Fact sheet for holders of foreign driving licences from states outside the European Union and the European Economic Area on driving licence provisions in the Federal Republic of Germany

This fact sheet provides you with information on the most important German provisions for holders of foreign driving licences from states that are not members of the European Union or parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA). (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are EEA states). If you have any further questions, please contact your local driver licensing authority at your city or district council.

1. Using your foreign driving licence when staying in Germany temporarily

1.1 If you hold a valid
- national driving licence or
- an International Driving Permit in accordance with the International Convention relative to Motor Traffic of 24 April 1926, the Convention on Road Traffic of 8 November 1968 or the Convention on Road Traffic of 1949 you may drive or ride motor vehicles of the category that is indicated on your licence in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Please note that the International Driving Permit in accordance with the Convention on Road Traffic of 8 November 1968 is only valid in conjunction with the national driving licence it is based on. The International Driving Permit by itself is not sufficient.

A translation of the driving licence is required for
- national driving licences that are not in the German language and
- for national driving licences that do not comply with the provisions of Annex 6 of the Convention on Road Traffic of 8 November 1968.

The German translations may be prepared by
- German motoring organizations;
- court-appointed and certified interpreters and translators;
- German diplomatic missions;
- masters of German sea-going ships;
- internationally recognized motoring organizations of the state that issued the driving licence;
- official agencies of the state that issued the driving licence.

The Federal Republic of Germany does not require a translation of licences issued by the following states: Andorra, Hong Kong, Monaco, New Zealand, San Marino, Switzerland and Senegal.

As long as you have not taken up normal residence in the Federal Republic of Germany, you may drive or ride motor vehicles with your valid foreign driving licence for an unlimited period. If there are any conditions and restrictions on your driving licence, you must also comply with them when driving in the Federal Republic of Germany. Please note that your passenger car licence is not valid here if you have not yet reached the minimum age of 18 years required in the Federal Republic of Germany.

After taking up normal residence in the Federal Republic of Germany, you are entitled to drive or ride motor vehicles for another six months. After this period, your driving licence will no longer be recognized. If you wish to continue driving or riding a motor vehicle on German roads, you will then require a driving licence issued in the Federal Republic of Germany. In exceptional cases, the driver licensing authority may, upon request, extend the deadline by up to six months if you can prove to their satisfaction that you will not have your normal residence in the Federal Republic of Germany for longer than twelve months.

Put simply, you have your **normal residence** where you live for at least 185 days each year.

**Commuters** do not take up normal residence in the Federal Republic of Germany. Their foreign driving licence will be recognized in the Federal Republic of Germany for an unlimited period, as long as the licence itself is valid. A “Commuter” is understood to be a holder of a foreign national driving licence or an International Driving Permit who has his residence abroad but drives or rides motor vehicles in the Federal Republic of Germany because he is employed here and who regularly returns to his residence abroad. Students can
also be commuters.
Holders of foreign driving licences who have taken up employment in the Federal Republic of
Germany but only return to the family residence they maintain abroad occasionally are not
considered commuters.

1.2 **Cases in which your foreign driving licence does not entitle you to drive**

Your driving licence does not entitle you to drive or ride a motor vehicle in the Federal
Republic of Germany
- if the licence you hold is a learner licence or any other provisional licence;
- if you have not yet reached the minimum age of 18 years required for categories B/BE;
- if you had your normal residence in the Federal Republic of Germany at the time you
obtained the foreign licence;
- if your driving licence has been withdrawn in the Federal Republic of Germany by a court
of law with the withdrawal being provisional or non-appealable or by an administrative
authority with the withdrawal being immediately enforceable or non-appealable, or if you
have been refused a driving licence with the refusal being non-appealable or if the only
reason your driving licence has not been withdrawn is that you have relinquished it in the
meantime;
- if you are banned from being issued a driving licence due to a non-appealable court
decision; or
- if you have been disqualified or your driving licence has been confiscated, seized or
impounded in the Federal Republic of Germany, in the state that issued your driving
licence or in the state in which you have your normal residence.

Please note that you are not permitted to drive or ride a motor vehicle if you do not or
no longer have the entitlement to drive and that doing so will be treated as driving
without a driving licence and penalized accordingly.

2. **Issuing of a German driving licence on the basis of a foreign driving licence**

If you take up normal residence in the Federal Republic of Germany, you will need a German
driving licence no later than after six months, unless the driver licensing authority has extended the deadline on an exceptional basis (see 1.1). The conditions governing the issuing of a German driving licence vary depending on which country you obtained your licence in:
- in a country that is listed in Annex 11 of the Regulations for the Licensing of Drivers (2.1)
  or
- in a country that is not listed in Annex 11 of the Regulations for the Licensing of Drivers (2.2).

2.1 **Issuing of a German driving licence to holders of driving licences from a country listed in Annex 11 of the Regulations for the Licensing of Drivers**

For these states, no or only a partial driving licence test is required for the issuing of the German driving licence. The states are (as at: 1 July 2011):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issuing state</th>
<th>Class(es)</th>
<th>Theory test</th>
<th>Practical test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andorra</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Polynesia</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guernsey</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Man</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jersey</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monaco</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>A1, A, B, EB, C¹⁷, EC1, C¹⁷, EC</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Caledonia</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>1, 6¹⁰</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>1, 2¹</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Marino</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving licences issued in the</td>
<td>B/BE¹</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>territory under the effective</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jurisdiction of the authorities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in Taiwan²</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Driving licences from the territories of Australia¹¹:**
- Australian Capital Territory      | C¹², R¹²  | no⁷          | no             |
- New South Wales                   | C, R      | no⁷          | no             |
- Northern Territory                | C¹², R¹²  | no⁷          | no             |

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issuing state</th>
<th>Class(es)</th>
<th>Theory test</th>
<th>Practical test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Queensland</td>
<td>C\textsuperscript{13}, R\textsuperscript{13}</td>
<td>no\textsuperscript{7}</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- South Australia</td>
<td>C\textsuperscript{13}, R\textsuperscript{13}</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Tasmania</td>
<td>C\textsuperscript{13}, R\textsuperscript{13}</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Victoria</td>
<td>C\textsuperscript{14}, CAR, R\textsuperscript{14}</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Western Australia</td>
<td>C\textsuperscript{12}, R</td>
<td>no\textsuperscript{7}</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Passenger car driving licences from U.S. states and U.S. outlying territories:

- **Alabama**
  - D
  - no
  - no

- **Arizona**
  - G, D, 2
  - no
  - no

- **Arkansas**
  - D
  - no
  - no

- **Colorado**
  - C, R
  - no
  - no

- **Connecticut**
  - D, 1, 2
  - yes
  - no

- **Delaware**
  - D
  - no
  - no

- **District of Columbia**
  - D
  - yes
  - no

- **Florida**
  - E
  - yes
  - no

- **Idaho**
  - D
  - no
  - no

- **Illinois**
  - D
  - no
  - no

- **Indiana**
  - Operator License,
    - Chauffeur License\textsuperscript{3},
    - Public Passenger Chauffeur License\textsuperscript{3},
    - Commercial Driver License\textsuperscript{4},
    - Probationary Operator’s License
  - yes\textsuperscript{7}
  - no

- **Iowa**
  - C (Noncommercial Operator’s License)\textsuperscript{3},
    - A (Commercial Driver’s License)\textsuperscript{3},
    - B (Commercial Driver’s License)\textsuperscript{3},
    - C (Commercial Driver’s License)\textsuperscript{3},
    - D (Noncommercial Chauffeur Driver’s License mit
      Endorsement 1, 2 oder 3)\textsuperscript{3},
    - Intermediate Driver’s License
  - no
  - no

- **Kansas**
  - C
  - no
  - no

- **Kentucky**
  - D
  - no
  - no

- **Louisiana**
  - E
  - no
  - no

- **Massachusetts**
  - D
  - no
  - no

- **Michigan**
  - Operator
  - no
  - no

- **Minnesota**
  - D
  - yes\textsuperscript{7}
  - no

- **Mississippi**
  - Operator, R
  - yes
  - no

- **Missouri**
  - F
  - yes
  - no

- **Nebraska**
  - O
  - yes
  - no

- **New Mexico**
  - D
  - no
  - no

- **North Carolina**
  - C
  - yes
  - no

- **Ohio**
  - D
  - no
  - no
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issuing state</th>
<th>Class(es)</th>
<th>Theory test</th>
<th>Practical test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Oklahoma</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Oregon</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pennsylvania</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Puerto Rico</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- South Carolina</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- South Dakota</td>
<td>1 and 2</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Tennessee</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Texas</td>
<td>C¹©, A³, B³</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Utah</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Virginia</td>
<td>NONE, M³, A³, B³, C³</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Washington State</td>
<td>Driver License⁶</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intermediate Driver License⁹</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- West Virginia</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Wisconsin</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Wyoming</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Passenger car driving licences from Canadian provinces¹:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issuing state</th>
<th>Class(es)</th>
<th>Theory test</th>
<th>Practical test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Alberta</td>
<td>5³</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- British Columbia</td>
<td>5, 7 (Novice Driver’s License)</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Manitoba</td>
<td>4 Stage F³</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Stage F³</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Stage F³</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Stage F³</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- New Brunswick</td>
<td>5, 7 Level 2</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Newfoundland</td>
<td>5³</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Northwest Territories</td>
<td>5³</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Nova Scotia</td>
<td>5³</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Ontario</td>
<td>G³</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Prince Edward Island</td>
<td>5³</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Québec</td>
<td>5³</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Saskatchewan</td>
<td>1 and 5</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Yukon</td>
<td>5³</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Official note: If only a specific class or specific classes rather than “all” is/are indicated in the column Class(es), only category B will be issued based on this/these class(es).

² Official note: Germany has no diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

³ Official note: Includes passenger car driving licence class.

⁴ Official note: In the case of class C with Restriction Code 2, the German driving licence cannot be issued without tests (learner licence).

⁵ Official note: In the case of class M with Code 6, a German driving licence cannot be issued without tests (motorcycle licence only).

⁶ Official note: In the case of class 5 Stage L or Stage A, a German driving licence cannot be issued without tests (learner licence).

⁷ Official note: Proof of visual acuity in accordance with section 12 is still required.

⁸ Official note: If the Driver License does not make reference to specific vehicles, it is a passenger car driving licence.

⁹ Official note: Only for holders who have reached 18 years of age. An Instruction Permit cannot be exchanged.

¹⁰ Official note: A class 6 driving licence will be exchanged for a German category A (restricted) licence if the holder has not yet reached 25 years of age. In all other cases, a category A (unrestricted) licence will be issued.

¹¹ Official note: The Australian classes C and CAR (Victoria) are equivalent to the German category B and the Australian class R is equivalent to the German category A.

¹² Official note: Also Provisional Licence. A Learner Licence cannot be exchanged.

¹³ Official note: Also Provisional Licence P2. A Learner Permit at Learner Licence cannot be exchanged.

¹⁴ Official note: Also Probationary Licence P2. A Learner Permit cannot be exchanged.
When taking a practical test, you have to be accompanied by a driving instructor.

A medical examination, including a visual acuity test, is required when applying to be issued
- categories C1 and C1E (HGV) if you are aged 50 or over;
- categories C, CE (HGV), D, DE, D1 and D1E (bus/coach) if you have held your foreign
driving licence for more than five years.

Bus/coach drivers aged 50 or over must also prove, by submitting a medical opinion by an
occupational health officer or a medico-psychological expertise, that their ability to cope with
stress and their faculties of orientation, concentration, attention and reaction are adequate.

The following documents have to be enclosed with the application to be issued the driving
licence:
- an official identity document of the applicant (identity card or passport);
- the certificate of registration from the Residents’ Registration Office;
- a recent photograph that meets the requirements of the Regulations Implementing the
  Passport Act (Passverordnung);
- when applying to be issued categories C1, C, C1E, CE (HGV), D1, D, D1E, DE
  (bus/coach), the certificates and/or opinions regarding the medical examinations, regarding
  the visual acuity test and regarding the special examination for bus/coach drivers;
- the original of the foreign national driving licence (the International Driving Permit is not
  sufficient) together with a translation into the German language, unless the driver licensing
  authority waives the requirement of a translation on an exceptional basis;
- a statement declaring that the foreign driving licence is still valid.

In individual cases, the driver licensing authority may also demand the submission of a
certificate of good conduct.
Upon the issuing of the German driving licence, the foreign driving licence will be retained and sent back to the competent authority of the state that issued it or it will be impounded by the driving licensing authority.

It is not possible to exchange foreign taxi, hire car, ambulance and similar licences.

2.2. Issuing of a German driving licence to holders of driving licences from countries that are not listed in Annex 11 of the Regulations for the Licensing of Drivers

After taking up normal residence, your foreign driving licence entitles you to drive or ride motor vehicles for six months only; however, it can still be exchanged for a German driving licence after that period under simplified conditions.

The following documents have to be enclosed with the application to be issued the driving licence:

- an official identity document of the applicant (identity card or passport);
- the certificate of registration from the Residents’ Registration Office;
- a recent photograph that meets the requirements of the Regulations Implementing the Passport Act (Passverordnung);
- when applying to be issued a category A, A1, B or BE driving licence, a visual acuity test certificate from an officially recognized body; when applying to be issued a category C1, C1E, C, CE (HGV), D1, D1E, D, DE (bus/coach) driving licence, a medical certificate proving adequate visual acuity;
- when applying to be issued a category C1, C1E, C, CE, D1, D1E, D or DE driving licence, additionally a medical certificate attesting to one’s state of health; applicants for a category D, D1, DE or D1E driving licence who are aged 50 or over also have to submit a medical opinion by an occupational health officer or a medico-psychological expertise confirming that their ability to cope with stress and their faculties of orientation, concentration, attention and reaction are adequate;
- proof of attendance of a training session on life-saving first aid for categories A and B (including trailer and sub categories) or proof of completion of a first aid training course for categories C and D (including trailer and sub categories);
- the original of the foreign national driving licence (the International Driving Permit is not sufficient) together with a translation into the German language, unless the driver licensing authority waives the requirement of a translation on an exceptional basis;
- a statement declaring that the foreign driving licence is still valid.

In individual cases, the driver licensing authority may also demand the submission of a certificate of good conduct.

You will be issued the German driving licence for the corresponding category of motor vehicles, once you have passed the theory and practical tests for that category. When taking the practical test, you have to be accompanied by a driving instructor. Training in a driving school, which is required when obtaining a driving licence for the first time, is not necessary.

No advantages for obtaining a driving licence for the carriage of passengers will be granted upon presenting foreign driving licences that entitle their holders to drive taxis, hire cars, ambulances etc.