

Factsheet on exchange of German driving licences

Under the Thirteenth Ordinance amending the Driver Licensing Ordinance (Fahrerlaubnis-Verordnung) and Other Road Traffic Regulations of 11 March 2019 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 218), German driving licences are to be exchanged for new ones that meet European requirements. The new licences will be phased in ahead of the deadline. Under the “Third EU Driving Licence Directive” (Directive 2006/126/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on Driving Licences), all driving licences issued before 19 January 2013 must be exchanged by 19 January 2033. This is to ensure that all driving licences in circulation in the EU are based on a single model which, in particular, fulfils anti-forgery requirements.

The phased exchange will be as follows:

1) Driving licences issued up to and including 31 December 1998

Birth year of driving licence holder	Date by which driving licence must be exchanged
Before 1953	19.01.2033
1953-1958	19.01.2022
1959-1964	19.01.2023
1965-1970	19.01.2024
1971 or later	19.01.2025

2) Driving licences issued from 1 January 1999 onwards*

Year of issue	Date by which driving licence must be exchanged
1999-2001	19.01.2026
2002-2004	19.01.2027
2005-2007	19.01.2028
2008	19.01.2029
2009	19.01.2030
2010	19.01.2031
2011	19.01.2032
2012-18.01.2013	19.01.2033

*Driving licence holders born before 1953 must exchange their driving licence by 19 January 2033, regardless of the year of issue of the driving licence.

Once the deadline stated above has passed, your old driving licence will no longer be valid.

This is purely an administrative exchange. You will still be permitted to drive. No additional regular medical examinations or other checks are required. Such checks will continue to be required only for certain occupations with special responsibility. The newly issued driving licence will be valid for a period of 15 years – regardless of the type of licence. When it expires, a new driving licence must be issued.

This information can also be found on the website of the Federal Ministry of Transport (BMDV) at:

<https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/DE/Artikel/StV/pflichtumtausch-von-fuehrerscheinen.html>

How to exchange your licence if you are resident in a third country (= outside of EU/EEA)

- 1) Please get in direct contact with the authority in Germany that issued your driving licence.
- 2) This authority will send the application forms directly to you.
- 3) You send the completed and signed forms, along with a biometric passport photo, back to the authority.
- 4) The new driving licence is then sent to the German Embassy in London, Consulate General Edinburgh or one of the Honorary Consuls.
- 5) The Embassy, Consulate General Edinburgh (or the Honorary Consul) contacts you to arrange a collection appointment.
- 6) Please take your valid passport or identity card and your old driving licence with you to your appointment with the Embassy, Consulate General or Honorary Consul.
- 7) At the appointment, your identity will be checked and – provided there are no concerns – you will be given your new driving licence. You will need to hand in your old driving licence, and the Embassy or the Consulate General will send it to the issuing authority in Germany. If you have lost your old driving licence, you will need to submit an affidavit pursuant to Section 5 of the Road Traffic Act (StVG) at the appointment.

Charges

The authority in Germany charges a handling fee of around €25 plus P&P to exchange a licence. This usually needs to be paid to the relevant authority on request.

If you have lost your German driving licence and therefore need to submit an affidavit pursuant to Section 5 of the Road Traffic Act, you will have to pay roughly an additional £50 at the London Embassy, Consulate General Edinburgh or the Honorary Consul's office.

Any questions?

If you have any questions, please email us at info@lond.diplo.de or info@edin.diplo.de