



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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NOTICE

Cessation of Honorary Consul License Plates

The Office of the Foreign Missions (OFM) remains the sole entity for the issuance of license plates for diplomatic vehicles and the extension or confirmation of the inviolability of those vehicles. Honorary consular officers are not eligible to register their vehicles with OFM or to obtain Department of State license plates.

Many states have previously issued honorary consul vanity license plates (HC vanity plates). The issuance of HC vanity plates at the state level may imply privileges and immunities to which honorary consular officers are not entitled. Earlier this year, OFM notified the appropriate authorities in each state of its preference to cease the issuance of HC vanity plates. Many states have already acted on this initiative.

The elimination of HC vanity plates

- prevents further fraud or abuse regarding the acquisition and use of this category of license plate;
- does not inhibit honorary consular officer from carrying out their official duties; and
- assists Federal, state, and local law enforcement officials with the proper identification of diplomatic vehicles.

All honorary consular officers will continue to have a Department-issued identification card to be used when carrying out their official duties, and will continue to enjoy privileges and immunities as specified in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (entered into force for the United States on December 24, 1969; TIAS 6820).

For questions about this information, please contact OFM at 202-647-3417 or OFM-Policy@state.gov.