

LAW ENFORCEMENT GUIDE FOR NON-U.S. DRIVER LICENSES

EDITION 2, SEPTEMBER 2023

When presented a driver license from outside the United States, Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) may be reluctant to run the name and date of birth provided on the credential because they won't receive a driver license status response from the country of license origin. However, LEOs should make the query for many reasons, including:

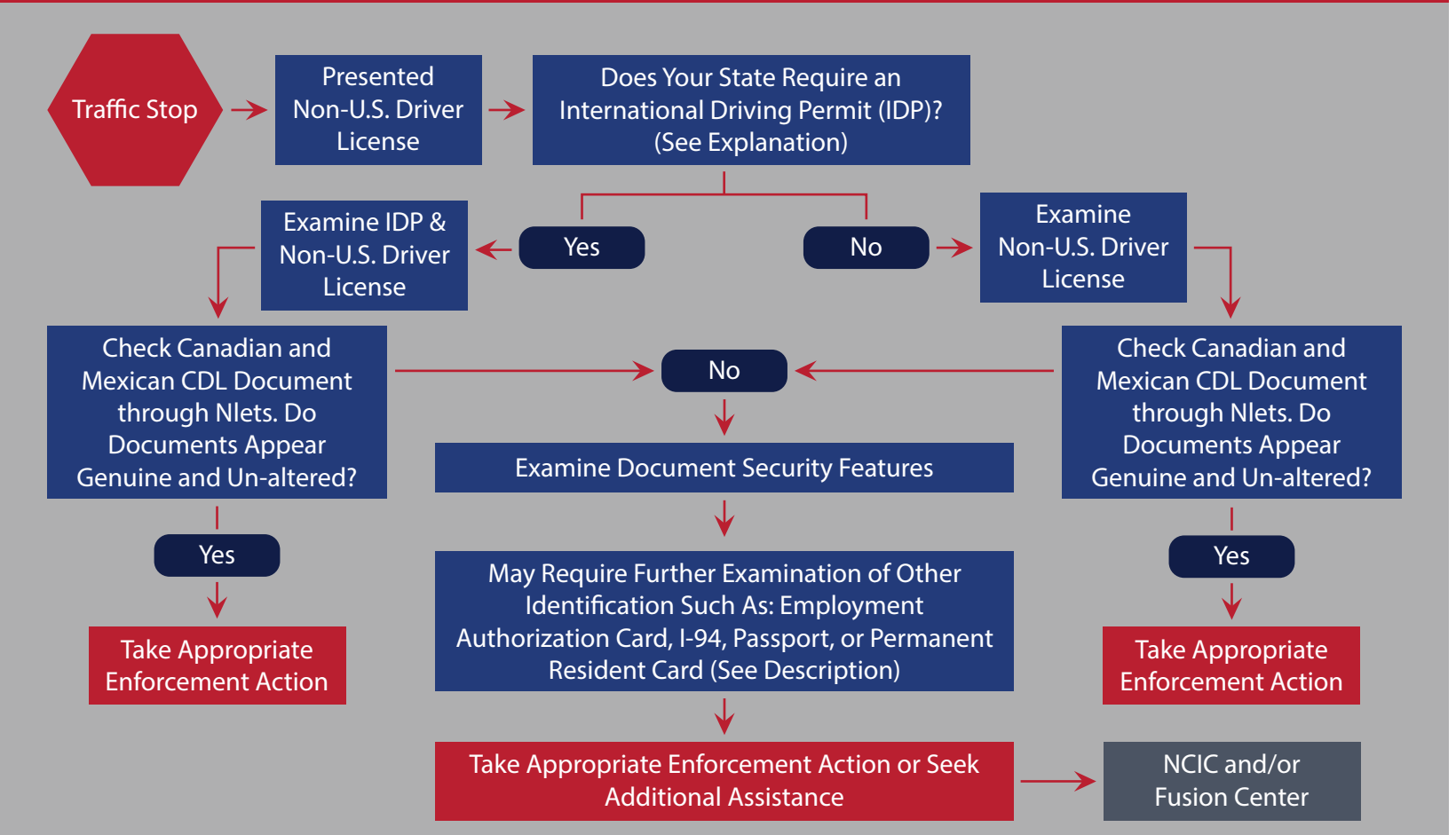
- The National Crime Information Center (NCIC) provides hot file information on internationals such as warrants, violent persons, missing persons, and extreme risk protection orders.
- The International Justice and Public Safety Network (Nlets) provides the path to other data resources, as well as Canada (CPIC) and Interpol.
- The jurisdiction the LEO is in may have criminal justice records available.

In addition, Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) administrations maintain records of non-licensed persons whose driving privileges have been suspended or revoked, even though those individuals may not be residents of the United States.

For LEOs dealing with a Canadian driver or vehicle, it is important to submit the separate Nlets Canadian query to check CPIC, as some CPIC information is not available by checking NCIC.

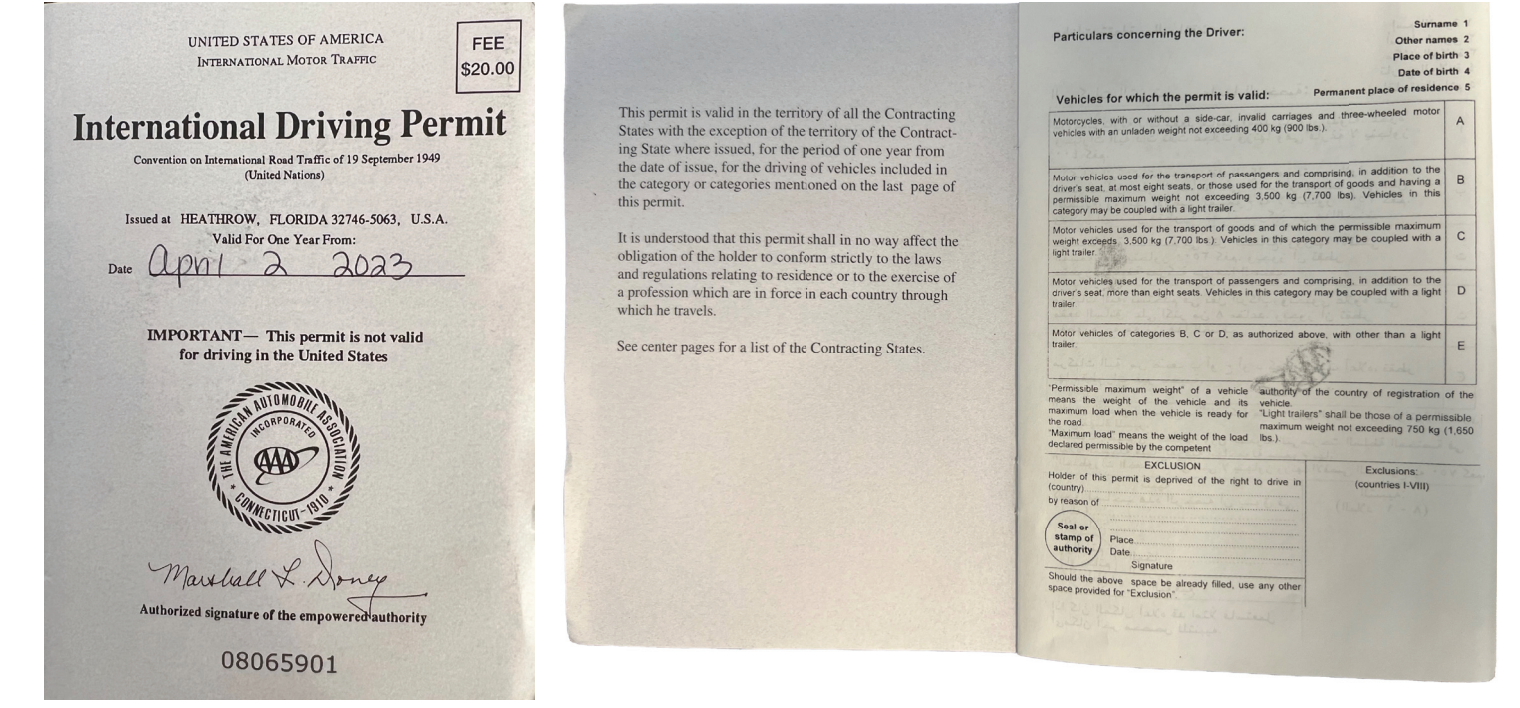
The flow chart below depicts a decision-making process flow chart on steps LEOs should take when presented with a foreign driving credential.

PROCESS FOR DRIVERS PRESENTING NON-U.S. DRIVER LICENSES



INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT

An International Driving Permit (IDP) is neither a form of identification, nor proof of driving privilege. The IDP translates a foreign national's home country driver license and must be accompanied by the vehicle operator's home country license. Some states and provinces require an IDP to operate a motor vehicle. Check with your driver licensing agency for verification.



WARNING: FAKE INTERNATIONAL DRIVER LICENSES (THERE ARE MANY VARIETIES)
U.S. state and provincial governments do not issue international driver licenses. International driver licenses are novelty cards and should not be accepted as an official license.

AUTHENTICATING GOVERNMENT-ISSUED DRIVER LICENSES

Four step process of document examination: (1) Remove the card from any holder; (2) Review the card and note security features; (3) Feel the card for durability and tampering; (4) Examine the card security features for authenticity.

Words, images, and seals on the card should be crisp and sharp, normally displaying information about the jurisdiction of card issuance. The photo should have overlapping information to protect the image and should have no evidence of tampering.



U.S. TRAVEL AND IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

Information about identity documents issued by the U.S. government that permit a foreign national to reside in the United States can be found in the Guide to Selected U.S. Travel and Identity Documents, obtained from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations Forensic Laboratory at www.cbp.gov.

FOREIGN NATIONAL PASSPORT

The primary purpose of a Foreign National Passport is to permit foreign nationals to travel in the U.S., establishing their identities and citizenship as well as to display visas and entry stamps when necessary.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN DIPLOMAT DRIVER LICENSE

These driver licenses are issued to members of the Foreign Mission Community. These licenses can be queried by law enforcement through Nlets, the International Justice and Public Safety Network.



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