in the law enforcement community, have never heard of the State Department's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM). Many, however, have seen the distinctive U.S. Department of State license plates on the cars driven by diplomats in this country. Those plates are controlled and issued to the diplomatic community by OFM's Diplomatic Motor Vehicle (DMV) office.

OFM's Role with Foreign Diplomats

OFM interacts with the diplomats in a number of different ways. A few diplomats are under travel controls and require OFM permission to travel more than 25 miles from home. But our most comprehensive and best known program is the DMV function, which includes the licensing and registration of all diplomatic vehicles as well as the issuance of U.S. Department of State driver's licenses. OFM is also responsible for ensuring that diplomats who operate motor vehicles in the United States are treated uniformly and in accordance with local and federal regulations, as well as international law.

Diplomatic Immunity Does Not Mean Beyond the Reach of the Law

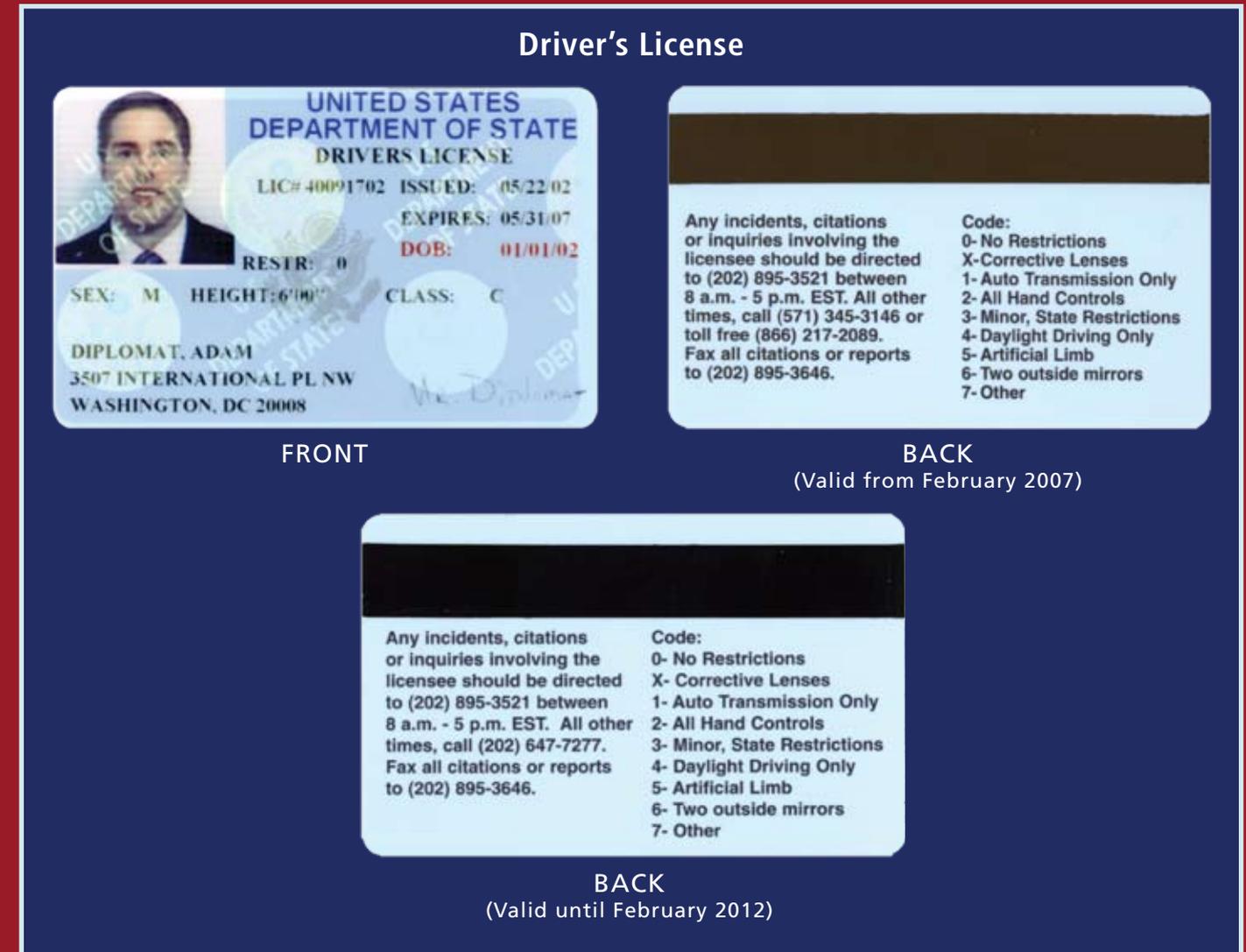
As with any group of 50,000 people, there are occasional infractions of local driving ordinances. The initial responsibility in these cases belongs to law enforcement professionals. Despite the popular assumption about "diplomatic immunity" rendering diplomats beyond the reach of the law, the reality is far different. There are special procedures officials must follow, and we must make certain that diplomats are held accountable for their actions.

Whom to Contact for Guidance

Most law enforcement personnel will only occasionally encounter a diplomat exceeding the speed limit or driving under the influence of alcohol. But it is important to understand what actions you may take and whom you can contact for guidance. This publication is designed to provide that information to law enforcement professionals throughout the country. Contact information is provided in this publication as well as on the reverse side of the U.S. Department of State driver's license.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE

The Diplomatic Motor Vehicles program of the Office of Foreign Missions, U.S. Department of State, is the sole driver licensing authority for diplomats assigned to the United States and their dependents. Foreign driver's licenses may be used for only 30 days after the holder's arrival in the United States. Any citations written against DOS driver's licenses are to be reported to OFM/DMV.



DESCRIPTION: The diplomatic driver's license background is powder blue; lettering is dark blue, black, and red; there are holograms of the U.S. Department of State seal and the wording "U.S. Department of State" covering the front of the card.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

All vehicles owned or operated by the diplomatic community must be registered with the Office of Foreign Missions Diplomatic Motor Vehicles (OFM/DMV) office of the U.S. Department of State (DOS). Titles are not issued upon registration but are obtained at the time of a vehicle's disposition. The registration card indicates the name(s) of the registered owner(s). Registration cards cannot be used to transfer ownership.

Vehicles registered with OFM/DMV must display DOS-issued license plates at their front and rear. Adhesive decals that represent the expiration month and year of the registration must be affixed to the rear license plates of each vehicle. DOS license plates are U.S. Government property and must be returned to OFM/DMV upon termination of mission duties or upon DOS demand. Lost or stolen plates must be reported immediately to the telephone number listed under Diplomatic Motor Vehicles on the contact list.

In 2007 the Office of Foreign Missions issued to the diplomatic community the new license plates shown herein. Most of the permanent license plates are issued in two formats: the new style with three alpha and four numeric digits and the old style with three alpha and three numeric digits. The new format is shown on the right.

Vehicles with DOS License Plates:

- Must be covered by liability insurance.
- Are not generally subject to inspection.
- May not be sold or exported without DOS approval.

Vehicle Operators:

- May hold DOS driver's licenses and are subject to the issuance of traffic citations.
- DOS driver's licenses and vehicle registrations can be verified through NLETS (state code/ORI is "US")

United States Department of State Office of Foreign Missions Washington, D.C. 20520						
80059353	MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION			DSCAL.NO 0200100		
PLATE NO DBB0001	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NO. ABCTD62V810000009		YEAR 2001	MAKE ROL	MODEL SIC	STYLE LM
DIPLOMAT, ADAM M. 3507 INTERNATIONAL PL NW WASHINGTON, DC 20008						
REG. DATE 09/01/2001	CO-OWNER(S)		REG FEE			
EXP. DATE 09/30/2002	TITLE FOR THIS VEHICLE HELD AT THE DIPLOMATIC MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE					



DOS license plates indicate that the operator of a vehicle *may* be:

- Entitled to diplomatic immunity
- Unfamiliar with American customs and the English language
- Unfamiliar with local driving practices

CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Diplomatic Motor Vehicles
3507 International Place, NW
Washington, DC 20008
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST
Monday - Friday
(202) 895-3521
All other times: (571) 345-3146
Toll free: 1-866-217-2089

CHICAGO REGIONAL OFFICE

77 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 2122
Chicago, IL 60604-1503
(312) 353-5762

HOUSTON REGIONAL OFFICE

8701 S. Gessner Road
Alliance Tower, Suite 906
Houston, TX 77074
(713) 272-2865

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL OFFICE

10940 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1425
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(310) 235-6292 255

MIAMI REGIONAL OFFICE

95 Merrick Way, Suite 505
Coral Gables, FL 33134
(305) 442-4943

NEW YORK REGIONAL OFFICE

866 UN Plaza, Suite 265
New York, NY 10017-1811
(212) 826-4500

SAN FRANCISCO REGIONAL OFFICE

One Market Spear St. Tower
Suite 1375
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 744-2910

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL

Protocol: Diplomatic Affairs Division
(202) 274-1217

Copies of this brochure may be obtained through Diplomatic Motor Vehicles and OFM Regional Offices

DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

Diplomatic Security Protective Liaison
3507 International Place, NW
Washington, DC 20008
(202) 895-3600

BOSTON FIELD OFFICE

10 Causeway Street, Suite 1001
Boston, MA 02222
(617) 565-8200

CHICAGO FIELD OFFICE

77 W. Jackson Street, Suite 2121
Chicago, IL 60604-1503
(312) 353-6163

HOUSTON FIELD OFFICE

Federal Building
1919 Smith Street, Suite 870
Houston, TX 77002
(713) 209-3482

LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE

255 Temple Street, Suite 1273
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 894-3290

MIAMI FIELD OFFICE

51 SW First Avenue
Claude Pepper Federal Building
Suite 404
Miami, FL 33130
(305) 536-5781

NEW YORK FIELD OFFICE

One Executive Drive, Suite 500
Fort Lee, NJ 07024
(201) 346-8100

SAN FRANCISCO FIELD OFFICE

235 Pine Street, Suite 900
San Francisco, CA 94104
(415) 705-1176

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

2222 Gallows Road, Suite 300
Dunn Loring, VA 22027
(571) 226-9300



REVISED JUNE 2007

THE DIPLOMATIC BEAT

DRIVER'S LICENSE AND VEHICLE REGISTRATION



TO GUIDE AND ASSIST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THE HANDLING OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PERSONNEL

