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.