

UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK

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HC-105-14

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to Permanent Missions to the United Nations and the United Nations Secretariat and wishes to inform the missions that the United States Department of State has decided, for public safety reasons and after conducting extensive research on the subject, to revise its current policy concerning the testing requirements for obtaining a Department of State driver's license issued by the Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) with a "motorcycle endorsement" that permits the licensee to operate a motorcycle in the United States.

The Department's current policy allows members of the Permanent Missions and their dependents who hold a valid foreign license with a motorcycle endorsement permitting operation of a motorcycle with an engine size of 250 cubic centimeters or above, to add a motorcycle endorsement to their OFM-issued driver's license with no additional training or testing. The current policy also requires mission members and their eligible dependents who *do not* hold a valid

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foreign driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement permitting operation of a motorcycle with an engine size of 250 cubic centimeters or above, and who wish to obtain a motorcycle endorsement on their OFM-issued driver's license, to meet the requirements for novice motorcycle operators as imposed in the U.S. state in which they live.

To ensure that motorcycle operators possess the necessary motorcycle safety skills, the Department has concluded that it is necessary, for reasons of public and rider safety, to require motorcycle training/testing in instances where the applicant's motorcycle endorsement was issued under foreign standards less stringent than standards applied by states in the United States, as determined by OFM. Permanent Missions to the United Nations will be notified separately in writing if such a determination is made.

The United States Mission wishes to take this opportunity to provide the following details on the Department's new policy for motorcycle endorsement issuance:

1. OFM will not require any additional testing if an applicant holds a valid foreign driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement permitting operation of a motorcycle with an engine size of 125 cubic centimeters or above, and

2. OFM has found that the issuing country's motorcycle endorsement testing and preparation requirements are equivalent to U.S. standards.
3. If the applicant does not meet the criteria set out in paragraph 1 above, he/she will now be required to complete the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) "BasicRider" course which is offered in 48 states or the approved course in the U.S. state in which the applicant lives, all of which meet or exceed the standards established by MSF. To determine an applicant's nearest training provider and course availability, missions are requested to visit the MSF website at <http://www.msf-usa.org/students.aspx>. Please note the cost of these courses varies by jurisdiction.

The Permanent Missions to the United Nations are informed that mission members are only required to obtain an OFM-issued driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement for the operation of a moped, scooter, or motorcycle with an engine size of 49 cubic centimeters and above. For the operation of the abovementioned vehicles with an engine size below 49 cubic centimeters, a regular class C driver's license is sufficient.

The Permanent Missions to the United Nations are requested to communicate this important information to all eligible mission personnel and their family members. The United States Mission to the United Nations appreciates the

missions' continuing cooperation with the host country's motor vehicle program and avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'JBS' or similar, written in a cursive style.