

## A. Parties to the 1949 Road Traffic Convention and the 1943 Inter-American Automotive Traffic Convention

A foreign visitor from one of the countries or territories listed here may legally drive on the roads of the Commonwealth on his or her own country's license (limited to a licensed driver who is at least 18 years old and limited to a vehicle of the type covered by the license) for up to one year from the date of arrival. The visitor may operate his or her own private passenger vehicle if displaying valid license plates from the visitor's country (and meeting insurance standards set by the Commonwealth if operated longer than 30 days) for up to one year from the date of arrival.

Except for those registered in Mexico and Canada, vehicles being operated in Massachusetts that are registered in any of the countries listed in Appendix A (including Germany and Switzerland) must also exhibit the **International Distinguishing Sign** on the outside rear of the vehicle. The sign is a white oval that is obtained from the country of registration and contains one to three black letters identifying the country.

A licensed driver from one of the countries listed here, or a Massachusetts licensed driver operating in one of the listed countries, should consider obtaining and carrying, in addition to his or her valid home country license, an International Driving Permit. Permits are available, for a fee, from certain automobile associations but can only be issued in the country the applicant is coming from. An International Driving Permit does *not* confer any driving privileges but is a translation into ten major languages of the relevant information contained on the driver's home country license.

**CAUTION:** The Registrar and law enforcement agencies know that individuals or organizations have sold fraudulent documents as "International Driver Licenses" or "International Driving Permits." The Registrar *does not* recognize as valid any document purporting to be an "International Driver License" or any other document that confers driving privileges *unless issued by the government agency that issues such licenses in the driver's country of residence and the driver is validly licensed.* A person operating a motor vehicle with a fraudulent Massachusetts license is subject to arrest pursuant to MGL c. 90, §24B, and MGL c. 90, §10.

*The Registrar reserves the right to amend this list at any time based on additional information received from the U.S. Department of State or other sources.*

Albania	Chile*	Gambia, The	Ivory Coast (See Côte
Algeria	Colombia*	Germany (by reciprocity)	D'Ivoire)
Argentina*+	Congo	Georgia (Rep. of)	Jamaica
Australia	Congo, Democratic Rep.	Ghana	Japan
Austria	Costa Rica*	Greece	Jordan
Bahamas, The	Côte D'Ivoire(Ivory Coast)	Grenada	Korea
Bangladesh	Cuba	Guatemala*+	Kyrgyz Rep.
Barbados	Cyprus	Guyana	Laos
Belgium	Czech Republic	Haiti*+	Lebanon
Belize	Denmark	Honduras*	Lesotho
Benin	Dominican Republic*+	Hong Kong (but not	Luxembourg
Botswana	Ecuador*+	mainland China)	Macao (but not
Brazil*	Egypt	Hungary	mainland China)
Bulgaria	El Salvador*	Iceland	Madagascar
Cambodia	Fiji	India	Malawi
Canada	Finland	Ireland	Malaysia
Central African Re-	France (including French	Israel	Mali
public	Overseas Territories)	Italy	Malta

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Mauritius	Portugal (applies to all	Surinam	United Kingdom
Mexico*	Portuguese territories)	Swaziland	(Great Britain and
Monaco	Romania	Sweden	Northern Ireland,
Montenegro	Russian Federation	Switzerland (by	also applies to Cay-
Morocco	Rwanda	reciprocity)	man Islands;
Namibia	St. Lucia	Syrian Arab Republic	Gibraltar; Bailiwick
Netherlands (also applies	St. Vincent and the Grena-	Taiwan (Republic of	of Guernsey; Isle of
to Netherlands Antilles,	dines	China)	Man; and States of
and Aruba)	San Marino	Tanzania	Jersey)
New Zealand	Senegal	Thailand	United States of
Nicaragua*	Serbia	Togo	America*+
Niger	Seychelles	Trinidad and Tobago	Uruguay*
Norway	Sierra Leone	Tunisia	Vatican City
Panama*	Singapore	Turkey	Venezuela*
Papua New Guinea	Slovak Rep.	Uganda	Vietnam, Rep.
Paraguay*+	South Africa	(Union of Soviet	Western Samoa
Peru*+	Spain (applies to African	Socialist Republics,	Zambia
Philippines	localities and provinces)	USSR, no longer exists.	Zimbabwe
Poland	Sri Lanka	See individual republics)	

From **“A List of Treaties in Force and Other International Agreements of the United States in Force on January 1, 2007, Section 2: Multilateral Treaties”** (Published by the Treaty Affairs Staff, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC).

The countries or territories listed are either direct parties to one or both of the cited Conventions or the U.S. State Department considers them bound as beneficiaries by the signature of a former government.

**NOTE:** Until further notice, licenses from the following former republics of the USSR and countries of the Baltics should be honored:

Armenia	Moldova	Uzbekistan
Azerbaijan	Tajikistan	Latvia
Belarus	Turkmenistan	Lithuania
Kazakstan	Ukraine	Estonia

**NOTE:** *German and Swiss Drivers Granted Privileges.* The Registrar has determined that Germany and Switzerland enforce standards of fitness of operators 18 years old or over, substantially as high as those prescribed and enforced by this Commonwealth, and that they grant to properly licensed residents of this Commonwealth the privilege of operating a properly registered motor vehicle of a type that he or she is licensed to operate with his or her Massachusetts license. Therefore, pursuant to MGL c. 90, §10, the Registrar grants to residents of Germany and Switzerland who are 18 years old or over the privileges of operating in this Commonwealth, provided such nonresidents have complied fully with the laws of their home countries and have valid operator’s licenses in their possession or in their vehicles in some easily accessible place.

\*= Party to 1943 Int.-Am. Conv., at Washington, DC

\*+= Party to 1943 Conv. and Party to 1949 Conv. at Geneva

**NOTE:** The United States did not ratify and is not a Party to the 1968 Road Traffic Convention at Vienna.

### ***Driving Privileges for NATO Forces:***

Massachusetts is legally required to honor the provisions of the ***Agreement Between The Parties To The North Atlantic Treaty Regarding the Status of Forces*** (NATO SOFA), entered into by the US on August 23, 1953. The Treaty accords driving privileges to active duty military members of NATO forces on assignment in this country (usually for training purposes) and also to civilian components attached to the NATO forces. Therefore, Massachusetts accepts as valid, without a driving test or fee, the driving permit, license or military driving permit issued by a NATO country to its own military personnel or to the personnel of a civilian component of the military force.

#### **NATO military and civilian component personnel are required to carry and present on demand:**

- (a) a personal identity card issued by the sending NATO country showing names, date of birth, rank and number (if any), service, and photograph.
- (b) an individual or collective movement order, in the language of the sending country and in the English and French languages, issued by an agency of the sending country or NATO and certifying to the status of the individual or group as a member or members of a force and to the movement ordered.

#### **Members of a civilian component and dependents shall be so described in their passports.**

Dependents of military personnel of NATO force personnel on assignment in the U.S., and dependents of civilian employees assigned to those NATO forces, who are from one of the NATO member countries listed below, may legally drive on the roads of the Commonwealth, **on their home country license**, for up to one year from the date of arrival, under the Multilateral Road Traffic Convention of 1949 or applicable reciprocal agreements.

**List of NATO Member Countries:** Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.