

Korea 101: Driver's License

Exchanging a Foreign License for a Korean License

You cannot drive in Korea with a license issued from a foreign country. You can exchange it for a Korean driver's license if it is issued by a recognized country according to the following procedures:

- ① **The Driver's License Agency (DLA) reviews your application including a certificate from your embassy**
 - The DLA may ask you to submit additional documents in the process if the agency finds it necessary.
- ② **Aptitude (physical) test and written test**
 - You don't have to take the written test if your country recognizes a Korean driver's license.
 - * If you're from Oregon or Idaho of the United States, you have to take the written test although the states recognize a Korean driver's license.
- ③ **Exchange of a foreign country license for a Korean license**
 - * Your foreign country license must be a full and valid license. It cannot be a temporary license, a learner's license, or a driving permit/certificate.
 - * A certificate from your embassy or an apostille: To verify your foreign country license, you are required to submit one of the following documents issued within a year of the date of application.
 - A certificate issued in Korean or English by your country's embassy in Korea or Korean embassy in your country
 - A certificate

Foreign driver's licenses that can be exchanged for a Korean license

- A Korean driver license in exchange for a foreign country driver's license is limited to Level 2 - Regular
- A license issued by countries with mutual recognition agreements with Korea (Belgium, Poland, Spain, Italy) can be exchanged for an equivalent in Korea



Classification	Details	
Location	Driver's License Examination Office (across the country) KOTRA's Investment Consulting Center (only countries recognizing Korean license)*	
Documents to be Submitted	Citizens and citizenship holders of countries recognizing Korean license	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foreign driver's license - Passport with stamps confirming departure from home country and entry into Korea - Alien registration card (certificate of the place of sojourn for Koreans with foreign nationality) - Three color photos taken within 6 months - A certificate of confirmation of your license from your embassy or an apostille - A certificate of departure and entry from the year of birth to the present
	Citizens and citizenship holders of countries that do not recognize Korean license	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Driver's license and passport with stamps confirming departure from home country and entry into Korea - Original alien registration card (original certificate of the place of sojourn for Koreans with foreign nationality) - Three color photos taken within 6 months (3.5cm×4.5cm) - A certificate from your embassy or an apostille - A certificate of departure and entry from the year of birth to the present
Fee	KRW 8,000 (KRW 10,000 for an English driver's license) + KRW 10,000 for a written test* *The written test is required of those from an unacknowledged country.	

* The driver's license is issued only to D-8 and F-3 visa holders with a physical test certificate.

Countries Recognizing the Korean Driver's License (Notice of the Korean National Police Agency dated Feb. 4, 2019)

Classification	Details
Asia (27 countries)	Nepal, New Zealand, Taiwan, East Timor, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Brunei, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Australia, Uzbekistan, India (Mumbai), Japan, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kiribati, Thailand, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, the Philippines, Hong Kong
America (20 countries)	Guatemala, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Mexico (Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Tlaxcala, Mexico City), Bahamas, Brazil, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Haiti, Antigua Barbuda, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Uruguay, Chile, Canada, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, the United States (Maryland, Virginia, Washington, Massachusetts, Texas, Florida, Oregon, Michigan, Idaho, Alabama, West Virginia, Iowa, Colorado, Georgia, South Carolina, Arkansas, Tennessee, Hawaii, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Arizona)
Europe (35 countries)	Greece, the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Romania, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Serbia, Switzerland, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ireland, Azerbaijan, Albania, Estonia, the UK, Austria, Italy, Georgia, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Turkey, Portugal, Poland, France, Finland, Hungary
Middle East (13 countries)	Lebanon, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Afghanistan, Yemen, Oman, Jordan, Iraq (Arbil), Iran, Israel, Qatar, Kuwait
Africa (36 countries)	Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Niger, Liberia, Rwanda, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mauritius, Mauritania, Botswana, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Swaziland, Algeria, Angola, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Uganda, Zambia, Equatorial Guinea, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tunisia

International Driving Permit

Classification	Details
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A driver's license examination office or a police station across the country - International Driving Permit Service Office at Incheon International Airport (within police station on the 3rd floor of Terminal 1 or Government Administration Center on the 2nd floor of Terminal 2) - 220 local governments contracted with KoROAD (only when a person applies for a passport and an international driving permit) * Should you want to apply to a police station, please check in advance if it can issue an international driving permit. If so, bring a credit/check card with you.
Documents to be Submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Passport (or a copy), driver's license, a passport photo taken within the past 6 months (3.5x4.5cm) * A proxy must bring his/her ID card and a power of attorney. - When an applicant is overseas, a proxy can use the applicant's passport copy with the his/her entry & departure certificate. - For a foreigner holding a Korean driver's license: Passport, driver's license, a passport photo taken within the past six months (3.5x4.5cm)
Validity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One year from the date of issuance - One year from the day when the suspension period has expired in the event that the application for international driving permit is made by a driver whose domestic license is currently suspended.
Fee	KRW 8,500
Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An international driving permit shall not be valid if the name or the signature is different between the person's passport and international driving permit. - You need to have an 'international driving permit' to drive in Korea. You cannot drive in the country with an 'international driving license.' - Korea is a Geneva Convention country. A person with a valid international driver's permit issued by a Geneva Convention country can drive in Korea for a year from the date of entry (Since January 1, 2002, the Republic of Korea has allowed a person with an international permit to drive in Korea for a year).

A Foreigner without a Driver's License

- A foreigner without a driver's license must go through the same procedures that Koreans do to obtain a driver's license in Korea.
- For details, visit the KoROAD website or phone its call center.
- KoROAD Call Center
(phone) +82-1577-1120
(website) www.koroad.or.kr/en_web/index.do
(languages) Korean, English

If you have further questions please contact



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