

18-901

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to Their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission, and wishes to advise them of new policies regarding motor vehicles commonly referred to as “autocycles.” Please see the enclosed image of an “autocycle” for further edification.

The Department’s Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) has conducted an analysis of current trends by state motor vehicle authorities outlined in a report by the National Conference of State Legislatures, as well as recommendations by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), on the registration and driver licensing of autocycles. These vehicles are characterized by having three wheels, a steering wheel, a driver’s seat, and/or passenger seats. No separate category exists at the Federal level for autocycles; they are thus classified as motorcycles and must meet applicable motorcycle manufacturing and safety standards. In the absence of specific guidance, individual States have developed their own regulations. A majority of these states require an autocycle to be registered as a motorcycle, however do not require a separate motorcycle endorsement for lawful operation of this class of motor vehicle.

DIPLOMATIC NOTE

Missions are informed that OFM has decided similarly to harmonize its policies to reflect the states treatment of autocycles, to wit OFM will register autocycles as motorcycles and operators will not need a motorcycle endorsement on their Department-issued license to lawfully operate this class of motor vehicle.

For more information on these restrictions, missions may refer to the aforementioned report at <http://www.ncsl.org/research/transportation/transportation-review-autocycles.aspx>.

The Department requests that Chiefs of Mission ensure this information is thoroughly disseminated to all mission members at their Embassies and Consulates. Missions may direct any questions regarding this matter to the Department's Office of Foreign Missions Office of Diplomatic Motor Vehicles either by electronic mail to OFMDMV@state.gov or by telephone at 202-895-3500.

Enclosure:

As stated.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RCM', is written over the text 'As stated.'

Department of State,

Washington, June 13, 2018.

Autocycle Example

