

# TITLE ALERT

**Title Alert 2016-12  
Matricula Consular Identification Card**

**July 26, 2016  
PA - Guideline**

**Purpose:** To provide guidance for transactions where a party to the transaction offers a Matricula Consular identification card as their form of personal identification.

**Background:** The Matricula Consular<sup>1</sup> is an identification card issued to Mexican nationals by Mexican consulates. While these cards are issued by the Mexican government, the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have questioned their security and reliability because of their vulnerability to fraud and forgery.

It should be noted that other countries also issue consular ID cards, which may suffer from the same vulnerabilities as the Matricula Consular.

**Guideline:** Relying on a Matricula Consular or any consular ID card as the source of personal identification in a real estate transaction is not recommended. If you are asked to rely on a Matricula Consular or other consular ID card, check your local and state notary or other laws to confirm that the card is an acceptable form of identification. Regardless of whether it is deemed acceptable, consider obtaining a second form of reliable or verifiable identification, such as a foreign passport, as well.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

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**NOTE:** This Title Alert is intended solely for the employees of Penn Attorneys/Ohio Bar Title Insurance Company and its Approved Attorneys, is not to be distributed to third parties, and any reliance by any other person or entity is unauthorized. This Title Alert is intended solely for the purpose of underwriting policies of Ohio Bar Title Insurance Company.

**NOTE TO APPROVED ATTORNEYS:** Under the Approved Attorney system, the scope of our relationship is limited to the functions of underwriting and the issuance of title insurance policies on your behalf and does not include closing or escrow services. We sometimes provide information and recommendations with regard to your closing or escrow business as a courtesy to you. Moreover, some communications, depending on whether noncompliance could impact on liability under our policies or closing protection letters, should be considered directives. This Title Alert is being provided to you with those considerations in mind.

\* \* \* \* This Title Alert should become a permanent part of your records to assure compliance with its requirements. \* \* \* \*

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<sup>1</sup> Also known as a "Mexican CID," a "Matricula Consular de Alta Seguridad (MCAS)," or a "Certificate of Consular Registration." The Spanish phrase "matricula consular" translates to "consular registration" in English.