

MVD Procedural Quick Update

#64rev2

RE: Proof of New Mexico Address for Vehicle Title and Registration
Effective date: Immediate

Date: March 30, 2011
To: All MVD
From: Mac Lewis, MVD Policy and Procedures Manager

[This is the latest in a series of procedural updates. These updates deal with specific MVD procedures and practices. Managers and Supervisors should consistently distribute the updates to all personnel and integrate them into regular information and training sessions.]

The documents required to prove New Mexico residency for the purpose of vehicle title and registration are either: a) a valid New Mexico driver's license or regular ID card, or b) the same two (2) proofs of residency as are required for drivers' licenses and IDs.

Section 66-3-4(A) NMSA 1978 requires in part that all applications for vehicle registration and certificate of title shall contain, "the name, bona fide New Mexico residence address and mail address of the owner or, if the owner is a firm, association or corporation, the name, bona fide New Mexico business address and mail address of the firm, association or corporation."

For individual owners, we accept as proof of New Mexico residence address either: a) a current New Mexico DL or ID (with the same residence address); or b) the same two (2) documents that would be required to prove residency for a DL or regular ID, with reference to the acceptable documents chart and the new rule Q&A. If the DL/ID address and the registration address are not the same, two (2) documents are required as proof of residency for the vehicle registration.

When there are multiple owners, at least one owner must be a bona fide resident of New Mexico. Proof of identity and New Mexico residency is only required for that one owner, who should be listed as the first individual owner on the vehicle's registration and who is the only owner who can use the vehicle registration as proof of the owner's New Mexico residence address. For this purpose it makes no difference whether the joint ownership designation is recorded as "and" or "or."

Similar documentation is required of any applicant for vehicle registration and certificate of title that is a firm, association, corporation or other entity (non-individual) owner and is not an established MVD customer. In addition to the specific examples (such as utility bill, insurance bill or bank statement) listed on the chart, acceptable documents to prove New Mexico business address for an entity owner include a business license, articles of incorporation or equivalent documents.

Exception: A nonresident business that owns and regularly operates a vehicle in New Mexico is required to register the vehicle. If the nonresident business has no New Mexico business address we will accept the owner's out-of-state business address for our records.

As always, any documents used to prove the vehicle owner's New Mexico residence or business address must include that residence or business address.

Field office managers and supervisors should refer any comments or questions regarding this Procedural Quick Update to their Bureau Chiefs, with cc to mac.lewis@state.nm.us. Others are encouraged to direct comments or questions directly to Mac Lewis, MVD Policy and Procedure Manager, at mac.lewis@state.nm.us.
