

APPLICATION FOR A DRIVING LICENCE FOR FOREIGNERS AND RETURNEES

TO WHOM?

To citizens from outside the EU and the European Economic Area (Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway) who want to continue using motor vehicles legally 6 months after their arrival in Spain. If you hold a driving licence from one of these countries, it will be fully valid in Spanish territory.

Spanish regulations authorise driving on the country's roads with a foreign licence for a period not exceeding the aforementioned 6 months. After this period, you must apply for an exchange of the statutory driving licence.

Only driving licences from countries with a bilateral agreement signed with Spain and/or the EU can be exchanged. The countries that currently have an exchange agreement are:

Andorra	Algeria	Argentina
Bolivia	Brazil	Chile
Colombia	Korea	Ecuador
El Salvador	Philippines	Guatemala
Japan	Macedonia	Morocco
Monaco	Nicaragua	Panama
Paraguay	Peru	Dominican Republic
Serbia	Switzerland	Tunisia
Turkey	Ukraine	Uruguay
Venezuela		

In the event that the interested party has a driving licence from a country which doesn't have an exchange agreement with Spain and/or the EU, they must obtain their licence in Spain through the normal channels, by passing a theory test and an official driving test.

WHERE TO APPLY?

The application must be made in person at any police headquarters or Provincial Traffic Office. To be able to complete the procedure, it is essential to request an appointment online or by calling 060.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

As a general rule, only licences obtained in the country of origin prior to the start date of legal residence in Spain can be exchanged. Driving licences obtained prior to the date of signature of the bilateral agreement between countries cannot be exchanged.

For each of the countries, it is recommended to consult the corresponding link in the section on “Links of interest” to check the documents and requirements necessary to apply for the exchange.

For licences issued in Andorra, Korea, Japan, Switzerland and Monaco.

1. Exchange application form completed on the official form. See “Links of interest”
2. Original DNI, passport or residence card. If you do not have a residence card yet, it will be necessary to provide a residence permit for non-EU foreigners.
3. Express authorisation on the official form to verify the census address. If this cannot be verified; a certificate of census registration must be provided.
4. Original valid foreign driving licence.
5. Proof of payment of the corresponding fee. This can be paid at the time of application.
6. Psycho-technical test issued by an authorised Driver Recognition Centre.
7. Current original 32x26 mm colour photograph with a plain background, taken from the front with the head uncovered and without dark glasses or any other garment that may prevent or hinder identification. If the head is covered for religious reasons, photographs with a veil will be accepted, but the oval of the face must be completely uncovered from the hairline to the chin, so as not to prevent or hinder identification.
8. In the case of permits from Korea and Japan, a certified translation of the permit must be provided.

The original driving licence will be retained and the holder will be issued with a provisional authorisation to drive in Spain. The definitive document will be sent directly to the applicant’s home address.

For licences issued in other treaty countries.

1. Requested for an appointment to verify the equivalence and authenticity of the original document to be exchanged. On the assigned date and time, the interested party will go to the Police Headquarters or Provincial/Regional Office with the document to begin the procedure.
2. Consultation of the confirmation of the verification procedure. The status of the application can be consulted online. This may be:
 - a) Pending. No response has yet been received from the applicant’s country.
 - b) Rejected. The country indicates that it has no data on the applicant driver.
 - c) Answered. You can start the final procedures for the exchange.
3. Necessary documentation for the procedure:
 - a) Exchange application form completed on the official form. See “links of interest”.
 - b) Foreign driving licence to be exchanged.
 - c) Identification document of the interested party: National ID Card, residence card or valid passport.

- d) Accreditation of residence.
- e) Proof that you were not resident in Spain when you obtained the permit to be exchanged. This can be accredited with:
 - For those with Spanish nationality: certificate of registration and consular deregistration issued by the Spanish Embassy of the country of origin of the licence to be exchanged.
 - If you do not have Spanish nationality:
 - Residence, student or EU residence card.
 - Certificate of registration in the register of foreigners.
- f) If the country of issue is Argentina, a certificate of validity of the licence with the Hague Apostille must be attached.
- g) Proof of payment of the corresponding fee. This can be paid at the time of application.
- h) Psycho-technical test issued by an authorised Driver Recognition Centre.
- i) Current original 32x26 mm colour photograph with a plain background, taken from the front with the head uncovered and without dark glasses or any other garment that may prevent or hinder identification. If the head is covered for religious reasons, photographs with a veil will be accepted, but the oval of the face must be completely uncovered from the hairline to the chin, so as not to prevent or hinder identification.

RATES

You can consult the catalogue of applicable prices at DGT at [this link](#). Fees can be paid online or in person at the time of submission of the application.

LINKS OF INTEREST

1. [Driving licence exchanges – DGT](#)
2. [Appointment request](#)
3. [Exchange of permits issued in other countries with an agreement](#)
4. [Official application form for the exchange request](#)
5. [Authorised Driver Recognition Centres](#)
6. [Website for the payment of DGT fees](#)