

Driving licences valid in Spain according to the Directorate-General for Traffic, known as the DGT:

In addition to licences issued in Spain by the Directorate-General for Traffic, the following are valid for driving in our country: [permisos expedidos en España por la Dirección General de Tráfico](#)

- Driving licences held by citizens from the European Union and the European Economic Area (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway): their driving licence will be valid for driving in Spain for as long as it remains valid.
- Driving licences issued in third countries: only driving licences that comply with Article 21 of the General Drivers Regulation will be valid for driving in Spain. The validity of these licences is subject to the following requirements:
 - The driving licence must be valid and unexpired.
 - The holder must be of the minimum age required in Spain to obtain an equivalent Spanish driving licence.

Article 21. Licences valid for driving in Spain (with an explanation of each point)

1. The following driving licenses are valid for driving in Spain:

a) National licenses from other countries issued in accordance with Annex 9 of the International Convention on Road Traffic signed at Geneva on 19 September 1949, or Annex 6 of the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic of 8 November 1968, or which differ from those models only through the addition or deletion of non-essential headings.

EXPLANATION: *The standard national driving license, provided that it follows a recognized international format.* In other words: the ordinary driving license from your country (not the IDP), but only if it was issued following the standard model in Annex 9 of the 1949 Geneva Convention or Annex 6 of the 1968 Vienna Convention (a card-type format with categories, photo and data coded in the same way in all countries using it). Most modern licenses from the EU, USA, Canada, etc. already follow this format.

b) National licenses from other countries that are written in Spanish or accompanied by an official translation. An official translation is understood to mean one produced by sworn translators, Spanish consuls abroad, consuls in Spain of the country that issued the license, or an organization or entity authorized for this purpose.

EXPLANATION: *The national license, if it is in Spanish or officially translated.* If the license does not follow the international format but is written in Spanish, or the customer accompanies it with an official translation (prepared by a sworn translator, a consulate or an authorized organization), it is also valid.

c) International licenses issued abroad in accordance with the model in Annex 10 of the International Convention on Road Traffic signed at Geneva on 19 September 1949, or with the models in Annex E of the International Convention of Paris of 24 April 1926 on motor traffic, or Annex 7 of the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic of 8 November 1968, in the case of nations party to these Conventions that have not signed or acceded to the Geneva Convention.

EXPLANATION: *The International Driving Permit itself (the "IDP").* In Spain, only the physical document (the original booklet) is accepted. It does not matter which country the customer is from or whether their country offers a

digital version — the DGT and Spanish authorities do not recognize digital, scanned or PDF copies of an International Driving Permit. This is consistent with the DGT's own position: even the Spanish digital driving license (miDGT app) is not valid outside Spain and, reciprocally, no foreign digital document is accepted here. It must be the original physical booklet, together with the original physical national driving license.

d) Licenses recognized under specific multilateral and bilateral international agreements to which Spain is a party, under the conditions established in those agreements.

EXPLANATION: *The provisions of the specific bilateral agreement with Spain apply.* Consulta el listado oficial y actualizado de países con convenio de canje directamente en la web de la DGT:

<https://sede.dgt.gob.es/es/permisos-de-conducir/canjes-de-permisos>

Note: this link should be checked periodically, as the DGT may update or modify the list of countries with an agreement without prior notice. The list below is provided as a quick reference; in the event of any doubt, the information published directly on the official DGT website always prevails:

29 countries belong to the EU and are covered by the relevant European arrangements.

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden.

33 non-EU countries have a specific bilateral agreement.

Andorra, Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Moldova, Monaco, Morocco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Serbia, South Korea, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, and Uruguay.

2. The validity of the licences referred to in the previous section is subject to the following requirements:

a) The driving license must be valid and unexpired.

EXPLANATION: *Not expired*

b) The holder must be of the age required in Spain to obtain an equivalent Spanish licence.

EXPLANATION: *The holder must meet the minimum age required in Spain for that type of license (e.g. 18 for a car), even if driving is permitted at a younger age in their country.*

c) No more than six months may have elapsed since the holder established normal residence in Spain, duly evidenced in accordance with Organic Law 4/2000 of 11 January on the rights and freedoms of foreign nationals in Spain and their social integration, unless a different rule has been established in the corresponding agreement for licenses referred to in paragraph d) of the previous section.

EXPLANATION: If the holder has settled in Spain (normal residence, evidenced in accordance with immigration law), they have 6 months from the date they acquire that residence during which they may continue driving with the foreign license.

If the holder cannot prove normal residence in Spain, those licenses will only be valid for driving in Spain if no more than six months have elapsed since their lawful entry into Spanish territory, in accordance with Organic Law 4/2000 of 11 January.

EXPLANATION: *If the holder does not prove residence* (tourist, short stay), the license is only valid if no more than 6 months have passed since they lawfully entered Spain.

3. Once the six-month period referred to in paragraph c) above has elapsed, the licenses referred to in section 1 cease to be valid for driving in Spain. If their holders wish to continue driving, they must obtain a Spanish driving license, after meeting the applicable requirements and passing the corresponding tests.

What do the conventions regulate?

They establish a standard format for driving licenses and international driving permits so that a country party to the convention automatically recognizes documents issued by another party according to that model (Annex 9 and Annex 10 of the Geneva Convention, etc.). In other words, the convention is an agreement for mutual recognition of a document format; it is not a rule that, by itself, requires or waives an IDP for tourists.

Correct IDP (International Driving Permit) format

- Debe ser un librito gris tamaño A6 (algo más grande que un pasaporte), no una hoja A4 impresa ni un PDF.
- **Convención correcta:** la mayoría de estos países emite bajo la Convención de Ginebra de 1949 — debe indicarlo en la portada.
- **Emisor oficial:** debe llevar el sello/membrete del organismo emisor (AAA, CAA, ATCUAE, DLT, etc.), no de una empresa privada.
- **Cuidado con vendedores falsos:** hay muchísimas webs privadas (tipo "IDA", "e-ITCA", "internationaldriversassociation.com") que venden PDFs o "carnets" que parecen oficiales, pero no están reconocidos por ningún gobierno. Varios de los propios organismos oficiales (AAA, AATA) advierten explícitamente de esto. Si el cliente presenta algo que no coincide con el emisor oficial de su país, no es válido.
- **Debe acompañar siempre al permiso nacional:** el IDP nunca es válido solo, tiene que coincidir el nombre, foto y datos con el permiso de conducir original del cliente.

Below is the country-by-country list with the official issuing body, website and estimated IDP issuance time:

United States

IAAA (American Automobile Association) / AATA

Website: <https://www.aaa.com/vacation/idp.html>

Processing time: same day in person (20-60 min) / 5 business days + shipping if online

Canada

CAA (Canadian Automobile Association)

Website: <https://www.caa.ca/services/travel/international-driving-permit/>

Processing time: under 1 hour in-store / 2-3 weeks by mail

Australia

AAA (Australian Automobile Association), through clubs such as NRMA, RACQ & RACT

Website: <https://www.mynrma.com.au/travel/international-driving-permits>

Processing time: same day in person / 3-5 business days by mail

United Arab Emirates

ATCUAE (Automobile & Touring Club of the UAE)

Website: <https://atcuae.ae/idl-international-driving-license/>

Processing time: immediate collection at the office / 3-5 business days for home delivery

Russia

GIBDD (Госавтоинспекция), processed through the Gosuslugi portal or MFC

Website: <https://www.gosuslugi.ru>

Processing time: same day at a GIBDD office / a few days if processed through Gosuslugi

Mexico

ANA (Asociación Nacional Automovilística) / AMA (Asociación Mexicana Automovilística)

Website: <https://www.ana.com.mx/permisosinternacionales.html>

Processing time: 20-40 minutes, immediate issue

Israel

MEMSI (Automobile & Touring Club of Israel)

Website: <https://www.memsi.co.il>

Processing time: in-person procedure, usually completed the same day.

Saudi Arabia

SATA (Saudi Automobile and Touring Association)

Website: <https://www.sataclub.com.sa/en/idp/>

Processing time: in-person procedure, issued the same day

Thailand

DLT (Department of Land Transport)

Website: <https://www.dlt.go.th>

Processing time: under 10 minutes, issued the same day

Gibraltar

DVLD (Driver & Vehicle Licensing Department)

Website: <https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/transport-traffic-and-technical-services/driving-licences>

Processing time: no official processing time published (in-person procedure at the DVLD)

South Africa

AA (Automobile Association of South Africa)

Website: <https://aa.co.za/travel/international-driving-permit/>

Processing time: 10-30 minutes in person

Qatar

QATC (Qatar Automobile & Touring Club) or the Traffic Department of the Ministry of Interior

Website: no single verified official portal is available; it is advisable to check

<https://www.moi.gov.qa>

Processing time: 30 min-1 hour at QATC (immediate express service) / 1-2 business days at the Ministry of Interior

Kuwait

KIAC (Kuwait International Automobile Club)

Website: https://www.kiac.com.kw/service_details1.html

Processing time: no official processing time published

Hong Kong

Transport Department (TD)

Website:

<https://www.gov.hk/en/residents/transport/drivinglicense/osintldrivingpermit.htm>

Processing time: 10 business days by mail / 20 min-1 hour using in-person self-service

India

RTO (Regional Transport Office), through the Parivahan portal

Website: <https://parivahan.gov.in>

Processing time: 3 to 7 business days

Costa de Marfil

DGTTC (Direction Générale des Transports Terrestres et de la Circulation)

Website: no single verified official portal was found; confirmation with traffic offices or the embassy is recommended

Processing time: no official processing time published

Puerto Rico

same as the United States - AAA / AATA (uses the same US system)

Website: <https://www.aaa.com/vacation/idp.html>

Processing time: same day in person / 5 business days + shipping if online

Malaysia

JPJ (Jabatan Pengangkutan Jalan) / AAM (Automobile Association of Malaysia)

Website: https://www.jpj.my/international_driving_permit.htm

Processing time: 1-2 business days (in some cases, the same day)

Important note: The information on issuing bodies, websites and processing times in this section is provided solely for informational and guidance purposes. It is the customer's sole responsibility to verify and confirm directly with official sources in their country of origin which body is currently authorized, the correct website and the actual processing time before starting any procedure or trip. This company cannot guarantee the accuracy, current validity or updating of this information, as regulations and designated bodies in each country may change at any time without those changes being immediately reflected here. Accordingly, this company accepts no liability for errors, unreflected changes or inconvenience arising from the use of outdated or incorrect information.