

November 18, 2025

Registration and Title Bulletin #001-25

Policy and Procedure

TO: All County Tax Assessor-Collectors and Licensed Dealers

SUBJECT: Revised Initial Registration and Renewal Identification Requirements

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify current identification requirements for initial registration and registration renewal of a motor vehicle under Transportation Code, Chapter 502.

DETAILS

Effective immediately, an applicant for initial registration or renewal must present certain photo identification.

The initial registrations and renewals of special registrations listed below require one of the following identification documents:

(1) driver's license or state identification certificate issued by a state or territory of the United States; (2) United States or foreign passport; (3) United States military identification card; (4) North Atlantic Treaty Organization identification or identification issued under a Status of Forces Agreement; (5) United States Department of Homeland Security, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, or United States Department of State identification document; or (6) a valid, unexpired license to carry a handgun issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety under Government Code, Chapter 411, Subchapter H.

1. Military service members serving out of state and domiciled in Texas
2. International Registration Plan
3. Non-resident Agricultural Permit
4. Annual Permits
5. 72 and 144 Hour Permits
6. Temporary Registration (One Trip or 30-Day)

For all other initial registrations and renewals, an applicant must provide one of the following identification documents:

(1) driver's license or state identification certificate issued by a state or territory of the United States; (2) United States or foreign passport; or (3) a valid, unexpired license to carry a handgun issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety under Government Code, Chapter 411, Subchapter H.

For purposes of this RTB:

- A “United States or foreign passport” is (A) an unexpired passport or passport card issued by the United States government; or (B) an unexpired passport issued by the government of another country with: (i) a stamp or mark affixed by the United States Department of Homeland Security onto the passport to evidence and authorize lawful admission into the United States; and (ii) a current permanent resident card or unexpired immigrant visa issued by the United States Department of Homeland Security; and
- A “driver's license or state identification certificate issued by a state or territory of the United States” is a valid, unexpired driver's license or state identification certificate issued by a state or territory of the United States that complies with the minimum document requirements and issuance standards for federal recognition under the REAL ID Act of 2005, Public Law 109-13.

For renewal of registration, renewal applicants will have to verify their personal identity through one of the documents described above. This verification can be done either through the Texas-by-Texas interface, which can verify that an applicant has a valid Texas driver's license, or by presenting the identification documents in-person or by mail to the dealer or county tax assessor-collector.

#### COUNTY AND DEALER ACTION

Ensure all applicants' identifications meet the criteria stated above. Expired passports are not acceptable for motor vehicle registration.

#### CONTACT

If you have any questions, please contact your local Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Regional Service Center.

Sincerely,

Annette Quintero,

Director Vehicle Titles and Registration Division

Texas Department of Motor Vehicles