

Without Obtaining a Japanese License

1 Driving with an International Driving Permit



(International Driving Permits under the Geneva Convention)

- Persons with an International Driving Permit, in accordance with the forms prescribed in the Geneva Convention*, are allowed to drive for a period of one year after their landing in Japan.
(Article 107-2, Road Traffic Act)

(*) Geneva Convention
... Convention on Road Traffic signed in Geneva on September 19, 1949

2 Driving with a Foreign Driver's License with a Japanese Translation



(Driver's licenses of foreign countries and regions)

(Japanese Translation)

- Persons with driver's licenses of foreign countries or regions* with Japanese translations* attached thereto are allowed to drive for a period of one year after their landing in Japan.
(Article 107-2, Road Traffic Act)

(*) Driver's licenses of foreign countries and regions
... Driver's licenses of Belgium, France, Germany, Monaco, Switzerland and Taiwan

(*) Japanese translations
... Limited to those prepared by consular offices of countries that issued the licenses or by legal persons, etc., designated by the National Public Safety Commission

By Obtaining a Japanese License

1 Obtaining a License with a Partial Exemption of License Exam (for Those with Foreign Driver's Licenses)



- Persons with foreign driver's licenses are partially exempted from the license exam (the knowledge and skills tests).
- However, the above rule only applies if such persons stayed in a foreign country or region for three months or longer in total after they were granted the driver's license of said country or region.

2 Obtaining a License by Passing the Ordinary License Exam (for Those without Foreign Driver's Licenses)



- Persons without foreign driver's licenses need to take the ordinary driver's license exam to obtain a Japanese driver's license.