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The Secretary of State presents his compliments to Their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and wishes to advise them of policy changes associated with motor vehicle driving services provided to the diplomatic and consular community by the Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM).

Missions are advised that effective immediately, OFM will discontinue the issuance of Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL), also known as a class B license, to members of the foreign mission community. The CDL allowed individuals holding this class of license to drive vehicles carrying 16 or more people. CDLs previously issued by OFM remain valid through their expiration date.

Procedures for issuing standard, non-commercial driver's licenses remain unchanged. Mission members holding OFM's non-commercial license maintain the authorization to drive vehicles carrying up to 15 passengers, including the driver.

Foreign mission members and their dependents who are required to receive services from OFM and are seeking to obtain a CDL – in addition to their standard OFM-issued license – have the opportunity to obtain a CDL through their local

Department of Motor Vehicles or affiliated local motor vehicle agency in their state of residence. Mission members seeking to obtain a CDL through this means must first request a special CDL “Non-Eligibility Letter” from OFM, which the individual would use to apply for a CDL from the appropriate local or state agency. If the local Department of Motor Vehicles issues the CDL, the individual would thereafter carry two licenses, presenting the OFM license while driving a non-commercial vehicle with 15 or fewer passengers (including the driver) and the CDL when driving a commercial vehicle with 16 or more passengers (including the driver).

All requests for CDL “Non-Eligibility Letters” must be submitted via a diplomatic note that includes the applicant’s personal identification number (PID), full name and date of birth, and the complete residential address of the applicant in the United States to OFM at [OFM-Policy@state.gov](mailto:OFM-Policy@state.gov).

The Missions are reminded that the following individuals, unless they are U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents, considered locally engaged staff, or members of household (parents, parents in-law, overage children, etc...) will still be required to receive driver’s licenses for operating non-commercial motor vehicles and motor vehicle registration services for all vehicles from OFM:

- Diplomatic agents and their eligible dependents
- Administrative and technical staff and their eligible dependents

- Embassy service staff and their eligible dependents
- Consular officers and their eligible dependents
- Consular employees and their eligible dependents
- Consular service staff and their eligible dependents
- International organization personnel and their dependents who enjoy full privileges and immunities

These changes are a result of the Department's efforts to ensure safety and to better serve the foreign mission community within the United States in a more efficient and uniform manner. The Department requests that Missions disseminate this information to all mission personnel and their family members throughout the United States. Missions may direct any questions regarding this matter to OFM at [OFM-Policy@state.gov](mailto:OFM-Policy@state.gov)

Department of State,

Washington, March 2, 2022.

