

Procedure for exchanging a Foreign Driver's License to a Japanese Driver's License

If you have a valid driver's license issued by a foreign government or others, you can apply for a Japanese driver's license with driver's license tests partially exempted.

Eligible applicants:

- Have a valid foreign driver's license
- Using a foreign driver's license and a passport, can confirm more than 3 months stay in total after the issuance of the foreign driver's license in a country where the license was issued
- Live in Osaka
- ※ If you find it difficult to communicate in Japanese, please come to the examination office with someone who can act as an interpreter.

Required documents:

- Foreign driver's license (A document to confirm records of issuance dates of driver's licenses is needed if the issuance dates are not on the driver's licenses or have several driver's licenses).
- Copy of a foreign driver's license (both sides).
- Japanese translation certificate of a foreign driver's license translated by an organization listed below.
 - Embassy/Consulate of the country in Japan where the license was issued
 - Japan Automobile Federation (JAF)
<072-645-1300, <https://jaf.or.jp/common/visitor-procedures>>
 - ZIPLUS (Only for limited countries and regions) <050-1752-6862, https://jdl.asia/ja/contact_translate>
- Passport
 - If you have neither entry nor departure record or stamp on your passport (due to use of an automated gate or have a driver's license of a country in EU), a document to prove the period of your stay in the country or certificate of departure-and-entry record or others may be required.
- Copy of your passport
 - Every page is required except empty pages.
- Certificate of residence with your legal domicile (nationality, expiry date of your residence and visa status for non-Japanese).
 - Nationality means country of origin, Taiwan or Jordan West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- Japanese Driver's license
 - If you have a Japanese Driver's license, please be sure to bring it with you.
- One photograph

- Taken within 6 months, upper-body facing forward with no hats and no background, size 3.0 cm by 2.4 cm.

(Please follow the link below for assessment of a photograph)

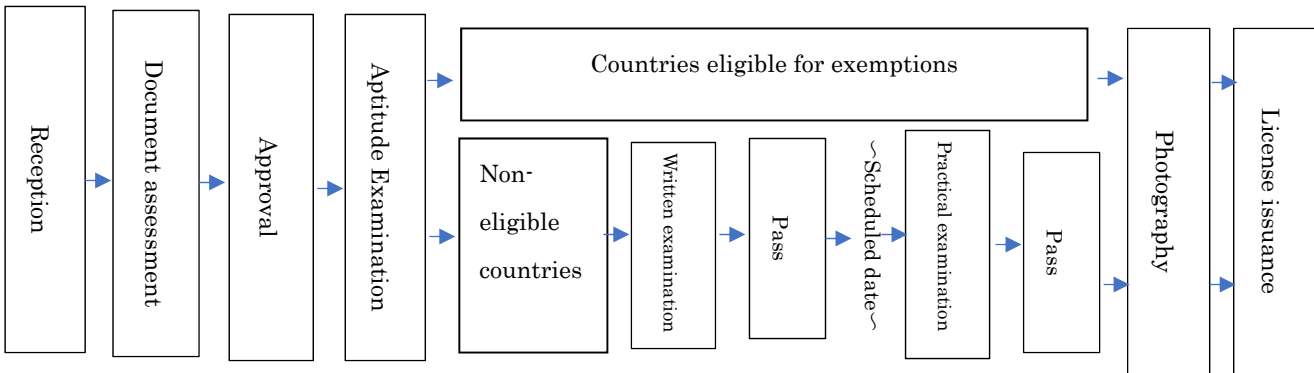
Adequate photograph

- Writing tool (Black or blue pen)
- Handling fee
- Additional required documents and others.
 - If the date of license acquisition is not specified, a document to prove the acquisition date(date of initial acquisition) is required. In addition, if you have more than one types of driver's license, a document to prove the acquisition date of each license is required.
 - The required documents for obtaining a driver's license varies across countries where the license is issued and depending on the specific circumstances of acquisition. An illustrative example will be provided below for your reference.

Required documents by each country (example)

- ※ If you have any document listed below, please bring it with you.
 - An expired foreign driver's license
 - An expired passport
 - An expired Japanese driver's license
 - An international driver's permit issued by a foreign country

Flow chart



- ※ You need to pass a practical examination within the period of validity of your foreign driver's license. Please be warned if the remaining validity period of your driver's license is within 6 months.
- ※ Number of applicants exchanging a foreign driver's license to a Japanese driver's license has been increasing dramatically. Consequently, there may be a delay in scheduling of dates for the practical examination.

- Foreign countries and others eligible for exemption (from both the written and practical examinations)

Iceland, Ireland, the United States of America (Limited to the state of Ohio, Oregon, Colorado, Virginia, Hawaii, Maryland and Washington), the United Kingdom, Italy, Australia, Austria, the Netherlands, Canada, South Korea, Greece, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Slovenia, Czech, Denmark, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Hungary, Finland, France, Belgium, Poland, Portugal, Monaco, Luxembourg, and Taiwan

- Foreign countries and others eligible for exemption from the practical examinations
The United States of America (Limited to the state of Indiana)

Opening hours and other Information

Kadoma Driver's License Examination Office

Opening hours

- Monday, Wednesday and Friday
8:45a.m. – 12:00p.m.
- Tuesday and Thursday
8:45a.m. – 12:00p.m. and 12:45p.m. – 1:30p.m.

Note: We are closed on Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays (including substitute holidays) and year-end and New Year holidays from Dec 29th to Jan 3rd.

Number of applicants a day

25

Note: Applications beyond 25 will not be handled on the day and we will ask the applicants to apply on another day.

- ※ Your request may take longer than anticipated to process, depending on the number of applicants and the complexity of the review. When you come, please be flexible with your schedule.
- ※ Please ensure that each applicant is accompanied by only one interpreter.
- ※ If the expiration date on your foreign driver's license is within 6 months, please contact us in advance.

Komyoike Driver's License Examination Office

Opening hours

Monday to Friday 8:45a.m. – 12:00p.m. and 12:45p.m.-1:30p.m.

Note: We are closed on Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays (including substitute holidays) and year-end and New Year holidays from Dec 29th to Jan 3rd.

※ If we have a large number of applications, some may not be handled on the day and may be asked to apply on another day. Due to potential congestion, there might be a wait of up to half a day, and the processing time of your request could be extended. Your understanding and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

Procedure for exchanging a Foreign Driver's License to a Japanese Driver's License

We have posted "Procedure for exchanging a Foreign Driver's License to a Japanese Driver's License" in 3 languages.

English

[English \(PDF file: 123.0KB\)](#)

[English \(Word file: 26.8KB\)](#)

한국

[한국 \(PDF 파일: 171.9KB\)](#)

[한국 \(Word 파일: 18.3KB\)](#)

中文

[中文 \(PDF 파일: 266.3KB\)](#)

[中文 \(Word 파일: 18.3KB\)](#)

Contact detail

Kadoma Driver's License Examination Office, License Assessment Section

Phone no. 06-6908-9121 Extension no. 351

Komyoike Driver's License Examination Office, License Assessment Section

Phone no. 0725-56-1881 Extension no. 351