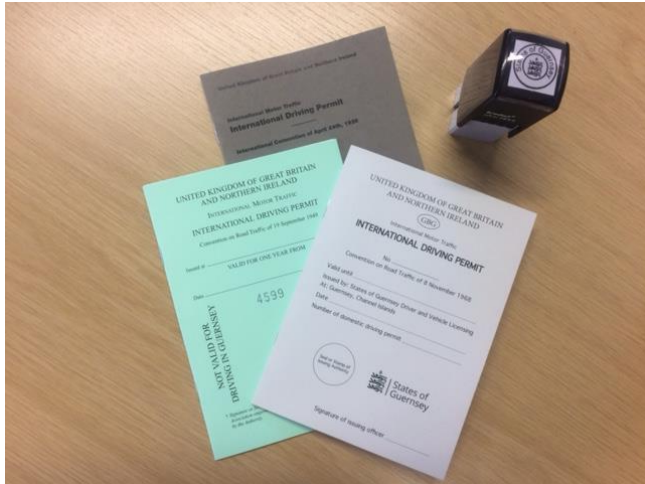




Updated: 4 March 2024

Detailed Guidance Note - Advice for motorists driving abroad



What are the current requirements?

In conjunction with the UK Department for Transport, the States of Guernsey has secured agreements with many EU / EEA countries in relation to Bailiwick of Guernsey residents driving abroad, both on a temporary basis (mutual recognition) and permanently when moving to live abroad (exchange of Driving Licence entitlement).

Accordingly, most EU / EEA countries will now recognise a Bailiwick of Guernsey issued Driving Licence when driving temporarily in Europe without the need for an International Driving Permit (IDP) to be issued.

It is also now possible to exchange driving licence entitlement in a number of EU / EEA countries without having to re-take a practical and theory driving test if moving away permanently.

Further details are included below and in Appendices 1 and 2.

Driving in the EU post Brexit

In December 2018, the States of Guernsey agreed to seek extension of the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic, 1968 to Guernsey. The purpose of the Convention is to facilitate flows of International road traffic and to increase road safety through the adoption of uniform traffic rules across the European Union and globally.

This updates the provisions of the Geneva Convention on Road Traffic, 1949 in respect of those countries who have also signed up to the Vienna Convention and will help Guernsey drivers and vehicles looking to travel within the EU. Following extension, the Committee *for the* Environment and Infrastructure has continued to work towards the implementation of the Vienna Convention in a proportionate manner.

What is an International Driving Permit (IDP)?

An IDP is a translation of your Driving Licence details that allows you to drive in certain designated countries provided that you also carry your domestic (Bailiwick of Guernsey issued) driving licence. There are three types of permit available, the majority are issued in accordance with the 1968 Vienna Convention but some countries still rely on the 1949 Geneva Convention or 1926 Paris Convention.

Do I need an IDP to drive in the UK, Jersey or the Isle of Man?

There is no requirement to hold an IDP in addition to your domestic Driving Licence in order to drive in the UK, Jersey or the Isle of Man.

Do I need an IDP to drive elsewhere in Europe?

The requirement to obtain an IDP when driving in most EU / EEA countries on a temporary basis is no longer required. A list of such countries and any restrictions on the duration that such permission is granted are detailed in Appendix 1.

However, there are some exceptions where it may still be necessary to obtain an IDP and in some countries it may still be necessary to produce an IDP for the purposes of hiring a motor vehicle.

At the time of writing the following countries have advised that an IDP **may** still be required:

- 1949 IDP - Cyprus;
- 1968 IDP – Belgium, Croatia and Italy

The UK Government is continuing to seek clarification of the future requirements relating to IDPs with the above listed countries. Further information on IDP requirements in Europe and beyond is detailed in Appendix 1.

For peace of mind, **especially if you are looking to hire a car abroad**, you can still obtain an IDP from Driver and Vehicle Licensing at Edward T Wheadon House, Le Truchot, St Peter Port and of course you will still need one if travelling to any of the above countries or any other country listed in Appendix 1.

Please note this list will continue to be updated regularly as and when circumstances change.

What if I already hold a valid IDP and how long do they last?

If you already hold a valid IDP then it can be used within the countries that it relates to until it expires. A 1968 IDP is valid for 3 years from the date of issue and a 1926 or 1949 IDP for 1 year from the date of issue.

How do I obtain an IDP?

You can get an IDP from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing (DVL) Office at Edward T Wheadon House in Le Truchot, either by attending in person or by sending in a postal application. The application form can be downloaded at - www.gov.gg/drivingabroad

For each application you will be required to produce –

- A completed and signed application form;
- A passport sized photo, (two if requesting a second IDP);
- Payment of £17 per IDP.

Processing of IDPs will be prioritised according to the indicated date of travel, and where possible, will be issued at least five days in advance of this date.

Notes –

1. An IDP can only be issued against a Bailiwick of Guernsey driving licence;
2. IDPs must be issued to the same address as your current Bailiwick of Guernsey driving licence;
3. An IDP is not valid for use in Guernsey or Alderney;
4. A Bailiwick of Guernsey driving licence is issued in two parts. You must carry both the photo card and the paper counterpart when travelling, as well as the IDP or you could be fined (or worse);
5. To apply for an IDP you must be 18 years of age or over;
6. An IDP cannot be issued to a provisional licence holder;
7. An IDP cannot be issued if you are disqualified from driving;
8. You can only apply for an IDP three months before you travel;
9. An IDP cannot be backdated;
10. If taking up residence or employment, or travelling for a reason other than tourism, find out about your personal position before relying on an IDP;
11. Check the accuracy of the personal information on your driving licence and IDP. If there are any errors or you have a change of name or address, notify DVL straight away.
12. For further information, Tel: 221000

Displaying of 'GBG' Distinguishing Sign

Under the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic it is a requirement to display a GBG sticker (GBA for Alderney under the 1949 Geneva Convention) on the rear of all motor vehicles and registered trailers from Guernsey when travelling abroad.

On or after 28 September 2021 mainland UK registered vehicles must display a 'UK' as opposed to a 'GB' vehicle identifier. However, nothing is changing in respect of Guernsey or Alderney registered vehicles which will continue to display a GBG and GBA sticker respectively.

Vehicle registration documents

You should always carry your vehicle registration documents when driving abroad.

Vehicle insurance requirements (Green Cards)

Since 2 August 2021 it has once again not been necessary to carry a Green Card whilst driving within the EU, EEA, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia & Switzerland which are all part of a 'Green Card Free Circulation Area' (GCFCA).

However, if you have any concerns about Green cards or the procedures you should follow in the event of being involved in an accident whilst driving abroad, then you should contact your Insurance company who can provide further information in this regard.

Roadworthy vehicles

It is not a requirement for Guernsey registered vehicles to provide evidence of roadworthiness (such a certificate issued following a Periodic Technical Inspection of a motor vehicle) when driving abroad.

However, it is a requirement to maintain your vehicle in a roadworthy condition both here in Guernsey and when driving abroad and failure to do so could lead to vehicles being inspected and subsequently impounded or fines being issued for any contravention of vehicle safety regulations in the country in which you are driving.

As a signatory to the Vienna Convention, the States of Guernsey has signed up to implement a number of road safety related initiatives, including the introduction of mandatory periodic technical inspections of motor vehicles on a phased basis. Further details in this regard will be published in due course.

Trailer registration

Since 29 March 2019 it has been necessary to register commercial trailers weighing over 750 kg and non-commercial trailers over 3,500 kg for travel in the EU. A voluntary registration scheme exists for non-mandatory registrations. Separate guidance is available on Trailer registration requirements.

Moving to or living in the EU / EEA

If you become resident in the EU / EEA you may be entitled to exchange your Bailiwick of Guernsey issued Driving Licence for an equivalent Licence issued in the EU Member State that you're moving to. This will depend on the outcome of ongoing negotiations between the UK and individual EU / EEA countries on proposed exchange arrangements to be put in place. Guernsey has requested and subsequently been included in many of the agreements that the UK has already negotiated.

Several EU / EEA countries have put provisional arrangements in place to permit non-EU licence holders who have moved abroad to continue driving on a foreign licence until such time as the aforementioned negotiations are concluded. Alternatively, and depending on the laws of the EU / EEA country that you move to, you may need to take out a provisional Driving Licence and take a new driving test to be able to continue to drive in the longer-term.

Latest information in this regard is detailed in Appendix 2. Further updates will be provided as soon as any new arrangements become clear.

Note

Transferring vocational (professional) Driving Licence qualifications are likely to be subject to other additional requirements.

Visiting drivers

Existing arrangements for EU / EEA Driving Licence holders who are visiting or working in Guernsey on a temporary basis have not changed.

Visitors with Driving Licences from EU / EEA or non-EU countries like the USA, Canada, Serbia, Japan and New Zealand will enjoy the same arrangements as they do today. Guernsey, like the UK, does not require visiting motorists, for example those coming to Guernsey on holiday or to work, to hold a separate IDP to guarantee the recognition of their Driving Licence.

Driving entitlement is recognised on a temporary basis for a period of up to twelve months at which point Driving Licence holders would be required to either exchange their Licence, where agreement exists. Persons declaring themselves to be resident in Guernsey should exchange their foreign Driving Licence for a Guernsey issued Licence as soon as possible but no later than 12 months after declaring residency.

Additional information

The following link to the gov.uk page provides a variety of useful information, including details of any specific country related requirements for driving in Europe since 1 January 2021

[check the rules for exchanging your licence in the EU](#)

EU / Non-EU Convention Status applied to International Driving Permit (IDP) requests

List of EU/EEA Countries signed up to the 1968 Vienna Convention - (Permits valid for 3 years)

Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia	Czech Republic
Denmark ²	Estonia ²	Finland	France	Germany ³
Gibraltar	Greece	Hungary	Italy	Latvia
Lithuania ³	Luxembourg ³	Netherlands	Norway	Poland ³
Portugal ³	Romania	Slovakia ³	Slovenia ²	Sweden
Switzerland				

List of EU/EEA Countries signed up only to the 1949 Geneva Convention –

(Permits valid for 1 year)

Cyprus	Iceland ¹	Ireland	Malta	Spain ³
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List of EU/EEA Countries signed up only to the 1926 Paris Convention –

(Permits valid for 1 year)

Liechtenstein

IDP no longer legally required

IDP may still be required

For those countries no longer requiring an IDP some have restricted the period for which temporary exemption is granted:

¹for periods up to 30 days

²for periods up to 90 days

³for periods up to six months

In order to avoid the potential risk of being refused access to drive in or through certain European countries, including hiring a vehicle there, you can still obtain and IDP from Driver and Vehicle Licensing at Edward T Wheadon House, Le Truchot, St Peter Port for 'peace of mind' or in the event that you are planning to drive to or through any of the other EU / EEA countries that has yet to decide if an IDP will be required or not. The requirement to obtain an IDP to drive in non-EU / EEA countries remains.

These lists will continue to be updated as and when further changes occur.

List of non-EU/EEA Country requirements – 1926/1949 (valid for 1 year), 1968 (valid for 3 years)

Country	IDP required	Other requirements
Albania	1968	
Algeria	1949	
Argentina	1949	
Armenia	1968	
Australia	1949	
Azerbaijan	1968	
Bahamas	1968	IDP needed for stays longer than 90 days.
Bahrain	1968	IDP needed for car hire, and for stays longer than 90 days. You must get your permit certified by local authorities when you arrive.
Bangladesh	1949	
Barbados	1949	
Belarus	1968	
Benin	1949	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1968	
Botswana	1949	IDP needed for car hire.
Brazil	1968	You need to get a certified translation of your IDP from the British consulate.
Burkina Faso	1949	
Cambodia	1949	
Canada	1949	
Cape Verde	1968	
Cayman Islands	1949	
Central African Republic	1968	
Chile	1949	
Congo	1949	
Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	1968	
Cuba	1968	
Democratic Republic of Congo	1968	
Dominica		

Country	IDP required	Other requirements
Dominican Republic	1949	IDP needed for stays longer than 90 days.
Ecuador	1949	
Egypt	1949	
Eswatini (previously Swaziland)	1949	You may need to show an IDP to your insurance company if you're involved in an accident.
Fiji	1949	
French Polynesia	1968	
Georgia	1968	IDP needed for stays longer than 90 days.
Ghana	1949	
Guam	1949	IDP needed for stays over 30 days. You may need to show an IDP to your insurers if involved in an accident.
Guatemala	1949	
Guyana	1968	
Haiti	1949	IDP needed for stays longer than 90 days.
India	1949	
Iran	1968	
Iraq	1968	
Israel	1968	
Jamaica	1949	
Japan	1949	
Jordan	1949	
Kazakhstan	1968	
Kenya	1968	IDP needed for stays longer than 90 days.
Kuwait	1968	
Kyrgyzstan	1968	
Laos	1949	
Lebanon	1949	
Lesotho	1949	
Liberia	1968	
Macao (Macau)	1949	
Madagascar	1949	
Malawi	1949	IDP needed for stays over 90 days.
Malaysia (Sabah)	1949	

Country	IDP required	Other requirements
Mali	1949	
Mexico	1926	
Moldova	1968	
Monaco	1968	
Mongolia	1968	
Montenegro	1968	
Morocco	1968	
Namibia	1949	IDP needed for car hire. You may need to show an IDP to insurers if involved in an accident.
New Zealand	1949	
Niger	1968	
Nigeria	1949	
North Macedonia	1968	
Pakistan	1968	
Papua New Guinea	1949	IDP needed for stays over 30 days.
Paraguay	1949	
Peru	1968	
Philippines	1968	IDP needed for stays over 90 days.
Qatar	1968	
Russian Federation	1968	
Rwanda	1949	
San Marino	1968	
Saudi Arabia	1968	IDP needed for car hire.
Senegal	1968	
Serbia	1968	
Seychelles	1968	
Sierra Leone	1949	
Singapore	1949	IDP needed for car hire, and for stays longer than 30 days.
Somalia	1926	
South Africa	1968	You may need to show an IDP to your insurers if involved in an accident.
South Korea	1949	
Sri Lanka	1949	As well as the IDP, you must get a Sri Lankan recognition permit from the Automobile Association of Ceylon (AAC) in Colombo.

Country	IDP required	Other requirements
St. Lucia	1949	Show your Guernsey driving licence or IDP to the police to get a visitor's licence.
St. Vincent	1949	Show your Guernsey driving licence or IDP to the police to get a visitor's licence.
Syria	1949	
Taiwan	1949	IDP needed for stays longer than 30 days.
Tajikistan	1968	
Thailand	1949	
Togo	1949	
Trinidad & Tobago	1949	IDP needed for stays longer than 90 days.
Tunisia	1968	
Turkey	1968	
Turkmenistan	1968	
Uganda	1949	IDP needed for stays longer than 90 days.
Ukraine	1968	
United Arab Emirates	1968	
United States	1949	You may need to show an IDP to your insurers if involved in an accident.
Uruguay	1968	
Uzbekistan	1968	
Vatican City	1949	
Venezuela	1949	
Vietnam	1968	
Zimbabwe	1968	

Exchanging Driving Licence entitlement if moving to live in the EU / EEA

List of Countries for which driving entitlement **should** now be exchanged:

UK	Jersey	Isle of Man
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Plus:

Austria ²	Bulgaria	Czech Republic	Denmark ¹	Estonia	Finland ¹
France	Germany ²	Gibraltar	Hungary	Iceland	Italy
Ireland	Latvia	Liechtenstein	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta
Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Portugal ¹	Romania	Slovakia ³
Slovenia	Sweden				

¹Exchange in categories A, A1, A2 & B only

²Licences only valid for driving for 6 months but can still be exchanged thereafter if still valid

³Must exchange within 60 days of taking up residency

List of Countries which **may** require you to take a driving test:

Belgium	Croatia	Cyprus	Greece
Spain ¹	Switzerland		

¹ Countries that are currently known to be refusing to exchange Bailiwick of Guernsey Driving Licences (negotiations ongoing with Spain to permit exchange)

For the latest information on mutual recognition and exchange of driving licences, please use the following link to the UK guidance on these matters - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/driving-in-the-eu-uk-licence-holders-living-in-the-eu#czech-republic>