ONTARIO DRIVER’S LICENCE

An Ontario driver’s licence is your proof of your privilege to drive. You must carry it with you whenever you drive. A driver’s licence includes your name, address, signature, date of birth, gender, height, date licence issued and expiry dates, and codes showing what class of vehicles you may drive and under what conditions.

A newcomer to Ontario is required to apply for an Ontario driver’s licence within 60 days of taking up residence in the province. You may use your current driver’s licence for up to 60 days after which you must apply for an Ontario driver’s licence to keep driving. Insurance brokers require you to have a valid Canadian driver’s licence before you can buy car insurance.

EXCHANGING AN OUT-OF-PROVINCE LICENCE

If you have a valid driver’s licence from the following jurisdictions, you may exchange them for an Ontario driver’s licence:

- Canadian provinces and territories;
- Canadian Forces Europe;
- United States
  - Applicants from Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Vermont must provide a driving abstract dated within 6 months) indicating the date the licence was first issued. The driving abstract must be an original; fax and photocopies are not acceptable.
  - US IRE (Interprovincial Record Exchange) search is mandatory for all other applicants and may present a delay in processing an exchange if a successful search is not completed. It is therefore recommended that you obtain a driving record (dated within six months of your application and indicating the date the licence was first issued) to prevent any delays in processing. The driving record must be an original; Fax and photocopies are not acceptable.
- Australia, Austria, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Germany, Isle of Man, Japan, Korea, Northern Ireland and Switzerland.

If your driver’s licence is not in English or French, it must be accompanied by a written translation from a qualified translator. Before leaving, apply for an international driver's license in your country of origin. Information about this process can usually be found by entering “International Drivers License (Name of your Country)” in Google. The application must be made in person, and you must have a valid driver’s licence in the country where you are applying. In many countries, the International Drivers License is available from a national auto club.

If you are a licenced driver with two or more years of driving experience (excluding experience gained with a learner’s licence) from one of the above jurisdictions you may get full class licence privileges without taking a knowledge or road test. However, you must pass a vision test and show acceptable proof of your previous licence status and driving experience.

YOUR DRIVER’S LICENCE MUST NOT BE EXPIRED FOR MORE THAN A YEAR AT THE TIME OF EXCHANGE IN ORDER TO BE VALID. YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR EXPERIENCE ONLY DEPENDENT ON THE TIME OF EXPIRY.

EXCHANGING AN OUT-OF-COUNTRY LICENCE

If you have a driver’s licence from a jurisdiction that does not have a reciprocal licence exchange agreement with Ontario (see list above) and you are unable to provide written authentication of your driving experience, please refer to the following information.

REQUIREMENTS

- All applicants must declare their driving experience on the driver's licence application form.
- All applicants for an Ontario driver's licence at the time of application are required to:
  - present a valid foreign driver's licence (if it is not in English or French, it is to be accompanied by a written translation from a qualified translator)
  - present written authentication of their foreign driving experience from the originating licensing agency, or from the Embassy, Consulate or High Commissioner's office representing the jurisdiction, in order to get credit for their driving experience.
  - pass a vision test and a written knowledge test regarding Ontario’s traffic rules
  - pay all applicable fees
  - Provide acceptable proof of identity.

To determine the length of experience that you may be credited, refer to this webpage: http://www.drivetest.ca/en/license/OutOfCountryDrivers.aspx

LICENSEING A VEHICLE IN ONTARIO

Most vehicles on Ontario roads must be registered, insured and maintained to meet certain basic standards. If you own a vehicle, you are responsible for making sure it meets the requirements. People who buy and sell vehicles also have certain responsibilities.

For more information, visit this website: http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandv/vehicle/register.shtml

INSURANCE

Ontario has compulsory automobile insurance. Before you can attach plates to a vehicle or renew your registration, or buy a temporary (trip) permit, the vehicle must be insured. When driving your own or someone else’s vehicle, you must carry the pink liability insurance card for that particular vehicle.

REGISTRATION

Your vehicle permit must accurately describe your vehicle. If a change is made to your vehicle, you must report it at a Driver and Vehicle Licence Issuing Office within six days. If you own a vehicle and change your name or address, you must notify the Ministry within six days (There is no charge for these changes). You can change your name and address in person at a Driver and Vehicle Licence Issuing Office. You can change your address:

- by mail by using the change of information stub attached to your vehicle permit,
- at a ServiceOntario kiosk, or
- online using ServiceOntario Address Change.
FEES

Refer to the fees table: http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandv/vehicle/register.shtml

LICENSED A VEHICLE THAT IS REGISTERED IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION

LICENSED VEHICLES REGISTERED OUT-OF-PROVINCE

Follow the “To Do” Checklist on this page: http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandv/vehicle/rgoutcan.shtml

IMPORTING A VEHICLE FROM THE UNITED STATES OR ANOTHER COUNTRY

Call the Registrar of Imported Vehicles at 1-888-848-8240 or email at info@riv.ca to determine admissibility, fees required, and get information on how to proceed.

For information on which vehicles may be imported, you can also contact:

Transport Canada - Vehicle Importation
Tower C, Place de Ville
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5
Telephone: 1-800-333-0371 or (613) 998-8616
Fax: (613) 998-4831

When you bring a vehicle into Canada you will, in most cases have to pay duty and taxes. For information on federal taxes, please contact the Canada Border Services Agency.

For information on permanently importing your vehicle to Canada, visit the Registrar of Imported Vehicles.

VISITORS

If you are a visitor to Ontario and want to drive while you are here, you must be at least 16 years old and have a valid driver's licence from your own province, state or country. If you are from another country and visiting Ontario for more than three months, you need an International Driver's Permit from your own country or you may have to apply for an Ontario driver's licence, depending on your length of stay. You should also ensure your automobile insurance coverage is sufficient.