

Hachinohe Living Guide (はちのへの暮らし方)

Citizen Collaboration Promotions Section
Hachinohe City

VOL. 4

じどうしゃめんきょ Driver License (自動車免許)

(For those possessing a driver license issued by their own country or an international driving permit)

1. In order to drive in Japan

▶ You must possess one of the following:

1. A Japanese driver license
2. An International driving permit
https://www.npa.go.jp/policies/application/license_renewal/have_DL_issued_another_country.html
3. A driver license of a nation/province that has licensing system standards equivalent to those in Japan.
(Currently: Swiss Confederation, Federal Republic of Germany, French Republic, Kingdom of Belgium, Principality of Monaco, Taiwan, etc.)
A written translation prepared by an authorized translator needs to accompany the license.

▶ The valid driving period in Japan

1. Japanese driver license: within the expiration date written on your license
2. International driving permit and native country's driver license; the shorter period of the following two;
 - One year from the day of arrival to Japan
 - The expiration date on the International driving permit
 (The International driving permit is not valid if the native countries' driver license has expired.)
3. A driver license from the following 29 countries/province given below can be switched to a Japanese driver license by submission of the required documents and passing of the written test and aptitude test (visual acuity, auditory acuity, color visual acuity, etc.).

Iceland, Ireland, United States (limited to Ohio, Virginia, Hawaii, Maryland and Washington), United Kingdom, Italy, Australia, Austria, Netherlands, Canada, South Korea, Greece, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Hungary, Finland, France, Belgium, Poland, Portugal, Monaco, Luxembourg, Taiwan

In addition, a driver license of the United States (Indiana State only,) can also be switched to a Japanese driver license by submission of the required documents and passing of the written test and the aptitude test.

• Please check the homepage for detailed information.

<https://www.keishicho.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/menkyo/menkyo/kokugai/kokugai05.html>

2. How to obtain a Japanese driver license

In order to drive in Japan, you need to switch your native country's driver license to the Japanese license. With the documents and a driver license that meets the following requirements, the procedure can be simplified.

- Documents proving that the driver license holder stayed in one's native country for more than three months in total after getting a driver license.
 - Valid driver license issued by one's native country
- ▶ Documents required for application
1. Application form (prepared at the examination site)
 2. Admission ticket (prepared at the examination site)
 3. Health declaration form (prepared at the examination site)
 4. Resident Card and Certificate of Residence (jyuminhyo) containing domicile of origin
 5. Currently valid driver license issued by the foreign government agency
 6. Translation of a driver license
(The translation should be done by JAF or a consulate of one's native country)
 7. Passport verifying that the holder stayed for three months or more in the country which issued the driver license
 8. Two ID photos (3 cm x 2.4 cm, upper body, no hat, no background, taken within the past six months)
 9. Fee for examination: 2,550 yen
Fee for delivery: 2,050 yen
- ▶ Application and Examination Site
- Aomori Driver's License Center
Address: 198-4, Sannaimaruyama, Aomori
TEL: 017-782-0081
Open Monday through Friday 13:00-13:30
- ▶ Notes
- Appointment is necessary to apply for obtaining a Japanese driver's license. Please call the Driver's License Center once you have all the required documents ready.
 - Procedure includes a review of the documents and a written and practical road test.
 - Those who will take the practical road test for a motorcycle driver license need to bring the following; a helmet, gloves, boots, a long-sleeve top, and long pants.
- ▶ Further information
- Aomori prefecture Police Headquarters, Traffic Bureau, License Division, Driving School Section (in Aomori Driver's License Center)
Address: 198-4 Sannaimaruyama, Aomori
TEL: 017-782-0081

Japanese Translation Service for Overseas Driver Licenses

ZIPLUS(ジップラス)

[How to apply for the translation service]

Please check the homepage to apply for the service.

<https://ziplus.jp>

JAF:

[How to apply for the translation service]

Bring the required documents listed below to the Translation Service Counter at the JAF, or mail them to the office by “Genkin Kakitome” (registered mail for cash) together with the issuance fee.

[Documents Required]

1. Japanese translation application form: the application form can be downloaded from the JAF homepage (<http://www.jaf.or.jp/inter/translation/index.htm>).
To request the form to be mailed to you, contact the JAF Aomori Branch Office (017-765-5225).
2. A photocopy of the overseas driver license: the photo copy must be clear and of both sides (front and back) of the license respectively, if at all possible in color.
3. A photocopy of the Residence Card: this is required only for licenses written in Arabic or Russian, or the licenses issued by certain nations such as the Republic of Korea, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Union of Myanmar and the Russian Federation.

[Fees] 3,000 yen (An additional fee of 500 yen is required for return postage when an application is submitted by mail)

[Time required]

Applications made directly at the JAF counter: Generally 2 weeks

Applications made by registered mail: About one week (it takes 2-3 weeks for applications that require a copy of the Alien Registration card)

[Further Information]

JAF Aomori Branch Office

Address: 9-12 Kirinosawa Komagome, Aomori, Aomori 030-0955

TEL: 017-765-5255