

Q&A (related to international driver's license)

The following are general examples and actual cases may vary.

For details, please contact the driver's license center in the police department for each prefecture.

Q1 Are there any requirements for an international driver's license to allow the driver to drive in Japan?

A1 In Japan, only international driver's licenses issued under the Geneva Convention by an authorized agency of a country party to the Convention are considered valid. In addition, the format (dimensions) of the international driver's license is stipulated in Annex 10 of the same Convention as follows, and if it differs significantly from this, it may not be accepted.

<Dimensions: length 148 mm, width 105 mm>

Q2 Can I drive with a digital version of my international driver's license by displaying it on my cell phone, for example?

A2 No, that is not possible.

As stated in A1, the format (dimensions) is specified by the Convention.

When driving in Japan, carry your original (original paper) international driver's license when you drive.

Q3 There is a sticker or stamp across the vehicle type column. Can I still drive with this license?

A3 Unless the type of vehicle you can drive is specified, you will not be able to drive.

The same applies if the columns are blank, or if they are not legible due to a check type (check marks), etc.

In addition, you do not have a sticker or stamp in any of the vehicle type columns, you will not be able to drive in Japan.

Q4 I only have a stamp in the "Vehicle Type D" column, but is it possible to operate a vehicle in the "Vehicle Type B" category, which is a smaller category?

A4 No, it is not possible.

You can only operate vehicles in Japan for which you have a stamp in the vehicle type column.

Q5 I would like to drive a general motorized bicycle or a small special motor vehicle with an international driver's license in Japan.

A5 You may drive in Japan as long as you have a stamp in any of the vehicle categories A through E.