



22-2002

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to Their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and has the honor to refer to the Department of State's driver's license acquisition policy as it relates to the registration of motor vehicles. This note supersedes the Department's diplomatic note No. 14-978, dated May 30, 2014.

The Chiefs of Mission are reminded that the Department's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) is the exclusive driver's licensing and motor vehicle registration authority for foreign missions and their eligible members in the United States. Mission members are permitted to drive with their valid non-OFM-issued driver's license only for their first 30 days in the United States. After that time, mission members who wish to drive in the United States must possess a valid OFM-issued driver's license. With the exception of short-term rental cars, OFM requires that all vehicles owned and/or operated by foreign mission members be registered with OFM. Furthermore, OFM requires that any individual operating an OFM-registered vehicle be properly licensed and insured in accordance with the Department's requirements.

DIPLOMATIC NOTE

Applicants for an OFM-issued vehicle registration and license plates must first possess a valid OFM-issued driver's license – or – alternatively, they may submit along with their eGov vehicle registration application, a diplomatic note from the mission which states the following:

- The applicant will not operate the vehicle unless and until they have been issued a valid OFM-issued driver's license.
- Any individual who will operate the vehicle (e.g., spouse, members of household, chauffeur, etc...) will be properly licensed and insured in accordance with the Department's requirements.

The Department reminds the missions that failure to abide by the Department's requirements regarding driver's licensing and motor vehicle registration will result in serious consequences, to include the suspension or revocation of driving privileges or the Department requiring a mission member's departure from the United States.

Missions may direct questions regarding the issuance of driver's licenses and vehicle registrations to OFM-DMV@state.gov and questions regarding this policy to OFM-Policy@state.gov.

Department of State,

Washington, August 30, 2022.

