

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. MGL (Massachusetts General Law) Chapter 90, Section 11 requires a driver to have his/her license and registration handy when operating a vehicle. There is a \$35 fine for a first offense for the failure to produce either document.

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.**

A holder of a license from a country listed here is **not entitled** to convert that license to a Massachusetts driver's license while still a visitor to Massachusetts. Only a resident of this state (with acceptable required documentation) can obtain a Massachusetts license. If a former visitor believes he/she has become a resident, he/she may apply to take a learner's permit exam and a road test to obtain a Massachusetts license. A short-term foreign visitor with B-1, B-2, or other short-term status cannot qualify as a resident.

A limited number of countries have entered into reciprocal arrangements with Massachusetts to allow former licensed residents of either country to convert their valid license upon becoming a resident in the other country **without the need for a written or road test**. See the "Converting Your License from Another Jurisdiction" section of Chapter One for more information.

Avoid International License Scams: 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.

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|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Albania | Barbados | Cambodia | Costa Rica* |
| Algeria | Belgium | Canada | Côte D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) |
| Andorra (Principality) | Belize | Central African Repub. | Cuba |
| Argentina*+ | Benin | Chile* | Cyprus |
| Australia | Botswana | Colombia* | Czech Republic |
| Austria | Brazil* | Congo | Denmark |
| Bahamas, The | Bulgaria | Congo, Democratic Rep. | Dominican Republic*+ |
| Bangladesh | Burkina Faso | | |

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|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ecuador*+ | Kyrgystan | Peru*+ | Tanzania |
| Egypt | Lao People's | Philippines | Thailand |
| El Salvador* | Democratic Rep. | Poland | Togo |
| Fiji | Lebanon | Portugal (applies to all | Trinidad and Tobago |
| Finland | Lesotho | Portuguese provinces) | Tunisia |
| France (including | Luxembourg | Republic of Korea | Turkey |
| Overseas Territories) | Macao (but not | (South) | Uganda |
| Gambia, The | mainland China) | Romania | (Union of Soviet |
| Georgia (Rep. of) | Madagascar | Russian Federation | Socialist Republics, |
| Ghana | Malawi | Rwanda | USSR, no longer exists. |
| Greece | Malaysia | St. Lucia | See individual republics) |
| Grenada | Mali | St. Vincent and the | United Kingdom (Great |
| Guatemala*+ | Malta | Grenadines | Britain and Northern |
| Guyana | Mauritius | San Marino | Ireland, also applies to |
| Haiti*+ | Mexico* | Senegal | Cayman Islands; |
| Holy See (The Vatican) | Monaco | Serbia | Gibraltar; Bailiwick of |
| Honduras* | Montenegro | Seychelles | Guernsey; Isle of Man; |
| Hong Kong (but not | Morocco | Sierra Leone | and States of Jersey) |
| mainland China) | Namibia | Singapore | United Arab Emirates |
| Hungary | Netherlands (also | Slovakia | United States of |
| Iceland | applies to Netherlands | Slovenia | America*+ |
| India | Antilles, Aruba, and | South Africa | Uruguay* |
| Ireland | Suriname) | Spain (applies to Afri- | Vatican City (Holy See) |
| Israel | New Zealand | can localities and prov- | Venezuela* |
| Italy | Nicaragua* | inces) | Vietnam, Rep. |
| Ivory Coast (See Côte | Niger | Sri Lanka | Western Samoa |
| D'Ivoire) | Nigeria | Swaziland | Zambia |
| Jamaica | Norway | Sweden | Zimbabwe |
| Japan | Panama* | Syrian Arab Republic | |
| Jordan | Papua New Guinea | Taiwan (Republic of | |
| Korea, Republic of (South) | Paraguay*+ | China) | |

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

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

From “*A List of Treaties in Force and Other International Agreements of the United States in Force on January 1, 2016, 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:

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

NOTE: Drivers from Germany and Switzerland Granted Driving Privileges: The Registrar of Motor Vehicles has determined that certain countries, in addition to those granted driving privileges by the previously mentioned Treaties, enforce standards of fitness of operators 18 years old or over, substantially as high as those prescribed and enforced by this Commonwealth, and that these countries 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 in their country. The Registrar has, therefore, entered into reciprocal arrangements with the authorized representatives or authorities of Germany and Switzerland. Pursuant to MGL Chapter 90, Section 10, a person holding a driver license from Germany or Switzerland who is 18 years old or over may operate a motor vehicle of a type for which the driver is licensed, on the public ways of the Commonwealth, provided such nonresident has complied fully with the laws of his/her country where the license was issued and has the valid operator's license in his/her possession or in his/her vehicle in some easily accessible place. In exchange, Germany and Switzerland have agreed to provide similar license recognition and driving privileges to Massachusetts licensed drivers under similar terms and conditions.

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.

2017 List of all 29 NATO Member Countries: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.