

# Registry News

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## Dual Registrations

The RMV recently issued an Update on Dual Registrations. Below is the complete update:

### What is Dual Registration?

Vehicles or trailers registered in another state must also sometimes be registered in Massachusetts (MA). This is called "dual registration".

### When is Dual Registration Required?

Motor vehicles or trailers registered in another state may need to be registered in MA under the dual registration concept (MGL Chapter 90, Section 3) and display plates from both jurisdictions (as required in MGL Chapter 90, Section 6). This applies to vehicles that meet all of the following conditions:

- Owned by nonresidents
- Registered in another state
- In the possession of, or under the control of, MA residents for more than 30 days (not necessarily consecutive) within a calendar year period

Examples of when dual registration is required:

- A MA resident works in RI and her company provides a vehicle, which is registered in RI, for her business and personal use. She drives the vehicle home to MA at the end of each day. She is in possession and control of the vehicle in MA for at least 30 days in the calendar year.
- A MA resident lives and works in MA and has the use of a vehicle owned by his parents who live in NY. The vehicle is registered and titled in NY. He is in possession and control of the vehicle in MA for at least 30 days in the calendar year.

In both of these examples, the vehicle must be registered in MA and must also be insured to at least the minimum insurance requirements in MA.

Example of when dual registration is not required:

- A NH resident has his vehicle registered in NH. He commutes to MA for work every day.

In this example, dual registration is NOT required. However, if the vehicle is operated in MA for more than 30 days within the calendar year, the vehicle must be insured to at least the minimum insurance requirements in MA.

The following is required for a dual registration:

- Both states' registration plates need to be displayed. One may be affixed to the vehicle and the other may be displayed in the rear window.
- The MA registration needs to be kept in the vehicle or carried by the operator. The other state's registration certificate is governed by that state's law.
- The vehicle must have out-of-state insurance that meets at least the minimum MA requirements and is provided by an insurance company approved to do business in MA.
- If the vehicle is registered and titled out-of-state, a MA title is NOT required.

LEGAL NOTE: MGL Chapter 90, Section 9 requires that every vehicle operated in MA must be registered in MA unless it is exempted by the provisions of Section 3. Section 3 generally exempts vehicles owned by nonresidents from registration in MA if the vehicles are properly registered in the owner's home state and the vehicles are not in the possession of, or under the control of, a resident of MA. If a vehicle is properly registered both in MA and elsewhere, MGL Chapter 90, Section 6 allows the display of each jurisdiction's registration plates.



## RMV Releases New FID User Guide

The RMV recently released an updated version of the [FID User Guide](#). This is intended to guide agents and RMV personnel through the process of adding and amending companies in the RMV database (ALARS).

The Guide explains the proper way of handling Sole Proprietors, General Partnerships, Incorporated Companies, Leasing Companies, Trusts, and Foreign Corporations including the characteristics of each business type, required documentaton for registration and/or titling, address changes, names changes and proof of FID number.

Click [here](#) to view or download the guide.



## RMV Releases New Spanish Driver's Manual

A new Spanish Driver's Manual is now in the warehouse and will soon be distributed to all RMV branches. This manual is dated 12/2015 and it matches the 12/2015 English version. It is now available on the RMV website. This manual has a glossy yellow cover. Click [here](#) to view/download the manual.



## Taiwanese License Conversion

### **Taiwanese License Conversions Processed Only at Boston (Haymarket) RMV Branch**

Effective immediately, the RMV has an arrangement with Taiwan to convert a valid Taiwanese passenger license (Taiwanese Class B) or motorcycle license (Taiwanese Class A2) that is in good standing to an equivalent Massachusetts Class D or Class M license as long as the customer is at least 18 years of age and meets the RMV's residency and identification requirements. The customer will not be required to take a learner's permit exam or road test in order to convert the Taiwanese license.

A Taiwanese license conversion can ONLY be processed at the Boston (Haymarket) RMV branch at this time. Additional RMV branches may be allowed to process these conversions in the future; further notification will be sent out if this occurs.

Once converted, the Taiwanese license must be surrendered to the RMV to be stored at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston (also known as TECO). The customer will only have a Massachusetts license.

As part of this agreement, a Massachusetts resident who moves to Taiwan will also be allowed to convert his/her Massachusetts license to a Taiwanese license.

### **Customers Who Already Obtained a Permit**

If a customer has already obtained a Massachusetts Learner's Permit, but would now like to convert his/her Taiwanese License, this will be permitted.

If the customer has already taken and failed one or more Massachusetts road tests, he/she is not eligible to convert the Taiwanese license and must pass a road test in order to get a Massachusetts license.

### **Conversion Requirements**

To convert a Taiwanese license, a customer must meet the following requirements:

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must meet the Massachusetts residency requirements (including all visa requirements)
- Must meet the RMV's identification requirements
- The Taiwanese license cannot be expired, suspended, or revoked



## Taiwanese License Conversion

### Customer Procedure

The following steps must be completed by the customer:

1. Obtain a completed and stamped Taiwanese Driver's License Translation. A customer can get this official translation at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston, or he/she can have the license translated and certified by one of the acceptable translators listed in the "Translation Required Policy" section of the Driver's Manual (page 16).

Copies of license application forms are also available at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston.

The office's phone number is 617-737-2050.

Its website is <http://www.roc-taiwan.org/US/BOS/>

Its address is:

99 Summer Street, Suite 801 Boston MA 02110

2. Visit the Boston (Haymarket) RMV branch.
3. Submit the completed and stamped or certified translation of the Taiwanese driver's license.
4. Submit an original, unaltered, and certified driving record that was issued no more than 60 days earlier by the agency issuing the driver's license and a translation of the driving record obtained from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston or from one of the acceptable translators listed in the "Translation Required Policy" section of the Driver's Manual (page 16).

The driving record should include evidence of the applicant's current license status to operate a passenger motor vehicle or motorcycle.

5. Pay all of the required license conversion fees (learner's permit exam fee, road test fee, and license issuance fee).
6. Surrender the Taiwanese license to the RMV for storage at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston.

Taiwanese licenses stored at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston will be returned to a customer if he/she intends to permanently return to Taiwan. If the customer makes a temporary visit to Taiwan, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston will return the Taiwanese license and hold the customer's MA license until he/she returns the Taiwanese license.



## Late Breaking News ... Governor Signs Licensing Bill

This just in from State House News Service ...

Flanked by a bipartisan group of lawmakers, law enforcement officials and advocates, Gov. Charlie Baker on Wednesday made official the near-total repeal of a 1989 law that critics have called a remnant of the War on Drugs that has prevented ex-offenders from successfully reintegrating into society.

Just after 11 a.m., Baker took what he called a "small but hugely important step" toward bringing down recidivism rates and smoothing the transition for offenders leaving the justice system and signed a bill (S 2021) to end the automatic suspension of driver's licenses for most drug offenders whose crimes were not related to the operation of a motor vehicle.

"The one thing I think has become clear, especially to those of us who try to pay attention to the data, is that one of the big problems we face in criminal justice is re-entry. The ability for people who made a mistake, who paid their dues, to find their way back into productive life with purpose," Baker said. "The lack of a license, the lack of a driver's license should be obvious to everybody is a huge impediment to somebody's ability to find work and find purpose."



## Late Breaking News ... Governor Signs Licensing Bill

The bill also waives the \$500 reinstatement fee for those who had their licenses suspended under the old law. The legislation had bipartisan support, and the final bill was unanimously endorsed in both branches. Senate Majority Leader Harriette Chandler, who sponsored the bill that was passed by the Senate in September, said that 7,000 people lost their licenses every year under the old law and many could not find a job to pay the \$500 fee without having a license to get to that job. "These are people that cannot get jobs, they cannot do the things that we take for granted. They can't even get to doctors appointments because they have no transportation," Chandler said. "They did the crime, they paid their time and now they are going to rejoin society with some of the tools that are really important." - Colin A. Young/SHNS

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As always, please feel free to contact Donna McKenna or Kathy Cormier by phone at 800.972.9312 or 508.634.2900 or by email at [dmckenna@massagent.com](mailto:dmckenna@massagent.com) or [kcormier@massagent.com](mailto:kcormier@massagent.com).

MAIA would like to acknowledge our 2016 Agent Awareness Campaign Diamond and Platinum company partners. Please support those companies that support the Independent Insurance Agent.

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