

Your foreign driver's licence

Knowledge Center for International Staff

If you relocate to the Netherlands, you can drive here using your foreign licence for a specific period of time, which depends on the country in which the licence was issued. After this period, you must have a Dutch driver's licence.

Eligibility

You can exchange your foreign driver's licence for a Dutch licence if you are registered in the municipality personal records database (*GBA*) and have a valid residence status.

Licences issued in EU/EFTA member state

Holders of a valid driver's licence issued in an [EU/EFTA member state](#) are allowed to drive in the Netherlands using this licence for 10 years after the licence was issued. If your licence is older than 9 years, you can drive in the Netherlands for one year following your registration in the Dutch municipality of residence.

Examples

- The holder of a British driver's licence issued on 15.10.2000 can drive in the Netherlands with this licence until 15.10.2010 unless it expires before this date (in the latter case, it should be exchanged before it expires).
- The holder of a German licence issued on 10.03.2000 who registered in the Netherlands on 10.10.2009 can drive here until 10-10-2010. While the licence is older than 9 years, from the date of registration in the Dutch municipality s/he is allowed to use his/her foreign licence for one full year (provided it has not expired).

Licences issued in non-EU/EFTA countries

Holders of a valid driver's licence issued in a non-EU/EFTA member state who are in possession of a valid Dutch residence permit are allowed to drive in the Netherlands using this licence for 185 days following registration in the Dutch municipality of residence.

After this period, holders must either take a driving exam in the Netherlands to get a Dutch licence, **or** request an exchange of the foreign licence.

30% rule

If you (or your partner) are making use of the 30% tax rule, you can exchange your foreign licence *regardless* of the country where your licence was issued.

Exchanging your foreign licence

Complete the relevant application form available from your municipality of residence/city hall. The municipality will send the completed application form to the [Vehicle and Driver Licensing Agency \(RDW\)](#) of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment after you have paid the municipal fees.

Along with the application, please submit:

- a copy of the decision from the Heerlen Tax Office demonstrating that the 30% tax rule applies to you/your partner (if applicable)
- an extract from the municipality personal records database (*uittreksel GBA*)
- a declaration of ability (*verklaring van geschiktheid*)
- your original, valid foreign driver's licence
- two identical, recent passport photos that meet the [Dutch passport picture requirements](#).