

## FOREIGN DRIVING LICENCES IN AUSTRIA

### 1) EEA driving licences<sup>1</sup>

are recognized in Austria, but may be exchanged for an Austrian licence on a voluntary basis.

**Note for holders of classes C/C1 or D/D1:** If you move to Austria and have a driving licence for class C(C1) or D(D1) that was issued in another EEA country, your licence will expire on the date provided in the country of issue, but at the latest five years after you have become a resident of Austria.

### 2) Non-EEA driving licences

Validity: **If you become a resident of Austria**, your non-Austrian driving licence is **valid for 6 months from the date on which you become a resident** if you are 18 or over.

**If you are not a resident of Austria**, your non-Austrian driving licence is **valid for 12 months from the date on which you enter the country** if you are 18 or over.

If your national driving licence is not in German, it must be pink and divided into classes A to E. Otherwise it is only valid in combination with an International Driving Permit or a translation (from ÖAMTC, for example).

Driving licences from the following countries are **not** recognized in Austria:

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<sup>1</sup> The following countries are members of the **EEA**: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK.



Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Indonesia, Kosovo, Libya, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Tonga, Yemen.

### 3) Exchanging a driving licence:

If you hold a **non-EEA driving licence and have become a resident of Austria**, you must exchange your driving licence for an Austrian driving licence within 6 months as follows:

- a) Driving licences from the following non-EEA countries are considered equivalent to driving licences issued in Austria and can therefore be exchanged for an Austrian licence **WITHOUT** having to take a practical test.

**For all classes:** Andorra, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Japan, Jersey, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland, Serbia.

**For class B:** Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Hong Kong, Israel, Macedonia, New Zealand, Republic of South Africa, Republic of South Korea (if the driving licence was issued after 1 January 1997), United Arab Emirates, USA.

- b) Holders of driving licences from other non-EEA countries must take a practical test in a driving school vehicle, for which a fee is charged.
- c) These regulations also apply to Austrian citizens who obtained a driving licence outside the EEA.

### 4) Authority responsible for driving licence exchange:

- The Federal Police Headquarters (Landespolizeidirektion) for your place of residence or, in Vienna, the Motor Vehicle Department (Verkehrsamt), or
- The district administrative authority for your place of residence (Bezirkshauptmannschaft or Magistrat). A foreign driving licence can be exchanged for an Austrian licence at all driving licence authorities throughout Austria.



## 5) Documents required by the authorities:

- Driving licence application (Führerscheinantrag)
- Birth certificate
- Official identity document with a photograph
- Medical certificate (ärztliches Gutachten), no older than 18 months
- Old non-Austrian driving licence
- Translation of the non-Austrian driving licence (available from ÖAMTC – free of charge for members, €18 for non-members). Not required for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Switzerland or Turkey. For Israel, translation from the embassy required.
- Residence registration form (Meldezettel)
- One passport photo (36-45 mm x 28-35 mm)

Please note: authorities in Vienna require the original documents plus photocopies: 2 copies each of the old driving licence and passport, 1 copy of the residence registration form.

The old driving licence is handed in to the authorities. Only driving licences in credit card format are now issued; the new licence is sent to you by post.

Cost (excluding test fee): €60.50

## 6) Important notes:

If a vehicle is driven without a valid driving licence, liability insurance will not provide cover in the event of a traffic accident and may reclaim payments from the driver and the owner of the vehicle. If the vehicle is lent to another person, the owner must make sure that the driver is in possession of a valid driving licence. To drive a moped, a moped driving licence is required.

Motorized vehicles may only be used on roads in Austria if they have been registered with the authorities and display licence plates.



## 7) Important notes on registering a vehicle:

- A vehicle can only be registered to persons whose main residence is in Austria.
- Insurance companies run registration offices (Zulassungsstellen) which are responsible for handling the official registration of vehicles. Vehicles must be registered at the place of your main residence: this is the place where you are ordinarily resident (it is important that you register as a resident at the local municipal authorities).

To register a vehicle, you need:

- Proof of legal ownership of the vehicle (e.g. purchase or donation agreement)
- Confirmation that liability insurance (Haftpflichtversicherung) has been taken out
- A valid identity document with a photograph (please note: a residence entitlement card (Aufenthaltsberechtigungskarte)/white card is not proof of identity)
- Since the vehicle must be roadworthy and in good mechanical condition, a valid certificate from a garage must be presented.
- The cost of registering a vehicle is approx. €190.

### Change of main residence:

If you move you must contact the registration office, which will issue amended registration documents. If the new residence is in the area of another authority, the vehicle must be re-registered. In all events, your insurance company must also be notified of any change of address.

The above information was collected and put together with great care, however we cannot accept any responsibility for its accuracy or completeness.

