

IDENTIFICATION OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PERSONNEL

Diplomatic and consular personnel accredited or notified to Canada are issued diplomatic or consular identity cards by the Office of Protocol of the Department of External Affairs. Such identity cards are the only official documents that law enforcement officers should recognize to establish positively the identity and the diplomatic or consular status of persons claiming immunities. Maroon identity cards are issued to diplomatic officers, their spouses, and their dependent children over 16 years of age. Blue identity cards are issued to career consular officers, their spouses, and their dependent children over 16 years of age. Green identity cards are issued to representatives of states members and senior officials of international organizations, their spouses, and their dependent children over 16 years of age. Black identity cards are issued to members of the administrative and technical staff and service staff, their spouses, their dependent children over 16 years of age, and the parents of diplomatic and career consular officers. White identity cards are issued to members of diplomatic missions and consular posts, including honorary consular officers, who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.

Law enforcement officers ought not to recognize identity cards issued to diplomatic and consular personnel by a state other than Canada.

OFFENCES BY DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PERSONNEL

While most diplomatic and consular personnel are conscientiously law-abiding, some may commit offences, but their immunities do not exonerate them. After law enforcement officers have dealt with offences by diplomatic and consular personnel, the federal, provincial, or territorial offices of protocol will take action against offenders as warranted by the nature, the gravity, and the circumstances of offences. Law enforcement officers may intervene with diplomatic and consular personnel, using such force as is necessary, to stop the commission, or the continuation of the commission, of offences, and may defend themselves from personal bodily harm. Nonetheless, law enforcement officers must respect judiciously the immunities of diplomatic and consular personnel who may commit offences, for their failure to do so may cause international embarrassment to Canada, may expose them to serious legal consequences, and may result in reciprocal mistreatment of Canadian diplomatic and consular personnel abroad. The chart on page 8 summarizes the immunities of the various categories of diplomatic and consular personnel.

Law enforcement officers may follow normal procedures for traffic offences by diplomatic and consular personnel with a few restrictions. Although law enforcement officers may not demand, on reasonable suspicion of impairment, that diplomatic