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The Secretary of State presents his compliments to Their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and refers to the services provided to the diplomatic and consular community by the Department's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM), including the provision of Department-issued Non-Driver Identification Cards to eligible foreign mission members and their dependents over the age of 16. The Department wishes to take this opportunity to inform the Missions of a change in this practice by OFM as more fully detailed below.

The Missions are informed that OFM's longstanding practice has been to issue Non-Driver Identification Cards to members of the diplomatic and consular community and their dependents who are at a minimum 16 years of age, and who do not possess a Department-issued driver's license. The Department is pleased to announce that, for the convenience of missions and their members and in order to conform its practices to many of the states, OFM will remove the minimal age requirement and begin issuing Non-Driver Identification Cards to eligible mission members and their dependents between the ages of birth and 21, who do not possess a Department-issued driver's license.

The application process for the OFM-issued Non-Driver Identification Card will remain the same; applications will continue to be submitted to OFM using the Department's "e-Gov" system. Missions are reminded Non-Driver Identification Cards, like Department-issued driver's licenses, are mailed directly to the applicants' residential address. Therefore it is important missions ensure their members' addresses are correct with the Office of the Chief of Protocol.

Missions are informed that OFM continuously strives to improve recognition of Department-issued credentials nationwide. To that end, missions are encouraged to immediately notify OFM of any occurrence when an OFM-issued credential is not recognized by a federal, state or local authority so that OFM can provide outreach and advocate for corrective action.

Should the mission have questions regarding this matter, please direct all such questions to OFM at 202-895-3682 or email to OFMCustomerService@state.gov. For missions outside of Washington, D.C., please contact the OFM regional office responsible for your area; contact details for OFM regional offices can be found at <http://www.state.gov/ofm/contact/index.htm>.

Department of State,

Washington, October 18, 2013.

