

# Changing an Overseas License to a Japanese License

## Conditions for Changing Your License

- ① Your current license must still be valid.
- ② You must be able to prove that you have lived in the country where the driver's license was issued for at least three months in total after obtaining your license.
- ③ You must have the necessary knowledge of traffic procedures as established by Japanese rules and regulations, as well as any other knowledge and skills necessary for the operation of an automobile.

## Preliminary Review

To change a foreign license to Japanese one, please submit a color or black-and-white copy of the following documents by mail.

After the preliminary review has been completed, we will provide you with the date that your documents will be examined.

Mailing address : 「〒994－0068 Yamagata Prefectural General Traffic Safety Center, Driving Test Section, 1300, Oaza Takadama, Tendo City, Yamagata Prefecture」

To Yamagata Prefectural General Traffic Safety Center Driving Test Section

Please submit copies of the following documents for the preliminary review.

- ① Overseas Driver's License (both sides)
- ② Documents which can prove that you have lived in the country where the driver's license was issued for at least three months in total after obtaining your license. e.g. passport (with entry/exit stamps), certificate of entry and exit, certificate of enrollment at university, etc.
- ③ Certificate of Designation which is attached to a passport (If applicable)
- ④ A copy of your Certificate of Residence (Jumin-hyo) stating your current address (and your nationality, in the case of overseas residents). Your current address should be within Yamagata Prefecture.
- ⑤ Residence card, if you are a resident from overseas
- ⑥ A Japan translation of your overseas license issued by any of the following faculties;
  - \* Embassies or consulates
  - \* The Japan Automobile Federation (JAF)
  - \* ZIPLUS Co., Ltd
  - \* Taiwan-Japan Relations Association (for licenses issued in Taiwan)
  - \* The German Automobile Federation (for licenses issued in Germany)
- ⑦ Other documentation
  - \* Those who have a Chinese License----an identity card issued by Chinese government
  - \* Those who have a Philippine License ---- Official Receipt
  - \* Those who have a Pakistan License----a license certification issued by the Embassy of Pakistan
  - \* When the issuing date of your license is not clear, we might ask you to submit a document that certifies it. (e.g Driver's License Record, etc.)
- ⑧ Memo with a point of contact. (Write all of the following information in the Memo)
  - Name, address and telephone number of your office or work place (or school),
  - A telephone number we will be able to contact you on when your preliminary review is complete)

## Examination of Paperwork

※After finishing the preliminary review, we will examine your paperwork together with you at a designated date and time.

Please bring the following documents

- ① Master copy of documents which you brought or mailed in for the preliminary review
- ② Any specific documents that have been requested following your preliminary review
- ③ An ID photograph (3.0cm long and 2.4cm wide)
- ⑤ My Number personal ID card (If you want a My Number Driver's license)
- ⑥ Examination fee (e.g. License for Ordinary Motor Vehicles: 2,500yen, License for Motorcycles: 2,800yen)
- ⑥ Issuance fee (e.g. Driver's license only: 2,350yen, My Number Driver's license only: 1,550yen, Both of them: 2,450yen)

If you are unable to communicate in Japanese, you must be accompanied by an interpreter or similar.

## Theory Test

- ① A test of knowledge necessary to drive vehicles (available in 21 languages).
- ② Consists of 10 questions in 5 minutes. (A score of at least 7 out of 10 is required to pass the test)

## Practical Test

- ① For those who have passed the theory test.
- ② Carried out at the General Traffic Safety Center, Driving Test Course.

## Issuing the Driver's License

The Driver's License will not be issued on the same day on which you take the test.

You will be asked to return to the Center at a later date to have your photo taken, after which your Driver's License will be issued.

## Contact Details and Appointment Information

- ① Phone Number: 023-655-2150 (Monday to Friday 9:00am-5:00pm)
- ② Please follow the audio instruction on the phone and press 「1」
- ③ You can book re-attempts for practical and theory tests in advance.

The countries and regions mentioned below are exempt from the theory test and/or practical test.

◇ You are not required to take both theory test and practical test, if your license was issued by the authorities in the following countries and regions.

Australia, Austria, State of Hawaii / Maryland / Ohio / Oregon / Virginia / Washington / Colorado (U.S.A.), Belgium, United Kingdom, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Luxembourg, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia. Spain. Sweden. Switzerland and Taiwan 29 countries

◇ You are not required to take a practical test, but you need to take a theory test, if your license was issued by the authorities in the following countries.

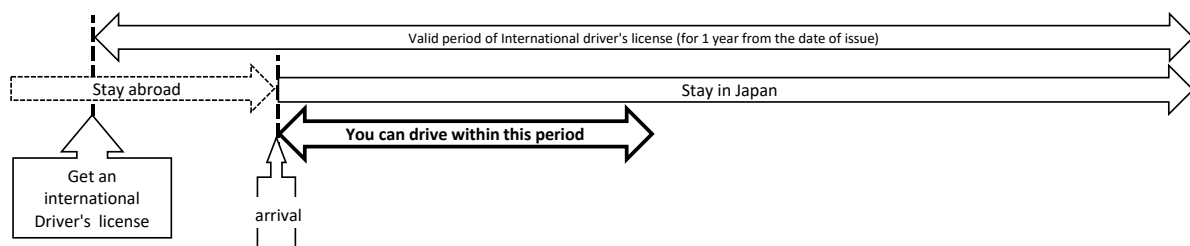
The United States of America (Indiana State only)

## A Note of Caution When Using an International License

International Licenses are issued based on the Convention on Road Traffic (the **Geneva Convention** on Road Traffic). In Japan, these licenses shall be valid for driving for one year calculated from the date of arrival in Japan and within the valid period of the International License (one year from the date of issue).

In addition, if you possess a Foreign Driver's License issued by the authorities of Switzerland, Germany, France, Belgium, Monaco and Taiwan accompanied by a Japanese translation, you will be allowed to drive in Japan. But the period you can drive is same as above, within one year calculated from the date of arrival in Japan

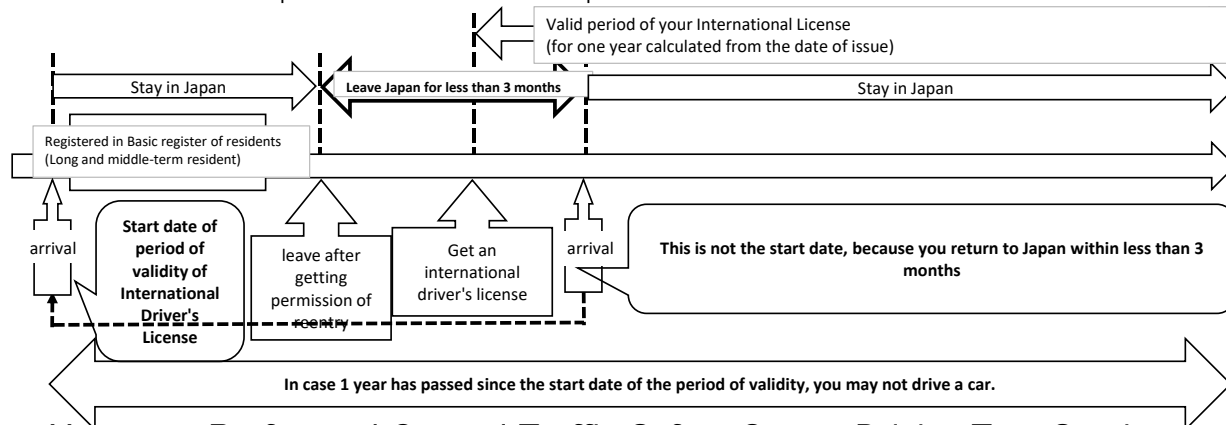
### Scenario 1: You obtain an International Driver's License before arriving in Japan



The Road Traffic Law states that if a person residing in Japan (registered in Basic register of residents) leaves Japan and returns in less than three months, the date of their return to Japan will not be used as the beginning of the period of validity of their International License.

In case the period of validity of your International License is over (for one year calculated from the date of issue) and you wish to drive vehicles in Japan with a reissued International License, you need to have been outside of Japan continuously for at least three months and get a reissued International License during this stay outside of Japan.

### Scenario 2: You return to Japan less than 3 months after departure



Yamagata Prefectural General Traffic Safety Center Driving Test Section  
Telephone number: 023-655-2150 Press「1」