

Nikki R. Haley
Governor



Kevin A. Shwedo
Executive Director

State of South Carolina
Department of Motor Vehicles

March 3, 2016

A. Daniel Young
Executive Director
SC Coordinating Council for Economic Development
1201 Main Street, Suite 1600
Columbia, South Carolina 29201-3200

Re: Driving privileges for Swedish citizens residing in South Carolina

Dear Mr. Young:

As a result of our meeting on January 27, 2016, and subsequent discussions we have drafted language to be added to our website regarding the ability to use a driver's license issued in another state or country to drive in South Carolina. Pursuant to Section 56-1-30(2) of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, a person who holds a valid driver's license from their home state or country can drive in South Carolina with their home driver's license provided that such person maintains a permanent residence address in their home state or country, the address of which is on file with the motor vehicle authority of the home state or country and at which they regularly receive mail. If and when the individual effectively becomes a resident of South Carolina, that person must obtain a South Carolina driver's license. Persons from non-English speaking countries are strongly advised to obtain an International Driving Permit from their home countries. An International Driving Permit is not an actual license but is a document that translates the foreign language driver's license into English to allow law enforcement officers to understand the license.

A Volvo representative has told you that Sweden is requiring Volvo employees to have United States addresses. Therefore, between Swedish law and South Carolina law, those employees are not going to fit the exemption in Section 56-1-30(2). These employees, therefore, will need South Carolina driver's licenses.

There has been an understanding among Volvo employees that a South Carolina driver's license must be obtained within ninety days of arrival in South Carolina. While there is no specific statute that states when a person must obtain a South Carolina driver's license after establishing residence in the state, it has been the DMV's advice to obtain a license within ninety days.

I trust this addresses the concerns regarding driver's licensing requirements as expressed by Volvo through you to us.

Regards,


John F. Laganelli
Acting Executive Director

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