International Drivers’ Licenses and Reciprocity Update

There are different sources of authority, including international treaties and state and federal laws, which govern the operation of commercial and non-commercial vehicles by persons licensed in foreign countries. The licenses of residents of foreign countries that are considered valid are listed below. An international driving permit is not required. For licenses that are not in English, an interpreter may be required to determine the license’s validity.

Courts and law enforcement should not seize and destroy foreign drivers’ licenses pursuant to section 625g of the Michigan Vehicle Code.

1943 Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automotive Traffic

Residents of countries that are signatories to the 1943 Convention may drive in this country if they have a valid non-commercial or commercial driver’s license issued by their country of residence or an authorized political subdivision of that country. These countries include:

- Mexico
- Honduras
- Brazil
- Nicaragua
- Colombia
- Panama
- Costa Rica
- Uruguay
- El Salvador

1949 Convention on Road Traffic

Residents of countries that are signatories to the 1949 Convention may drive in this country if they have a valid non-commercial driver’s license issued by their country of residence. These countries include:

- Albania
- France
- Italy
- Algeria
- Chile
- Gambia
- Jamaica
- Argentina
- China (Taiwan)
- Georgia
- Japan
- Australia
- Congo
- Ghana
- Jordan
- Austria
- Congo Democratic Rep.
- Greece
- Korea
- Bahamas
- Cote d’Ivoire
- Grenada
- Kyrgyz Rep.
- Belarus
- Cuba
- Guatemala
- Laos
- Barbados
- Cyprus
- Guyana
- Lebanon
- Belgium
- Czech Rep.
- Haiti
- Lesotho
- Belize
- Denmark
- Hong Kong
- Luxembourg
- Benin
- Dominican Rep.
- Hungary
- Macao
- Botswana
- Ecuador
- Iceland
- Madagascar
- Bulgaria
- Egypt
- India
- Malawi
- Cambodia
- Fiji
- Ireland
- Malaysia
- Canada
- Finland
- Israel
- Mali

Found at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Reciprocity_Agreements_and_Underlying_Authority_170819_7.pdf
Malta  Poland  Singapore  Trinidad & Tobago
Mauritius  Portugal  Slovak Rep.  Tunisia
Monaco  Romania  South Africa  Turkey
Morocco  Russian Federation  Spain  Uganda
Namibia  Rwanda  Sri Lanka  United Kingdom
Netherlands  St. Lucia  Suriname  Vatican City
New Zealand  St. Vincent & the Grenadines  Swaziland  Venezuela
Norway  Senegal  Syrian Arab Rep.  Western Samoa
Papua New Guinea  Serbia and Montenegro  Tanzania  Yugoslavia
Paraguay  Seychelles  Thailand  Zambia
Peru  Sierra Leone  Togo  Zimbabwe
Philippines

Commercial Drivers’ Licenses Issued by Canada and Mexico

If a driver has a valid commercial driver’s license issued by Canada or Mexico, the license must be honored as required by federal law (see 49 USC 31301 et seq. and 49 CFR 383.23).

Special Reciprocity Agreements with Germany and the Republic of Korea

Pursuant to MCL 257.302a(2) of the Michigan Vehicle Code, the Secretary of State has determined that the standards for licensing operators in Germany and the Republic of Korea correspond substantially to those of the State of Michigan. Therefore, reciprocal driving privileges were extended to Germany, effective November 10, 1997, and to the Republic of Korea effective, February 14, 2012. Persons holding valid driver licenses issued by Germany or the Republic of Korea may operate passenger vehicles in Michigan on such licenses, if they are not receiving compensation for such operation. The privileges extended to Germany and North Korea have not been withdrawn.

If you have any questions, please contact the Michigan Department of State at (888) SOS-MICH; (888) 767-6424.