

DRIVING PRACTICES IN THE UNITED STATES



The operation of a motor vehicle in the United States is a privilege, not a right, and is reserved for those of the requisite age, physical competence, and responsibility to properly perform the complex skills and duties associated with operation of an automobile.

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INTRODUCTION

A diplomatic driver’s license, which is issued by the U.S. Department of State’s Office of Foreign Missions (OFM), is one of the most important documents that a foreign diplomat must obtain upon arrival if he or she wishes to operate a vehicle in the United States. A diplomatic driver’s license not only allows the member of a diplomatic mission (and eligible family members) to drive legally, but it also serves as a form of official identification.

The Foreign Missions Act of 1982 authorizes the U.S. Secretary of State to regulate benefits accorded foreign missions and their personnel in the United States.

The Foreign Missions Act also requires the Secretary of State to establish liability insurance requirements for diplomats and other foreign mission personnel enjoying varying levels of immunity under international treaty as a prerequisite to the issuance of driver’s licenses and vehicle registrations to such persons. Mandatory insurance coverage protects diplomatic drivers, their mission, and other drivers, passengers, and pedestrians.

The Office of Foreign Missions implements the Department’s program for the registration and licensing of motor vehicles operated in the United States by foreign mission members and their families. This brochure is designed to inform you of key OFM policies as well as safe and responsible driving practices with which you may not be familiar. It is important that you study this information carefully.

MANDATORY INSURANCE

A mandatory insurance program provides financial protection and legal remedy for accident victims who are injured or who sustain property damage resulting from a vehicle accident caused by a foreign mission member. For example, if a mission member who enjoys immunity from civil jurisdiction causes a motor vehicle accident, the accident victim(s) would be able to take legal action directly against that member's insurance carrier. The program ensures that the mission members' various levels of privileges and immunities or lack of personal funds do not prevent an accident victim from receiving compensation for injuries and/or damage to property.

Every motor vehicle registered with OFM must carry liability insurance at or above the required minimum levels of \$100,000 personal injury per person, and \$300,000 personal injury per accident, and \$100,000 property damage per accident or \$300,000 combined single limit coverage. Motorcycles must carry required minimum levels of \$100,000 personal injury per person, and \$300,000 personal injury per accident, and \$50,000 property damage per accident or \$300,000 combined single limit coverage. Proof of this minimum insurance coverage is required at the time of vehicle registration and must be maintained for the entire time the vehicle is registered with OFM.

Any lapse in insurance coverage or termination of an insurance policy will result in immediate notification to the mission member that the uninsured vehicle may not be driven under any circumstance until OFM is furnished with proof of valid liability insurance coverage at the amounts stated above.

If the mission member or a mission does not comply with OFM's request for insurance information, a letter will be sent to the Deputy Chief of the mission requesting that the insurance information be provided no later than five working days after notification. If OFM does not receive prompt verification of insurance coverage for a personally owned vehicle, OFM will not renew the registrations of any of that foreign mission member's other personally owned vehicles when their registrations expire until proof of adequate insurance coverage is provided. Similarly, should OFM not receive prompt verification of insurance coverage for a mission vehicle, OFM will not renew the registrations of any of the other mission vehicles as their registration expires until proof of adequate insurance coverage is provided.

If an uninsured mission member is found to be at fault in an accident, OFM will consider the mission member personally responsible for financial restitution of all property damage and any expenses related to personal injuries suffered by the accident victim(s). If full restitution is not made, the responsible party may be asked to depart the United States.



**DON'T DRINK
AND DRIVE**



DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

In all states, it is illegal to drive while “impaired” by the effects of alcohol or drugs (including prescription drugs). “Impaired” means the amount of alcohol or drugs in the driver’s body is medically sufficient to prevent him or her from thinking clearly or driving safely. Local jurisdictions establish the levels at which a driver is considered “impaired.” Be aware that many people reach this legal level well before they might be considered “drunk.” Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs jeopardizes the safety of everyone -- drivers, passengers, and pedestrians.

Due to the tragic human cost that can result from incidents involving drunk or drug-impaired drivers, OFM views every allegation of a mission member operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated or impaired seriously. If a mission member is stopped by a police officer on the suspicion that he or she is “driving under the influence” of alcohol or drugs (DUI) or “driving while intoxicated” (DWI), OFM recommends full cooperation with local law enforcement. By heeding the directions of the officer, the member’s personal safety as well as the safety of the general public will be ensured. If a mission member is issued a citation for DUI/DWI, OFM will formally request a waiver of immunity from the relevant Chief of Mission so the case may be adjudicated in accordance with local law. If the waiver is granted, the reported violator will be required to appear in court on the appointed day and time. OFM will abide by the court’s decision in these cases and expect that any fines or conditions imposed will be satisfied. The court’s determination will be recorded on the individual’s OFM driving record.

If the request for waiver of immunity is denied, OFM will immediately suspend the driving privileges of the offender for a period of up to one (1) year. Consistent with the Department’s deep concern regarding the potentially tragic consequences presented by alcohol-related driving incidents, should a mission member be involved in a second DWI or DUI offense, it is Department policy to require that individual to depart the United States.

MOVING VIOLATIONS

OFM maintains driving records for all persons who possess a U.S. State Department driver's license. A point system has been developed similar to those used by individual states to record traffic (moving) violations. Anyone who receives a traffic ticket that carries a fine is expected to either pay the fine or to contest the ticket in local traffic court. If the individual wishes to go to court, the Department will request that applicable immunities be waived by the relevant mission so that the mission member may appear in court to contest the ticket. Please note that the mission must expressly waive in writing the mission member's immunity before he/she may contest a ticket issued for a moving violation.

THE POINT SYSTEM

Accumulating eight points in a two-year period on your driving record is cause for review and possible administrative action. A 12-point accumulation within a two-year period will cause your license and driving privileges to be suspended. Habitual violation of traffic laws and/or driving on a suspended driver's license will result in the revocation of driving privileges. If necessary, the United States may request the departure of any diplomat who demonstrates a serious disregard for U.S. law or public safety.



Listed below are the types of moving violations and the points assigned to them in accordance with the OFM point system:

| SPEEDING | |
|---|----------|
| 20-mph or more over the speed limit | 4 points |
| 10-mph to 19-mph over the limit | 3 points |
| 1-mph to 9-mph over the speed limit | 2 points |
| RECKLESS DRIVING | |
| All violations | 8 points |
| HIT AND RUN | |
| Failure to stop and identify yourself at the scene of an accident | 8 points |
| IMPROPER TURNS | |
| All violations | 2 points |
| SIGNS AND TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES | |
| Driving through a stop sign | 3 points |
| Driving through a red light | 3 points |
| SEAT BELTS | |
| Not wearing a seat belt | 1 point |
| Child not in a restraining seat or belt | 3 points |
| FOLLOWING TOO CLOSELY | |
| All violations | 2 points |
| LANE CHANGING | |
| Improper lane changing | 2 points |
| Failure to keep in proper lane | 2 points |
| RIGHT OF WAY | |
| Failure to yield at a posted sign | 2 points |
| PASSING | |
| Passing on the wrong side | 2 points |
| Failure to signal intention to pass | 2 points |

NON-MOVING VIOLATIONS

As most people who live in or visit large urban areas know, finding a legal place to park can often be a problem, particularly if signs are unfamiliar and confusing. Nonetheless, it is every driver’s duty to observe all parking laws and, if ticketed for violation of a non-moving restriction, to pay all fines incurred. Failure to pay these fines will result in the non-renewal of your vehicle registration.

PARKING ZONE VIOLATIONS

Some residential areas have designated parking zones. Typically, if you do not live in the area and therefore do not have the appropriate zone sticker or permit on your vehicle, you may be subject to a ticket and fine if you park in a designated location.

METER VIOLATIONS

Make sure you insert enough money into the parking meter for the amount of time you will be parked in that spot. Permissible meter times can range from 10 minutes to two hours or more. If your meter time expires before you return and move your car, you may be ticketed and will be responsible to satisfy the ticket.

Be aware that even in areas with meters, there may be restrictions on parking and/or standing that are enforced only during the “rush” hours.



TOWABLE OFFENSES

PARKING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

Many apartment, condominium, and townhouse communities, as well as some businesses require vehicles to display a parking sticker or permit. Any vehicle parked on the premises not in compliance with the restrictions and/or designations, and without the proper permit, may be towed at the property owner's request. This towing is performed by private contractors, and recovering one's vehicle can be very expensive and inconvenient.

SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES

During a declared snow emergency, certain streets and highways are often designated as "snow emergency routes." All vehicles parked on these designated city streets must be moved to allow the snowplows to clear the pavement for traffic. Failure to move from a marked area during a declared snow emergency will result in a ticket and/or towing.

PARKING SIGNS

Under no circumstances should anyone park where there are signs indicating NO PARKING or NO PARKING ANYTIME. A sign that indicates NO STANDING or NO STOPPING means that a driver may not wait in his/her vehicle at that location. Violation of these posted signs will result in a ticket and possible towing.

HANDICAPPED PARKING

Unless you have special license plates with the international handicap symbol or a special handicap permit displayed, you MAY NOT park in a space reserved for the use of handicapped persons. Violation of this parking restriction will result in a ticket and a fine, as well as possible towing.



PARKING IS PROHIBITED

- In front of a driveway
- On a sidewalk
- Within an intersection
- In a bus stop zone
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
- Alongside or opposite any street excavation
- On a highway bridge or in a tunnel
- Next to a curb painted yellow or red

UNREGISTERED VEHICLE
OR EXPIRED VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Vehicles must maintain valid and current registration, including local requirements, at all times. Vehicles failing to display valid and current vehicle registration decals are subject to a fine and possible towing. In addition, if a used vehicle is purchased and has state safety inspection and registration stickers on the windshield, they should be removed because diplomatic vehicles are not required to have state safety inspection or registration stickers issued by a state Department of Motor Vehicles.

80059353



United States Department of State
Office of Foreign Missions
Washington, D.C. 20520

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------|
| PLATE NO DDB0001 | MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION | DECAL NO 0200100 |
| VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NO. ABCTD62V810000009 | YEAR 2001 | MAKE ROL |
| | MODEL SIC | STYLE LM |
| DIPLOMAT, ADAM M. 3507 INTERNATIONAL PL NW WASHINGTON, DC 20008 | | |
| REG. DATE 09/01/2001 | CO-OWNER(S) | REG FEE |
| EXP. DATE 09/30/2002 | | |
| TITLE FOR THIS VEHICLE HELD AT THE DIPLOMATIC MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE | | |

OBTAINING A U.S. DRIVER'S LICENSE

For assistance in obtaining a U.S. Department of State Diplomatic driver's license in Washington, D.C., please contact:

Diplomatic Motor Vehicles
U.S. Department of State
3507 International Pl, NW
Washington, DC 20008

(202) 895-3521

Outside of Washington, D.C., please contact the Office of Foreign Mission's Regional Office that covers your jurisdiction, listed below:

OFM Regional Office,
Chicago

U.S. Department of State
77 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 2122
Chicago, IL 60604-1503

(312) 353-5762

OFM Regional Office,
Miami

U.S. Department of State
95 Merrick Way, Suite 505
Coral Gables, FL 33134

(305) 442-4943

OFM Regional Office,
Houston

U.S. Department of State
8701 S. Gessner Road
Alliance Tower, Suite 906
Houston, TX 77074

(713) 272-2865

OFM Regional Office,
New York

U.S. Department of State
799 UN Plaza, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10017-1811

TEL: (646) 282-2825
FAX: (646) 282-2823

OFM Regional Office,
Los Angeles

U.S. Department of State
10940 Wilshire Blvd.,
Suite 1425
Los Angeles, CA 90024

(310) 235-6292

OFM Regional Office,
San Francisco

U.S. Department of State
One Market, Spear Tower,
Suite 1375
San Francisco, CA 94105

(415) 744-2910

For emergencies after working hours, contact the Diplomatic Security Command Center at (571) 345-3146 or toll free at (866) 217-2089.



SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE DRIVING PRACTICES

TOP TIPS FOR SAFETY

1. *Watch the weather*

In any kind of stormy weather, the key to driving safely is to slow down.

- ⦿ Fog: Avoid driving in fog. If you must drive in fog, set your headlights on dim (or low beam). If visibility becomes too poor, pull off the road as far as you can and stop.
- ⦿ Rain: Keep your windows from fogging up by using the defroster or air conditioner (if necessary open the window slightly). Turn your lights on, day or night.
- ⦿ Snow or ice: Do not drive unless absolutely necessary. If you must drive, brake gently and early, turn cautiously, and increase the distance between your vehicle and those ahead of you. Be alert for changing road conditions such as patches of ice or compacted snow and ice.

2. *Look both ways at intersections*

Do not pull away from a sign or traffic light until you are sure other drivers are stopping or yielding. Wait a few seconds after a traffic light turns green before proceeding to protect yourself against drivers who might drive through the intersection against the red light.

3. *Keep your distance*

Drivers commonly follow other motorists too closely because they underestimate how much stopping distance they really need. In severe conditions, such as driving through rain or snow, at night, or on bad road surfaces, increase the amount of distance between your vehicle and the one ahead of you.



4. **Get a grip**

Use both hands on the steering wheel. Do not drive one-handed. If you are hit unexpectedly with only one hand on the steering wheel, you can lose control of your vehicle. Place both hands in a comfortable position on opposite sides of the steering wheel. Positions comparable to the numbers 10 and 2, as seen on a clock face, are recommended. Look ahead. Anticipate obstacles you may need to avoid.

5. **Stay awake**

Falling asleep at the wheel can occur at any time, but it is especially common late at night or early in the morning. If you find yourself getting sleepy at the wheel, try:

- ⦿ Pulling over at a safe place and resting until you feel more alert.
- ⦿ Sharing the driving with someone, especially on a long trip.

6. **Do not talk on the phone**

People who talk on cellular telephones while driving are much more likely to have accidents as a result of distraction. If you must use your cell phone when you drive, use a hands-free device. But if the conversation is complicated or emotional, pull off the road to a safe location to talk. In many jurisdictions, driving while using a cell phone without a “hands-free” device is against the law and the driver may be subject to a ticket and a fine.

7. **Use the shoulder of the road only in a real emergency**

Many tragic accidents occur when drivers are stopped on the shoulder of the road and are hit by other vehicles. Do not stop on the shoulder of the road to talk on your cell phone, to rest, or to eat. But in case of emergency—

- ⦿ Pull off the road as far as possible.
- ⦿ Make sure you are visible to other drivers by turning on the emergency flashers, setting up a warning triangle, and using flares or portable warning lights.
- ⦿ Get help right away if you need it. Call a tow truck or the police on your cell phone, raise your hood, tie a white cloth on the mirror to signal for help, or put a sign in the back window.

8. **Do not let the kids distract you**

Do not let your children distract you. Have a plan to deal with arguments in the car. If all else fails, pull off the road until things settle down.

9. **Check your tires**

When was the last time you inspected your tires? Accidents caused by tire failure are frequently preventable. Keep an inexpensive tire gauge in your vehicle and check your tire pressure every time you get gas (the manufacturer’s recommended pressure is usually posted inside the door of your car or in your owner’s manual). Inspect your tires regularly for cracks, bulging, worn spots, or shallow tread.

10. **Wear your seat belt correctly**

You may wear your seat belt regularly, but are you wearing it correctly? If not, it may not protect you in an accident. Fasten lap and shoulder belts snugly, wearing the lap belt on your hips, not your stomach. And wear your seat belt even if your car has an air bag. The air bag will not protect you from being thrown around or out of the car in an accident. Remember, wearing a seat belt is required by law. Drivers failing to wear a seat belt may be subject to a traffic stop and a fine.



IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT

Even the best and most responsible driver can have an accident. Every day, motorists in the United States have more than 17,000 vehicular accidents. That is why it is important to avoid a potentially dangerous situation, prepare for an emergency, and help ensure that any insurance claims are handled as quickly as possible. These suggestions are offered to help prevent injury, save time and money, and minimize the stress involved in an auto accident.

1. **Protect Yourself**

Be alert to traffic scams that seem like “accidents.” Predatory criminals sometimes create a fake accident to get the driver to exit the car and then either rob the driver or steal the car. If you feel suspicious or threatened by the circumstances, stay in your vehicle and call 911 on your cell phone, or drive to a police station for assistance.

2. **Remain Calm**

If you encounter another driver who is behaving irrationally, remain calm. When these situations escalate, they can often lead to dangerous driving and crashes. There is no insult, vulgar gesture, or foolish behavior that is worth endangering your life and the lives of others, or damaging your car.

3. **STOP!**

If you are in an accident, DO NOT leave the scene until talking with the other driver or the police.

4. **Take Steps to Prevent Further Accidents**

If practical, move the car and all passengers safely to the side of the road — preferably to the right shoulder. If functioning, turn your emergency flashing lights on and, if available, set out a flare on the road for nighttime accidents.

5. **Contact the Police**

Call the police from the accident scene, or ask someone to call for you. It is usually best to have the police determine any traffic infractions, assist with injuries, and record the situation. The emergency number in the U.S. is 911.

6. Request Medical Assistance if Needed

If you or others are bleeding, feel light-headed, or are suffering any physical injury, always call for assistance. Unless trained in emergency medical assistance, do not move the injured or perform medical procedures yourself.

7. Write Down Pertinent Information

Include the other driver’s name, address, telephone number, license plate, and driver’s license number, as well as the time of the accident. Note the names, addresses, and phone numbers of any witnesses, the badge number of any police officers, where to obtain a copy of a police report, and any other pertinent information about the scene such as exact location, the issuance of any tickets by the police, and any recollections about your vehicle’s handling or mechanical functioning. While exchanging vehicle insurance information, be sure to include the insurance broker/agent’s name, policy number, and telephone numbers.

8. Offering Assistance

If you come upon an accident and wish to offer assistance, pull your car off the road ahead of the accident scene. Do not park in back, which will only make your vehicle vulnerable to oncoming traffic and block the view of emergency or police personnel looking for the site.

9. Carry an Emergency Kit

Your kit should minimally include: a road flare or traffic triangle, brightly colored cloth to tie to your antenna and/or driver-side door handle, a flash light with fully charged batteries, a first aid kit, a basic tool kit with duct tape, and a pen and paper. Always have a copy of your proof of insurance, Protocol ID card, and car registration in your glove compartment, and carry your driver’s license with you.

DRIVING REGULATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

| NOTES | STATE | INTERSTATE SPEED LIMITS | EMERGENCY CELL PHONE NUMBERS | HEADLIGHT USE | PERMISSIBLE DATES FOR STUDDED TIRE USE | CHILD RESTRAINT REQUIREMENTS* | SEAT BELT USE LAWS** |
|--------|------------|--|------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------|
| M | Alabama | Rural-70; Urban-65 | 911, *HP (*47) | When raining, wipers in use or visibility is under 500 ft. | Rubber studs permitted. Metal permitted only during bad weather. | Under 6 yrs.; seatbelts 6 until 15 yrs. | P |
| X M | Alaska | Rural-65; Urban-55 | 911, *273 | Speed over 45 mph on designated hwy's (signs posted), visibility under 1000 ft. | Rubber studs permitted Sept. 16-April 30 N of 60° N Sept. 30-April 14 S of 60° N | Under 4 yrs.; seatbelts 4+. | P |
| M | Arizona | Rural-75; Urban-55 | 911 | When visibility is under 500 ft. | Oct. 1-April 14 | Under 5 yrs.; seatbelts 5 until 16 yrs. | S |
| M* | Arkansas | Rural-70 (trucks 65); Urban-55 | 911 | When raining, wipers in use or visibility is under 500 ft. | Nov. 15- April 15 | Under 6 yrs. & under 60 lbs.; seatbelts 6 until 14 yrs. or 60+ lbs. | S |
| X T M* | California | Rural-70 (trucks 55); Urban-65 (trucks 55) | 911 | When visibility is 1000 ft. or less or wipers are in use | Nov. 1- April 30 | Under 1 yr. or under 20 lbs. in rear-facing seat; under 6 yrs. or under 60 lbs. in child restraint; seatbelts 6 until 16 yrs. or 60+ lbs. | P |

| NOTES | STATE | INTERSTATE SPEED LIMITS | EMERGENCY CELL PHONE NUMBERS | HEADLIGHT USE | PERMISSIBLE DATES FOR STUDDED TIRE USE | CHILD RESTRAINT REQUIREMENTS* | SEAT BELT USE LAWS** |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------|
| T M* | Colorado | Rural-75; Urban-65 | 911, ★ CSP (★277) | When visibility is 1000 ft. or less | No restrictions | Under age 1 and under 20 lbs. in rear-facing seat; 1 until 4 and 20-40 lbs. in forward-facing seat; 4 yrs. through 5 yrs. and less than 55 inches in booster seat (S); seatbelts 6+ yrs. or 55 inches + | S |
| X T | Connecticut | Rural-65; Urban-65 | 911 | When visibility is 1000 ft. or less or insufficient light/adverse weather | Nov. 15- April 30 | Under age 1 or under 20 lbs. in rear-facing seat; under 7 or less than 60 lbs.; seatbelts 7 until 16 yrs. and 60+ lbs. | P |
| T M | Delaware | Rural-65; Urban-55 | 911, #77 | When wipers in use or visibility is 1000 ft. or less | Oct. 15 – April 15 | Under 7 yrs. and under 65 lbs.; seatbelts 7 until 16 yrs. or 65 + lbs. | P |
| X T | D.C. | Rural-n/a; Urban-55 ▲ | 911, 202-727-6161 | When visibility is under 500 ft. | Oct. 15 – March 15 | Under 8 yrs.; seatbelts 8 until 16 yrs. | P |
| M* | Florida | Rural-70; Urban-65 | 911, ★ FHP (★347) | When visibility is 1000 ft. or less or insufficient light/adverse weather | Rubber studs permitted | Under 4 yrs.; seatbelts 4 until 18 yrs. | S |
| M* | Georgia | Rural-70; Urban-65 | 911, ★ GSP (★477) | When visibility is 500 ft. or less or insufficient light/adverse weather | Not permitted, except for snow or ice | Under 6 yrs. and under 57 inches; seatbelts 6 until 18 yrs. | P |
| | Hawaii | Rural-60; Urban-50 | 911, ★ 273 | When visibility is 200 ft. or less | Not permitted | Under 8 yrs.; seatbelts 8 until 17 yrs. | P |
| M* | Idaho | Rural-75 (trucks 65); Urban-75 | 911 | When visibility is under 500 ft. | Oct. 1-April 30 | Under 7 yrs. | S |

| NOTES | STATE | INTERSTATE SPEED LIMITS | EMERGENCY CELL PHONE NUMBERS | HEADLIGHT USE | PERMISSIBLE DATES FOR STUDDED TIRE USE | CHILD RESTRAINT REQUIREMENTS* | SEAT BELT USE LAWS** |
|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|---|----------------------|
| X T M* | Illinois | Rural-65 (trucks 55); Urban-55 | 911 | Wipers in use or visibility under 1000 ft. | Not permitted, except for persons with disabilities | Under 8 yrs.; seatbelts 8 until 16 yrs. | P |
| M* | Indiana | Rural-70 (trucks 65); Urban-55 | 911 | When visibility is under 500 ft. | Oct. 1-May 1 | Under 4 yrs.; booster seat 4 until 8yrs.; seatbelts 8 until 16 yrs. | P |
| M* | Iowa | Rural-70; Urban-55 | 911, ★55, 800-525-5555 | Insufficient light/adverse weather; visibility is under 500 ft. | Nov. 1-April 1 | Under 1 yr. and under 20 lbs. in rear-facing seat; under 6 yrs. in a child restraint, 6 until 11 yrs. in a seat belt or booster seat. | P |
| M* | Kansas | Rural-70; Urban-70 | 911, ★ HP (★47), ★ KTA (★582) | When visibility under 1000 ft. | Nov. 1-April 15 | Under 8 yrs.; under 80 lbs. or under 57 inches; seatbelts 8 until 14 yrs. or more than 80 lbs. or more than 57 inches. | S |
| M* | Kentucky | Rural-65; Urban-65 | 911, 800-222-5555 | Must use low beams at 100 ft. and high beams at 350 ft. or greater | No restrictions | Under 40 inches or under 40 lbs., under 7 years and 40-50 lbs. booster seat | P |
| X T M | Louisiana | Rural-70; Urban-70 | 911 | When wipers in use | Rubber studs only | Under 1 yr. or 20 lbs. in a rear-facing seat; 1 until 4 yrs. or 20-40 lbs. in a forward-facing seat; 4 and 5 yrs. or 40-60 lbs. in a booster seat; seatbelts 6 until 13 yrs. or 60 + lbs. | P |
| T M* | Maine | Rural-65; Urban-65 | 911, ★ 77 | Insufficient light/adverse weather; visibility less than 1000 ft. &when wipers in use | Oct. 2-April 30 | Under 40 lbs. in a child safety seat; 40-80 lbs. & under 8 yrs. in booster seat; seatbelts 8 until 18 yrs. or less than 18 yrs. and more than 57 inches | P |

| NOTES | STATE | INTERSTATE SPEED LIMITS | EMERGENCY CELL PHONE NUMBERS | HEADLIGHT USE | PERMISSIBLE DATES FOR STUDDIED TIRE USE | CHILD RESTRAINT REQUIREMENTS* | SEAT BELT USE LAWS** |
|---------------|---------------|--|------------------------------|--|--|---|----------------------|
| T (S) | Maryland | Rural–65; Urban–65 | 911, #77 | When wipers in use or visibility is less than 1000 ft. | Not permitted except in Western counties; Nov. 1–March 31 | Under 8 yrs.; seatbelts 8 until 16 yrs | P |
| X | Massachusetts | Rural–65; Urban–65 | 911, *SP (*77) | When wipers in use | Nov. 2–April 30 | Under 8 yrs. and under 57 inches; seatbelts 8 until 12 yrs. | S |
| M* | Michigan | Rural–70 (trucks 60); Urban–70 (trucks 55) | 911 | Visibility is less than 500 ft. | Rubber studs only | Under 8 yrs. and under 57 inches; seatbelts 8 until 16 yrs. | P |
| X T M* | Minnesota | Rural–70; Urban–65 | 911 | Insufficient light/adverse weather | Not permitted except for nonresidents, subject to restrictions | Under 4 yrs.; seatbelts 4 until 11 yrs. | S |
| M* | Mississippi | Rural–70; Urban–70 | 911, *HP (*47) | Visibility is less than 500 ft. | Not permitted | Under 8 yrs. and under 57 inches and under 80 lbs. | P |
| M* | Missouri | Rural–70; Urban–60 | 911, *55 | Visibility is less than 500 ft. | Nov. 2–March 31 | Under 4 yrs. or under 40 lbs.; 4-8 yrs. booster seat, seat belts 8-16 yrs., over 57 inches and over 80 lbs. | S |
| M* | Montana | Rural–75 (trucks 65); Urban–65 | 911, 800-525-5555 | Insufficient light/adverse weather, visibility less than 500 ft. | Oct. 1–May 31 | Under 6 yrs. and under 60 lbs. | S |
| T | Nebraska | Rural–75; Urban–65 | 911, *55 | Visibility is less than 500 ft. | Nov. 1–April 1 | Under 6 yrs.; seatbelts 6 until 18 yrs. (S) | S |
| M | Nevada | Rural–75; Urban–65 | 911, *NHP (*647) | When visibility is less than 1000 ft. | Oct. 1–April 30 | Under 6 yrs. and under 60 lbs. | S |

| NOTES | STATE | INTERSTATE SPEED LIMITS | EMERGENCY CELL PHONE NUMBERS | HEADLIGHT USE | PERMISSIBLE DATES FOR STUDDIED TIRE USE | CHILD RESTRAINT REQUIREMENTS* | SEAT BELT USE LAWS** |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|---|----------------------|
| M* | New Hampshire | Rural–65; Urban–65 | 911 | Insufficient light/adverse weather, visibility less than 1000 ft. | No restrictions | Under 6 yrs. and under 55 inches; seatbelts 6 until 18 yrs. or under 18 yrs. and more than 55 inches | No Law |
| X T | New Jersey | Rural–65; Urban–65 | 911, #77 | Insufficient light/adverse weather or visibility is less than 500 ft. or when wipers are in use | Nov. 15–April 1 | Under 8 yrs. and under 80 lbs. in rear seat of vehicle; seatbelts 8 until 18 yrs. and over 80 lbs. | P |
| X M | New Mexico | Rural–75; Urban–75 | 911 | Visibility is less than 500 ft. | No restrictions | Under 1 yr. in a rear-facing seat, in the rear seat if available; 1 through 4 yrs. or under 40 lbs.; 5 until 6 yrs. or under 60 lbs. in a booster seat; seatbelts 7 until 18 yrs. | P |
| X | New York | Rural–65; Urban–65 | 911 | When wipers in use, visibility is less than 1000 ft. and insufficient light/adverse weather | Oct. 16–April 30 | Under 7 yrs. unless 4'9" and/or 100 lbs.; seatbelts 7 until 16 yrs. | P |
| T M* | North Carolina | Rural–70; Urban–70 | 911, *HP (*47) | When wipers in use or insufficient light at a distance of at least 400 ft. | No restrictions | Under 8 yrs. & under 80 lbs.; seatbelts 8 until 16 yrs. | P |

| NOTES | STATE | INTERSTATE SPEED LIMITS | EMERGENCY CELL PHONE NUMBERS | HEADLIGHT USE | PERMISSIBLE DATES FOR STUDDED TIRE USE | CHILD RESTRAINT REQUIREMENTS* | SEAT BELT USE LAWS** |
|-------------|----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------|
| M | North Dakota | Rural-75; Urban-75 | 911, ★2121 | When visibility is 1000 ft. or less or adverse weather | Oct. 15-April 15 | Under 7 yrs.; seatbelts 7 until 18 yrs. | S |
| X M | Ohio | Rural-65 (trucks 55); Urban-65 | 911 | When visibility is 1000 ft. or less | Nov. 1-April 15 | Under 4 yrs. or under 40 lbs.in child safety seat; under 8 years and under 57 inches in booster seat; seatbelts until 15 yrs. | S |
| M* | Oklahoma | Rural-75; Urban-70 | 911, ★55 | Insufficient light/adverse weather, visibility less than 500 ft. | Nov. 1-April 1 | Under 6 yrs; seatbelts 6 until 13 yrs. | P |
| T M | Oregon | Rural-65 (trucks 55); Urban-55 | 911 | When visibility is 1000 ft. or less | Nov. 1-April 1 | Under 1 yr. or under 20 lbs. rear-facing child safety seat, over 40 lbs. and under 57 inches booster seat; seatbelts 8-16 yrs. | P |
| X M* | Pennsylvania | Rural-65; Urban-55 | 911 | Insufficient light/adverse weather, visibility less than 1000 ft., and wipers in use | Nov. 1-April 15 | Under 4 yrs. in a child safety seat; 4-7 in booster seat (S); seatbelts 8 until 18 yrs. | S |
| T M* | Rhode Island | Rural-65; Urban-55 | 911 | When wipers in use, insufficient light/ adverse weather, visibility less than 500 ft. | Nov. 15-April 1 | Under 7 yrs., under 54" & under 80 lbs. must sit in rear seat; seatbelts under 8, more than 54" and more than 80 lbs. seatbelts | S |
| M* | South Carolina | Rural-70; Urban-70 | 911, 800-768-1501 | When wipers are in use | Permitted if they do not project more than 1/16" when compressed | Under 20 lbs. or under 1 yr. in rear-facing seat; 1 until 6 yrs. & 20-40 lbs. in forward-facing child seat; up to 6 yrs. & 40-80 lbs. in a booster seat; children under 6 yrs. in rear seat; seatbelts 6 yrs. and 80+ lbs. to 18 yrs. | P |
| M | South Dakota | Rural-75; Urban-75 | 911 | Visibility is 200 ft. or less | Oct. 1-April 30 | Under 5 yrs. & under 40 lbs.; seatbelts 5 until 18 yrs. and 40+ lbs. | S |

| NOTES | STATE | INTERSTATE SPEED LIMITS | EMERGENCY CELL PHONE NUMBERS | HEADLIGHT USE | PERMISSIBLE DATES FOR STUDDED TIRE USE | CHILD RESTRAINT REQUIREMENTS* | SEAT BELT USE LAWS** |
|-------------|---------------|---|------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------|
| T M* | Tennessee | Rural-70; Urban-70 | 911 | Insufficient light/adverse weather, and visibility less than 200 ft. | Oct. 1-April 15 | Under 1 yr. or under 20 lbs. in rear-facing seat; 1 to 3 yrs. and 20+ lbs. in forward-facing seat; 4 until 9 yrs. and 57 inches in a booster seat; children under 9 yrs. in rear seat, if available; seatbelts 9 until 16 yrs. or under 13 years and 57+ inches | P |
| T M | Texas | Rural-75 (trucks-65) (day), 65 (night); Urban-70 (day) 65 (night) | 911, 800-525-5555 | When visibility is 1000 ft. or less | Rubber studs only. | Under 5 yrs. and under 36 inches; seatbelts 5 until 17 yrs. and 36+ inches | P |
| X M* | Utah | Rural-75; Urban-65 | 911, ★11 | Insufficient light/adverse weather, and visibility less than 1000 ft. | Oct. 15-March 31 | Under 8 yrs. or at least 57 inches; seatbelts 8 until 16 yrs. | S |
| M* | Vermont | Rural-65; Urban-55 | 911 | Insufficient light/adverse weather, and visibility less than 150 ft. | No restrictions | Under 8 yrs. and under 20 lbs. in child restraint; seatbelts 8 until 16 yrs. | S |
| T M | Virginia | Rural-65; Urban-65 ▲ | 911, #77 | When wipers in use and for visibility less than 500 ft. | Oct. 15-April 15 | Under 8 yrs. or under 57 inches in child safety seat or booster seat; seatbelts 8 until 16 yrs. | S |
| X M* | Washington | Rural-70 (trucks 60); Urban-60 | 911 | When visibility is less than 1000 ft. | Nov. 1-March 31 | Under 8 yrs., seatbelts 8 until 16 yrs. or 57+ inches | P |
| T M* | West Virginia | Rural-70; Urban-55 | 911, ★SPI (★77) | Insufficient light/adverse weather, and visibility less than 500 ft. | Nov. 1-April 15 | Under 8 years and 57 inches; seatbelts 8 until 16 yrs. | S |

| NOTES | STATE | INTERSTATE SPEED LIMITS | EMERGENCY CELL PHONE NUMBERS | HEADLIGHT USE | PERMISSIBLE DATES FOR STUDDED TIRE USE | CHILD RESTRAINT REQUIREMENTS* | SEAT BELT USE LAWS** |
|-------|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|---|-------------------------|
| M* | Wisconsin | Rural-65; Urban-65 | 911 | Visibility less than 500 ft. | Not permitted except for nonresidents, subject to restrictions | Under 1 yr. and under 20 lbs. rear-facing child safety seat, 1-4 yrs. and under 40 lbs. front-facing child safety seat, 4-8 yrs., 40-80 lbs. and under 57 inches booster seat | S |
| M | Wyoming | Rural-75; Urban-65 | 911, #HELP (#4357) | Insufficient light/adverse weather and visibility less than 1000 ft. | No restrictions | Under 9 yrs. must be in rear seat, if available | S |

X Cell phone restrictions are in place in some or all jurisdictions in this state. Please contact a local club or law enforcement authority for current regulations.

T Cell phone restrictions in place for teens in this state. Please contact a local club or law enforcement authority for current regulations.

▲ Radar detectors illegal even if unplugged.

M State has move over law requiring motorists to slow down and if safe, vacate the lane nearest a roadside emergency.

M* Denotes law includes tow trucks as emergency vehicles. 'Interstate Speed Limits' reflect maximum allowable on certain highways in the state but may not apply to all such highways. Always obey posted speed limits.

* Unless otherwise noted, all requirements are primary except for the booster seat provisions in Colorado and Pennsylvania which are secondary.

**P Officers may issue a citation any time they observe an unbelted driver or passenger.

S Officers may issue a citation if and only if the officer has stopped the vehicle for another reason.

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