

Every month, KOTRA Express provides answers to some frequently asked questions submitted by foreign-invested companies in Korea and potential investors.

Driver's License

Q.

Can a foreigner exchange his/her foreign driver's license for a Korean one?

A.

A foreigner who holds a driver's license issued by an authorized foreign agency can exchange his/her foreign driver's license for a Korean one after submitting a certificate from his/her home country's embassy proving the authenticity of the foreign driver's license and undergoing a physical exam and/or taking a written test.

Additional information

- A foreigner who was issued a driver's license from a country which recognizes Korean driver's license is only required to undergo a physical exam. To see the list of countries which recognize Korean driver's license, visit the Road Traffic Authority Driver's License Examination Office at <http://dl.koroad.or.kr>.
- To exchange a driver's license which was issued in a country which does not recognize Korean driver's license, the license holder should undergo a physical exam and take a written test. The written test has 40 questions, and foreigners can choose from the following languages: Korean, English, Chinese, Russian, Japanese, Taiwanese, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Cambodian, Filipino (Tagalog). The States of Oregon and Idaho recognize Korean driver's license but require a written test.
- When applying for exchange of a driver's license issued in a country that does not recognize the Korean driver's license, the written test is exempted for those with a D-8 (business investment) visa, their spouse and children under the age of 19.
- Only foreign driver's licenses that have not expired are considered valid, and temporary licenses, learner's permits, driving permits, etc. cannot be exchanged into a Korean license.
- Documents to be submitted
 - Original copy of the foreign driver's license, original copy of passport, original copy of alien registration card, three color photo taken within the past six months (3.5x4.5cm), embassy's confirmation on authenticity of the driver's license, certificate of entry & exit (from year of birth to present), fee of KRW 12,500 (physical examination fee included)

※ KOTRA's Investment Consulting Center (ICC) does not have a physical examination center, so if you are visiting the ICC to exchange your foreign driver's license to a Korean one, receive a physical examination at the nearest designated hospital and submit the exam results (issuance fee: KRW 7,500).

If you have further questions please, contact +82-1600-7119 or visit www.investkorea.org >>How We Can Help >> Online Consulting.

