

FACT SHEET

Armed Forces Personnel

Pennsylvania Vehicle Registration and Driver's License Information

PURPOSE

The purpose of this fact sheet is to inform residents of Pennsylvania only, who are active-duty members of the United States Armed Forces, of their rights and privileges concerning driver's licenses and vehicle titles and registrations.

DRIVER'S LICENSE INFORMATION

The Pennsylvania driver's license of a service person on active duty in the United States Armed Forces will continue to be valid as long as active service continues outside the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and for an additional 45 days after returning to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or following separation from the Armed Forces. This also applies to the Pennsylvania driver's licenses of the service person's spouse and dependent child(ren) who reside in the same household.

Service persons still on active duty and their family members may also choose to renew their licenses at four-year intervals. A renewal application will be mailed to your address, as listed on our records, approximately three months prior to your license expiration date. After you return your renewal application along with the processing fees to the Bureau of Driver Licensing, you will receive either a camera card for a photo license, or an exempt from photo driver's license camera card, which must be signed and returned to the Bureau of Driver Licensing for processing a valid without photo driver's license.

In order for a service person to drive with an expired driver's license, it must be legible and in the possession of the service person and/or family member(s). Each service person must also have military documents in their possession indicating the service assignment outside the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania does not issue special licenses to military personnel, nor does it affix a special stamp to these licenses. However, military personnel and dependents can apply for a Military Status Endorsement Card by completing the Military Status Endorsement Card, Form DL-176.

Issuance of a Pennsylvania Military Endorsement Card will assure that the service person's Pennsylvania driver's record remains valid during extended military absences from the commonwealth. For commercial driver license holders, only the record will show this status, as a PA Military Status Endorsement Card is not applicable. If you need a license due to loss, change of name or change of address when your driver's license has expired, you must renew it in order for PennDOT to produce a license.

When the Pennsylvania driver's license has expired, a duplicate license cannot be produced to replace a lost, stolen or mutilated license, nor can a replacement license or update card be issued containing a change of information such as name or address. You must renew the driver's license in these situations.



ACCESS PENNDOT'S WEBSITE FOR DRIVER LICENSING SERVICES

The following online driver licensing transactions are available at PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services website, www.pa.gov/dmv. Your address must be correct on our records. PennDOT accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa for online transactions.

- ❖ Renewal of non-commercial driver's license or photo ID card (not available to CDL holders at this time).
- ❖ Change of address (only PA addresses may be entered online). For an out-of-state address (not applicable for commercial driver products) please use Form DL-80, "Non-Commercial Driver's License Application for Change/Correction/Replacement."
- ❖ Driver History.

Driver Licensing forms are also available at www.pa.gov/dmv. Among the most commonly requested by service personnel are:

- ❖ [Form DL-80](#), "Non-Commercial Driver's License Application for Change/Correction/Replacement" (Cannot be used if your driver's license is expired).
- ❖ [Form DL-80CD](#), "Commercial Driver's License Application to Replace/Correct" (cannot be used if your driver's license is expired).
- ❖ [Form DL-143](#), "Non-Commercial Driver's License Application for Renewal."
- ❖ [Form DL-143CD](#), "Application for Renewal of Commercial Driver's License."
- ❖ [Form DL-176](#), "Military Status Endorsement Card Application for Pennsylvania Driver's License."
- ❖ [Form DL-298](#), "Service Person Request for a Non-Commercial Pennsylvania Driver's License."
- ❖ [Form DL-398](#), "Military Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Test Waiver Application."
- ❖ [Form MV-63](#), "[Change of Address.](#)" CDL holders would use Form DL-80CD and pay for a duplicate license.

MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMATION

A service person may maintain Pennsylvania registration on their vehicle or may title and register the vehicle in the jurisdiction in which they are stationed.

If your vehicle is registered in Pennsylvania:

- ❖ You must maintain current Pennsylvania registration. You may renew or change your address online at www.pa.gov/dmv (only Pennsylvania addresses may be entered online). For a qualified exempt out-of-state address, please complete [Form MV-8, "Self-Certification for Proof of Residency."](#) and return it to PennDOT, along with your registration renewal application.
- ❖ Act 89, signed into law November 25, 2013, provided for the elimination of vehicle registration stickers. PennDOT no longer issues registration stickers. Customers are still required to maintain a valid and current registration and must present the registration card to law enforcement when asked. The valid registration card is also still required when having a safety inspection completed.
- ❖ You may be eligible to renew your vehicle for either a one-year or two-year registration period. Both registration periods and the required fees are provided on the registration renewal form or [Form MV-70S, "Bureau of Motor Vehicles Schedule of Fees."](#) NOTE: If the fee listed in the "2-yr. fee" block on your registration renewal form, is "N/A," your vehicle type is not eligible to renew for a two-year period.

- ❖ Customers renewing online will be able to enjoy the convenience of paying their registration fee, printing and signing a permanent registration credential from home or a mobile device without waiting for delivery by mail. PennDOT no longer mails a registration card for registrations renewed online.
- ❖ Pennsylvania law allows vehicle owners who are outside the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for more than 30 continuous days to have their vehicle inspected within 10 days upon their return to Pennsylvania. It is recommended that you carry documentation (such as receipts) supporting your absence for the previous 30 days.

If you are going to let your insurance lapse, the registration plate should be mailed to: PennDOT, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Return Tag Unit, 1101 South Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17104, as soon as the insurance is cancelled. If PennDOT receives notification from the insurance company that a policy has been cancelled, you must send the following items to PennDOT:

- ❖ A copy of your military orders indicating your departure and date of return. Your departure date must coincide with the cancellation date of your policy.
- ❖ Proof of coverage must be submitted indicating that coverage was obtained within 30 days of the date of your return.
- ❖ A notarized affidavit that the vehicle was not operated during the lapse in coverage.

If your vehicle is titled and registered in the jurisdiction of military assignment, upon returning to Pennsylvania to title and register the vehicle, you must:

- ❖ Pay all title and registration fees.
- ❖ Have the vehicle inspected within 10 days after the registration plate is issued.
- ❖ Pay applicable PA sales tax.

NOTE: If you owned the vehicle for more than six months prior to applying for a Pennsylvania Certificate of Title and your home of record was Pennsylvania at the time of purchase, sales tax will be based on 6% (7% for residents of Allegheny County and 8% for City of Philadelphia residents) of the vehicle's purchase price or on fair market value at the time of first entry into Pennsylvania, less credit for tax paid in a reciprocal state.

If you owned the vehicle less than six months prior to applying for Pennsylvania Certificate of Title and your home of record is Pennsylvania, sales tax will be based on 6% (7% for residents of Allegheny County and 8% for City of Philadelphia residents) of the vehicle's purchase price at the time of first entry into Pennsylvania, less credit for tax paid in a reciprocal state. You must attach a tax receipt from a reciprocal state to the application of title.

If the vehicle is purchased overseas and you want to bring the vehicle into the United States, you will need to obtain the [Import/Export Fact Sheet](#), available at PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services website, www.pa.gov/dmv, for instructions on registering in Pennsylvania.

All states are reciprocal except Alaska, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon and West Virginia.

Motor Vehicle forms are available at www.pa.gov/dmv. Among the most commonly requested by military customers are:

- ❖ [Form MV-380, "Application for a Duplicate Certificate of Title by Owner."](#)
- ❖ [Form MV-41, "Application for Correction of Vehicle Record or Verification of Vehicle Identification Number."](#)
- ❖ [Form MV-44, "Application for Duplicate Registration Card or Replacement of Lost, Stolen or Defaced Registration Plate."](#)
- ❖ [Form MV-140, "Request for Registration."](#)