

Driving Licence Provisions

Validity of foreign driving licences in the Federal Republic of Germany

The following will inform you of the most important German provisions for holders of foreign driving licences. In case of any further queries, such as on the registration procedure and the issuance of German driving licences, please consult the local driving licence authorities of the municipal or district government responsible for you. We apologise for not being able to make any statements about individual cases.

I.

Your driving licence is valid for temporary stays in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Should you hold a valid national or international driving licence, you may drive vehicles of such classes in the Federal Republic of Germany as are indicated on your driving licence. Here, too, you will have to observe the obligations and restrictions relating to your driving licence. Your driving licence will also be valid if you have not yet reached the minimum age prescribed in the Federal Republic of Germany for the respective class. The driving licence must be carried with you when driving.

If you hold an international driving licence, a translation will not be necessary. Translations of national driving licences will have to be carried if they

- have not been issued in a member state of the European Union (EU) or a contracting state of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway), or
- have not been issued in German
- do not comply with the Agreement on Road Traffic of 8 November 1968 (Annexe 6). Enquiries about whether or not your driving licence complies with Annexe 6 may be directed to the responsible authorities of the issuing state.

German translations may be prepared, among others, by German or internationally recognised automobile clubs of the state issuing the driving licence, the authorities of the state issuing the driving licence, court-appointed and generally sworn interpreters and translators, and German diplomatic representations.

The Federal Republic of Germany waives the necessity of carrying a translation of the driving licences of the following states: Andorra, Hong Kong, Monaco, New Zealand, San Marino, Switzerland, Senegal, Hungary, and Cyprus.

II.

If you hold a driving licence from a member state of the European Union (EU) or a contracting state of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA), it will, in principle, remain valid until its expiry even after having established your residence in the Federal Republic of Germany. **You will need a national driving licence** here, since an international one will not suffice.

Please observe the following **restrictions**:

- In class **A1**, pending the completion of the 18th year, only such mopeds (125 cm³, 11 kW) may be ridden whose maximum speed determined by their type and style does not exceed 80 km/h.
- Driving licences of the **C1** and **C1E** classes in the Federal Republic of Germany are only valid until the completion of the 50th year of the holder; driving licences of the **C**, **CE**, **D**, **DE**, **D1**, and **D1E** classes only until their expiry five years after being issued, even if they are valid for a longer period in the home state.

If, pursuant to the above restrictions, your driving licence is no longer valid at the time of changing your normal residence, you may continue to drive in the Federal Republic of Germany for a further six months. During this time, you will have to apply for a renewal here.

A violation of the age provision in respect of riding mopeds or using roads while holding a driving licence, the validity of which has expired pursuant to the law of the issuing state or the German provisions, shall be punished as driving without a licence.

Your driving permit will have to be **registered** with the driving licence authorities responsible for you upon presentation of your driving licence within 185 days after the establishment of your normal residence in the Federal Republic of Germany, if

- you have had your driving licence for less than two years, since there are regulations on probationary driving licences applying to beginners. This means that although your foreign driving licence is fully valid here, you are subject to special regulations in case of committing traffic violations;
- you hold a driving licence of the C or D class, or an appropriate trailer or subclass. If, pursuant to the German regulations, your driving licence expires earlier than in your home town, the new period of validity will be entered in your driving licence upon registration. Where such entry proves impossible due to the nature of the driving licence, you will be issued with an appropriate German driving licence.

A violation of the duty to register will be punished by a fine and will lead to points in the central index of traffic offenders.

Where your foreign driving licence is about to expire or is no longer valid, you will be issued with a German driving licence of the corresponding class on request.

Special regulations for students and pupils

The very attendance of a university or school does not automatically result in a transfer of one's normal residence. Therefore, driving licences obtained by students and pupils in their home state during their study visit in the Federal Republic of Germany are valid here. However, students and pupils from other member states can also obtain driving licences in the Federal Republic of Germany, provided they stay here for a period of at least six months.

The same applies vice versa to persons whose normal residence is in the Federal Republic of Germany and who attend a university or school in another member state for a period of at least six months. You are obliged to have your driving licence registered without delay on entry to the Federal Republic of Germany, if you have not held your licence for longer than two years.

III.

Holding a foreign driving licence not issued in a member state of the European Union (EU) or in a contracting state of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) and establishing your residence in the Federal Republic of Germany

If you hold a driving licence issued by a state not being part of the EU or the EEA, it will be valid for a further **six months** from the establishment of your normal residence in the Federal Republic of Germany. Thereafter, your driving licence will no longer be recognised. To continue driving, you will require a driving licence issued in the Federal Republic of Germany. The requirements for issuing a German driving licence depend on the state in which you have obtained your driving licence. For any queries relating to the issuance of German driving licences and their requirements, please contact the responsible driving licence authorities of your place of residence in good time. In exceptional cases, the driving licence authorities may, on request, extend the period up to six months, if it can be substantiated that your normal residence in the Federal Republic of Germany will not exceed 12 months.

Driving a car with a foreign driving licence not recognised here or not recognised any longer will be punished as driving without a licence.
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IV.

A foreign driving licence does not entitle you to participate in road traffic in the Federal Republic of Germany and can neither be changed into a German driving licence, if

- it is no longer valid
- it is a learner's driving licence or another temporary driving licence
- your normal residence at the time of obtaining the foreign driving licence was in the Federal Republic of Germany

- your driving licence was withdrawn or refused in the Federal Republic of Germany, or if the only reason for not withdrawing it was that you had, in the meantime, relinquished it, or
- for as long as you are subject to a driving ban in the Federal Republic of Germany, in the state having issued the driving licence, or in the state in which you have your normal residence, or your driving licence has been seized, taken possession of or taken into safekeeping.

On request, the driving licence authorities may grant the right to reuse a foreign driving licence after a withdrawal in the Federal Republic of Germany, if the reasons that have led to its withdrawal have ceased to exist.