

MCO/MSO Process

Both phrases refer to the same document, it's the birth certificate for a vehicle, one which carries information about the automobile's production like its country of origin and is usually similar in appearance to a Certificate of Title and includes the manufacturer, vehicle identification number and the year of manufacture. You will find the MCO/ MSO is included with many things, not just vehicles. For example, aircraft, motorboats, and trailers come with them as well.

The only person that will likely get their hands on the original MCO/MSO of a car, other than the dealer, is the first person who purchases it. From there, it's used to get the car titled and bonded and never seen again.

Many DMVs keep a copy of the MSO or MCO on file with the title, but this isn't true of all of them. In fact, it's been reported that once the title is issued, many dealers have no use for it anymore and simply destroy it. Some states don't even require an MCO/MSO to issue a registration.

****If you are fortunate enough to purchase a vehicle new and will be the first owner, then there are ways you can get the original MCO/MSO:**

You can either purchase your brand new vehicle from a different state than the state you currently live and then transport / export to your home state or export your brand new vehicle to a foreign country.

Sometimes. It often doesn't make sense to pay the fees to title and register a vehicle before exporting it. Thankfully, [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#) has a plan in place to alleviate this. If you intend on exporting a car that doesn't have a title, you can use your MCO/MSO to prove ownership instead. You can speak with the salesman/woman ahead of time about obtaining the MCO/MSO for transportation/exportation into a different state or foreign country. In doing this you will not only leave with your brand new vehicle, but you will also have the original Certificate of Origin for a Vehicle in your hands. Please see the document PDF – Exporting a motor vehicle code 19 CFR part 192. The use of this code is crucial if the dealership fights you in obtaining the MCO/MSO for your new vehicle.

What is the difference between MCO and MSO?

MCO is for (Manufactures Certificate of Origin) & MSO is for (Manufactures Statement of Origin)

Both will have basically the same information on them, but I believe that most boats, offroad vehicles and trailers will come with the MSO.

Considering that circumstances will be different, depending on things like, what state you live in, if you are the first owner with a brand-new vehicle or purchased your vehicle used and must do a title search to obtain a chain of title custody. We will give a general overview of the steps in obtaining a certified copy of the MCO/MSO, then getting the proper Apostille and recording this with your County's Recording Office.

1. You will need to begin with the state that your vehicle is currently registered in. Find the main DMV branch for your state and ask for the form that allows for you to request the records history of your vehicle. You will want to include on the form that you are also requesting a certified copy of the MCO/MSO and that this certified copy needs to be notarized by someone other than the custodian who certifies the copy.
 - A. *this is what we did, below the section that we checked for copy of vehicle or title or MSO, we circled MSO and added MCO next to it. We then added below for "other" "MCO microfilm if original cannot be located. Also, please certify this as a copy of the original and have this signature notarized".*
2. Please Note that you will never receive the original document, once they have it. If you are lucky, you will receive the complete history of your vehicle, including copies of previous title holders. If you do not, you will have to find all the states that your vehicle was registered in. I have heard of some successful in using agencies such as <https://www.carfax.com/> to find the chain of titles.

3. Once u have the chain of titles for your vehicle that goes back to its first sale, you will have your title on top and then the owner before you and so on beneath and the certified copy of the MSO/MCO will be placed on top of your title, along with the certified letter from the custodian in charge of these records for your state on top of the MCO/MSO. You will take this packet in to be Apostilled by your SOS. **It is very important to make color photocopies of all your title pages, the MCO/MSO copy, and the certification letter before taking in to have Apostilled. It will be bound by a grommet and cannot be separated, or it will void this Apostille. Once you get it Apostilled, you will then make a color copy of this Apostille page. You will stamp these pages you have copied with your certified true copy stamp, and you will use these copies that you have stamped to record. You do this because the county recorder cannot separate and scan the pages that the SOS secured with their grommet. I brought my packet that the SOS secured with me just in case my County Recorder wanted to see this, but they did not need them and used the copies that I had made and stamped with my certified true copy stamp to record.**
4. You will then fill out the Affidavit of Acceptance of a Certificate of Origin for a Vehicle that will go on top of your photocopied and stamped with your certified true copy stamp packet and then fill out the recording cover sheet to record it. You will want to order at least 1 certified copy of this recording packet.