Permission to drive in Germany
Introduction

In the last few years, many people have come to Germany from other countries. Large numbers of these already have a driving licence from their country of origin and would like to be able to drive in Germany.

Even though these people have, in some cases, had a driving licence for a very long time, it may be that it is not valid here in Germany.

**Driving without a driving licence, without permission to drive and without insurance protection are criminal offences which may be punishable with a prison sentence.**

Furthermore, criminal offences may have a negative impact on asylum proceedings and may result in citizenship being refused.

The Communal Integration Centre of the Rhine-Sieg District has produced this brochure together with the Road Traffic Department in order to avoid this happening.
Permission to drive

Anyone who wants to drive a motorised vehicle in Germany must have permission to drive.

*Depending on the size of the vehicle and the size of the engine, there are various different tests which they will need to pass*

Driving licence

When you have passed the driving tests, you will receive an official document – the driving licence.

This will state which types of vehicle you are allowed to drive.
Limited stays in Germany

If you come to Germany for a holiday, to study for one or two semesters, or to work for a few months, German laws and regulations apply to you.

This also includes those concerning the driving of motorised vehicles.

Residence in Germany

If you are living in Germany, then your driving licence must be exchanged for a German licence after six (6) months at the latest.

Watch out! Your driving licence from your country of origin will no longer be valid after six (6) months.
Watch out!

It is often the case when people come to live in Germany from other countries that they are required to renew their permission to drive by doing a new driving test, for both theory and practice. They will also have to pay for this.

Watch out!

There are different types of permission for the various different sizes of vehicle.

Watch out!

If a person continues to drive despite the fact that their driving licence is invalid, this is a criminal offence and can have a negative impact on the procedures for gaining citizenship and/or asylum.
Exchanging an EU driving licence

It is not necessary to exchange your licence for a German one. This type of driving licence is valid in Germany with no restrictions.

Watch out!

For some classes (Classes C and D), the validity of your licence expires after five (5) years.

DON´T MISS THE EXPIRY DATE!

For these classes, German law applies, even if another term (e.g. 10 years) is specified on the EU driving licence.
Exchange of driving licences from countries with simplified exchange conditions

For certain countries and for certain classes of vehicle, there are agreements in place for reciprocal recognition. In this case, a driving licence can be exchanged for a German licence with or without the holder passing a theory or practical driving test.

Do you come from one of these countries?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Andorra</th>
<th>Namibia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>New Caledonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
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<td>French Polynesia</td>
<td>Rep. of Korea</td>
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<td>Guernsey</td>
<td>San Marino</td>
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<td>The Isle of Man</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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<td>Israel</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
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<td>Jersey</td>
<td>Taiwan</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
<td>USA</td>
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<td>Monaco</td>
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* in accordance with Annex 11 of the Driving Permissions Regulation
Exchange of driving licences from all other countries

Driving licences from these countries are not valid in Germany. You will have to take a new theory and practical driving test in order that your driving licence can be exchanged for a German driving licence.

The theory test can be done in the following foreign languages:
Arabic, English, French, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Croatian, Spanish and Turkish.
Procedure for exchanging your licence for a German driving licence

You will need:

• a valid Identification Document with photo

• your driving licence from the country which you come from

• a Certificate of Registration showing that you are resident in the Rhine-Sieg district

Please ask at the Road Traffic Department beforehand whether there are any other documents you may need to bring.
Types of driving permission

Permission to drive is divided into three (3) different groups. Within these groups there are further classes, according to the size of the vehicle, the size of the engine, and the use of trailers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>All motorised two and three-wheeled vehicles and quad bikes</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>All passenger vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>All trucks and buses</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Types of driving permission

It is often the case when people come from other countries to live in Germany that, when they renew their driving licence, they have to do a new driving test for both theory and practice. They will also have to pay for this.
Vehicle registration

As soon as a vehicle which has been registered in a different country has its regular place of keeping (= the place where the owner lives) in the Federal Republic of Germany, it is subject to German laws on registration and must be registered in the Rhine-Sieg district.
Vehicles purchased in Germany must also be registered by law

For registration or re-registration of a vehicle, the following documents will need to be presented at the Road Traffic Department of the Rhine-Sieg District.

1. A valid Identification Document with photo

2. Registration documents of the vehicle

3. Registration of your home address (Certificate of Registration)
Vehicles purchased in Germany must also be registered by law

4 Direct debit mandate for your car tax payments (SEPA mandate). For this you will need an account with a German bank or savings bank.

5 Confirmation that you have insured your vehicle. In this case, it is enough to bring your electronic insurance number with you.

Please note:
Without insurance, the vehicle cannot be registered. It may also be that further documents are required. This will depend on the type of vehicle you want to drive. For this reason, it is advisable to enquire beforehand at the Road Traffic Department of the Rhine-Sieg District.
Offices
Road Traffic Department of the Rhine-Sieg District

On the right-hand bank of the Rhine:
Kreishaus
Kaiser-Wilhelm-Platz 1
53721 Siegburg
Vehicle registration / driving licences

On the left-hand bank of the Rhine:
Kalkofenstr. 2
53340 Meckenheim
Vehicle registration / driving licences
conduire
Please note:
You need to make an appointment in advance for questions concerning vehicle registration and driving licences at the Road Traffic Department.

You can select an online appointment here: www.rhein-sieg-kreis.de/cms100/buergerservice/aemter/amt36/artikel/18521/

If you have difficulties making an online appointment, you can also call us to reserve your chosen appointment.

Please use the following telephone numbers

02241/13-3939  02241/13-2001
02241/13-2011  02225/94 09 50 14

Recommendation:
If you do not speak good German, please bring along an interpreter to your appointment.
Have a good journey...

...with valid papers!