

Procedures for exchanging a foreign driver's license

(Foreigner's obtaining a Japanese license)

1. Who is qualified to obtain a Japanese license

- 1) Possess a driver's license issued by a foreign administrative agency; You cannot apply for an international driver's license.
- 2) Having stayed in that country for a total of 3 months or more after obtaining a foreign driver's license. (If you have not stayed in the country for more than 3 months in total, even if you have obtained a foreign driver's license and only returned to Japan for sightseeing trips, etc. you cannot convert your foreign license into a Japanese license.
- 3) Your foreign driver's license has not expired. The expiration date differs depending on the country. You cannot apply unless it is within the expiration date.

2. Making an Appointment

It is a complete reservation system. Please make a reservation by phone or at the license center window #7 by the day before. For telephone reservations, 9:30-12:00, 14:00-17:15 on weekdays except Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays, and December 29th-January 3rd. You can make an appointment for document screening at 9:00 AM or 2:00 PM on Tuesdays or Fridays (excluding holidays).

3. Testing Procedure

- 1.) The Testing Procedure differs by country (or state). Certain special countries are exempted from parts of the testing procedure.

Special countries (or states) that are exempted from the knowledge and skill test

Document review → *aptitude test* → *license issuance*

- Europe: Iceland, Ireland, United Kingdom, Italy, Austria, Netherlands, Greece, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Hungary, Finland, France, Belgium, Poland, Portugal, Monaco, Luxembourg
- North America: United States (these states only: Ohio, Oregon, Colorado, Virginia, Hawaii, Maryland and Washington), Canada
- Oceania: Australia
- Asia: South Korea, Taiwan
- Those who had a Japanese driver's license in the past may be treated as a special country.

Those from the state of Indiana, U.S.A. are exempted from the proficiency test

Document review → *vision test* → *knowledge (written) test* → *license issuance*

2.) For those from all other countries (and states), all tests are required

Document review → vision test → knowledge (written) test → practical (driving) test → license issuance

In the case of a moped license application, there is no skill examination.

Document screening → vision test → knowledge (written) test → license issuance

Notes on testing procedures:

- a. After passing the document screening, the aptitude test will be conducted in order at a later date. Procedures cannot be completed on the same day.
- b. As a result of the document screening, we may not be able to accept your application for an aptitude test.
- c. In the knowledge test, you must answer 7 or more out of 10 questions correctly to pass the written test. The knowledge check is available in 10 languages: English, Spanish, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Korean, Chinese, Thai, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

4. Necessary Documents

- 1) Photo for application (more than one photo is required depending on the number of licenses applied for) 3cm x 2.4cm, taken within 6 months
- 2) Driver's license if you already have a Japanese driver's license *Please prepare a certificate of residence that omits my number. If you are submitting a resident card with your personal number listed, please have a person black out your personal number.
- 3) Resident card (for foreigners)
- 4) Passport (after obtaining the license, it can be confirmed that you have stayed in the issuing country for a total of 3 months or more)
 - a) If there is no immigration stamp from the country that issued the license and the period of stay cannot be confirmed, you must use another document as evidence
 - b) If you have anything that can prove the period of stay, such as an old passport or airline ticket, please bring it with you.
- 5) Immigration record certificate. If you can obtain a certificate of immigration history from the administrative agency of the license-issuing country, please bring it with you as much as possible. If you can confirm immigration with your passport, you can omit it. *If you are unable to obtain an immigration certificate and your passport cannot be used to confirm your immigration status, other documents will be required. Please contact us.
- 6) Foreign driver's license. *If the date of issuance or date of acquisition is not indicated, please send documents that show them from the relevant country. Please order from us. (Example) Driving record, history, etc. *If you have a driver's license from a country other than the one you applied for, please bring it with you. *Please bring any documents accompanying your foreign driver's license, driver's license acquisition certificate, etc. ex. Philippines official receipt, certificate issued by LTO
- 7) International driver's license (if you have one)

- 8) Translation of foreign driver's license
 - a) The foreign administrative agency that issued the driver's license, or the consular agency of that foreign country
 - b) Taiwan: Taiwan Japan Exchange Association
 - c) Those approved by the Public Safety Commission and those designated by the Public Safety Commission
 - i) 5-15-32 Minamiedo, Matsuyama City Japan Automobile Federation (JAF) Ehime Branch (TEL089-925-8668)
 - ii) Ziplas Inc. Ziplas Co., Ltd. is limited to his web service, so please visit the website yourself.
 - d) Please check. (There are restrictions on the countries where translation services are available.) (Translation is charged)
- 9) Fee. Application fee is 2,550 yen (for normal license), Skill examination vehicle usage fee 1,450 yen, Issuance fee 2,050 yen *200 yen is added to the issuance fee for each additional exemption type.
- 10) If you cannot speak Japanese, please come with an interpreter.
- 11) Expired Japanese driver's license (only if you have one)

Contact information

1163-7 Katsuoka-cho, Matsuyama Ehime Prefecture Driver's License Center

TEL089-934-0110 (When the representative answers, please tell him "外国免許の切替" *Switching foreign driver's license*).