

Identification Requirements for Motor Vehicle or Trailer Registration

In order to register a motor vehicle or trailer in Massachusetts, you must prove your identity by providing specific documents to the RMV.

What are the identification requirements to register a motor vehicle or trailer in Massachusetts?

Individuals must provide ONE of the following documents to prove their identity:

- **Unexpired Massachusetts (MA) driver's license (DL) or ID card**
 - ✓ MA DL or ID card number must be on the Registration and Title Application.
 - ✓ MA DL and ID card number will be verified by the RMV.
- **Unexpired out-of-state (OOS) or out-of-country (OOC) driver's license**
 - ✓ OOS or OOC DL number and expiration date must be on the Registration and Title Application.
 - ✓ Physical driver's license is required if owner registers in person. If owner is not present, a color copy of the front and back of the driver's license is required. See photocopy guidelines below.
- **Social Security Number (SSN)**
 - ✓ Social security number must be on the Registration and Title Application.
 - ✓ Physical social security card must be presented in person by the individual.
 - ✓ Social security card cannot be laminated.
- **Proof of Lawful Presence**
 - ✓ Lawful presence means that you're legally living in the United States according to federal immigration laws. Owner or registrant must present one of the documents listed on Mass.Gov/ID (list of acceptable documents [here](#)).

Note: If a motor vehicle or trailer has two owners, both owners must meet the identity requirements. The identification requirements apply to the following registration transactions:

- New Registrations
- Renewals
- Plate Swaps
- Plate Transfers
- Reinstatements
- Amendments

Are photocopies and photographs accepted to prove identification?

Yes. Please review the guidelines below.

Color photocopies and color photographs are:

1. Accepted ONLY for OOS or OOC driver's licenses.
2. Accepted ONLY when the owner of the motor vehicle or trailer is not physically present.
 - The individual completing the registration must present a color photocopy or a color photograph of both sides of the owner's OOS or OOC driver's license at the time of the transaction.
 - The color photocopy or the color photograph must be fully legible and free of shadows and flashes to ensure all data elements on the driver's license can be understood and readable.

(over)

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When are color photocopies and color photographs accepted to prove identification?

- When an insurance agent representative (“Runner”) is completing a motor vehicle or trailer transaction for an OOS or OOC customer and is providing the color photocopy or color photograph of the customer’s driver’s license to the RMV, in addition to the other required paperwork.
- For a motor vehicle or trailer with two owners who are from OOS or OOC:
 - ✓ If both customers are there physically, they each must provide their actual driver’s license.
 - ✓ If only one of the owners is physically present when completing the transaction, a color photocopy or color photograph of the driver’s license of the person who is not present must be provided.
 - ✓ If neither owner is physically present, the runner must provide a color photocopy or color photograph of both customers’ driver’s licenses.

Note: The RMV reserves the right to require translation or additional documentation.

Reminder, color photocopies and color photographs are accepted ONLY for OOS or OOC driver’s licenses.

What documents do runners need from customers when processing their registrations?

Runners can complete motor vehicle or trailer transactions for their customers using one of the following identification requirements:

- Unexpired MA driver’s license or ID card number
 - ✓ MA driver’s license or ID card number must be on the Registration and Title Application which is verified by the RMV.
- Unexpired OOS or OOC driver’s license
 - ✓ Runner must provide the color photocopy or color photograph of the owner’s driver’s license(s). See photocopy guidelines.
- Established SSN on file in the RMV system
 - ✓ If the SSN is not on file in RMV’s system, runners cannot complete registration. The customer must register in person with their physical social security card to meet this requirement.

Note: If individual(s) has proven lawful presence and their length of stay is active and verified by the RMV, the runner can complete the registration transaction.

Are there any exemptions to the identification requirements in Massachusetts?

Yes. Identification requirement for registration do not apply for:

- Business Owners (e.g., corporations, LLCs, general partnerships)
 - ✓ Required to provide an FEIN/FID to register a motor vehicle or trailer.
- Lessees
 - ✓ Leasing company is the owner of the vehicle, not the registrant.
- Trusts with an FEIN
 - ✓ Required to provide proof of trust to register a motor vehicle or trailer.
- Moped Owners
 - ✓ Mopeds are not classified as motor vehicles.

If you have any questions regarding identification and registration requirements, please visit Mass.Gov/RMV, select “Register and Title Your Vehicle,” and choose the appropriate registration option, or email the RMV at RMVATLASSupport@dot.state.ma.us

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