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The Secretary of State presents his compliments to Their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission, and has the honor to refer to the Department of State's note No. 11-93, dated May 26, 2011, reminding them of the Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) driver's license acquisition policy as it relates to the registration of motor vehicles, which serves to ensure that all eligible mission members are legally licensed by OFM to operate a motor vehicle.

Chiefs of Mission are reminded that, as advised in the Department's note No. 12-348, dated December 18, 2012, OFM is the exclusive driver licensing and vehicle registering authority for foreign missions and their eligible personnel in the United States. No foreign mission or mission member may legally apply for, and no state may issue, a state driver's license, vehicle registration, or license plate to a foreign mission or its eligible members. Missions are further reminded of the longstanding OFM practice to require applicants who are seeking vehicle registration to either possess or demonstrate that they are actively pursuing a Department of State (DOS) driver's license.

Chiefs of Mission are reminded that individuals and their family members who are eligible for a DOS driver's license, and who desire to operate a vehicle in the United States, must apply for the DOS driver's license within the first 30 days of their arrival in the United States. During this initial 30-day period, individuals are permitted to drive on their home-country driver's license; however, it is important that eligible mission members apply for the DOS driver's license as soon as possible upon their arrival in the United States to ensure that they successfully obtain it before the end of the initial 30-day period. Missions are reminded that drivers using the sending country's license to operate vehicles in the United States after the initial 30-day period may, depending on the laws of the respective U.S. states, be subject to citation by law enforcement for operation of a vehicle without a valid license.

Chiefs of Mission further are reminded that all motor vehicles owned or operated by foreign missions and their eligible members must be registered with OFM's Diplomatic Motor Vehicle Office, and will be registered under the following terms and conditions:

1. Vehicle registration applications submitted within the first 30 days of arrival of the applicant, when the applicant does not yet possess a DOS driver's license and intends to operate the vehicle, must be accompanied by a photocopy and translation of the applicant's valid home-country

license together with a copy of his/her E-GOV application for a DOS driver's license.

2. Vehicle registration applications submitted after 30 days of arrival, when the applicant does not yet possess a DOS driver's license, and intends to operate the vehicle, must include a copy of the E-GOV application for a DOS driver's license along with a diplomatic note from his/her Mission stating that the applicant will not operate the vehicle prior to acquiring the DOS driver's license. The note should further provide the full name, date of birth, driver's license jurisdiction, and driver's license number of anyone who will operate the vehicle pending the applicant's completion of the DOS driver's license acquisition requirements, and a copy of the stated operator's driver's license should be attached.

In the above two scenarios, OFM will issue a non-renewable 30-day temporary vehicle registration, accompanied by a single, 30-day temporary DOS license plate. Permanent DOS license plates will not be issued to any eligible foreign mission member who does not possess a valid DOS driver's license. If the owner/applicant has not obtained a DOS driver's license at the time of expiration of the temporary registration, he/she must cease operation of his/her motor vehicle or else be subject to citation by law enforcement for lack of valid registration. Please also be reminded that, regardless of expired registration, the mission or

mission member remains obligated to continuously maintain the federally-mandated liability insurance levels for their vehicles and to inform OFM promptly of all insurance updates (See <http://www.state.gov/ofm/dmv/insurance/index.htm>).

Finally, for those applicants who do not possess either a DOS driver's license or a valid national license, and who choose not to operate a motor vehicle during their assignment in the United States but nevertheless wish to register a vehicle, the Mission must submit the application for vehicle registration together with a diplomatic note attesting that the owner will not operate this or any other vehicle during his/her assignment in the United States. The note must provide the full name, date of birth, driver's license jurisdiction, and driver's license number of any individual who will operate the vehicle, and a copy of the stated operator's driver's license should be attached. Missions will then be issued permanent DOS license plates for such vehicles.

The Chiefs of Mission are requested to communicate this important information to all diplomatic and consular personnel and their family members throughout the United States. Missions may direct any questions regarding this policy to the Office of Foreign Missions at OFMCustomerService@state.gov or 202-895-3500. The Department appreciates the missions' continuing cooperation

with the Department's motor vehicle program and expects missions to act expeditiously on this matter.

Department of State,

Washington, May 30, 2014.

A small, handwritten mark or signature, possibly a stylized letter or symbol, located to the right of the date.