

4. Driver's License



Japanese Driver's License

The police are responsible for driver's license administration. As of the end of 2020, 81,989,887 persons possess driver's licenses.

Driver's licenses are valid for five years unless drivers are novice drivers, have committed traffic violations or caused traffic accidents, or are 70 years of age or older.

At the time of renewal, drivers are required to undergo training according to their respective records of traffic violations and accidents.

Drivers who are 70 years of age or older, are required to undergo training for elderly drivers at the time of renewal. Additionally, drivers who are 75 years of age or older are required to undergo a cognitive assessment in advance. Based on the assessment, elderly drivers will be assigned to undergo the most appropriate training. Further measures can be taken for elderly drivers who show cognitive impairment. (This system will be amended in May 2022. Thereafter, drivers who are 75 years of age or older and have committed a traffic violation that matches certain criteria will be required to take a driving skill test at the time of license renewal, in addition to cognitive assessment and training.)

The police can promptly revoke or suspend licenses of drivers who committed serious traffic violations or caused accidents, and require them to undergo additional training.

5. Promotion of Traffic Safety Education and Campaigns

A. Traffic Safety Education Guidelines

The NPSC stipulates the "Traffic Safety Education Guidelines" in order to provide standardized traffic safety education depending on the target audiences' age, the stage of mental and physical development, and the means of transportation. The police promote traffic safety education based on the Guidelines in collaboration with local groups and traffic organizations.

B. Driving Safety Supervisors

Business operators using more than a certain number of motor vehicles are required to appoint Driving Safety Supervisors. Driving Safety Supervisors are responsible for the traffic safety of their drivers and also provide traffic safety education to their drivers based on the Traffic Safety Education Guidelines. As of the end of March 2021, there are approximately 339,000 business establishments with Driving Safety Supervisors in Japan.

C. National Traffic Safety Campaigns

The police co-sponsor the National Traffic Safety Campaigns with other governmental ministries, agencies and relevant sectors every spring and fall. During the ten-day campaign period, the police intensively carry out road safety activities with local residents. These activities focus on prevention of traffic accidents involving children and the elderly, promotion of the safe use of bicycles, raise awareness about safe driving, as well as crackdown on DUI cases.