

ACCORDING TO THE CALIFORNIA DMV

california.dmv.org

INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMITS/LICENSES (IDP)

The State of California DOES NOT RECOGNIZE International Driving Permits (IDP) as valid driver's licenses. California does recognize a valid driver license that is issued by a foreign jurisdiction (country, state, territory) of which the license holder is a resident.

The IDP is only a translation of information contained on a person's foreign driver license and is *NOT* required to operate a motor vehicle in California. Citations issued to a person in California who has an IDP, but does not have a California driver license will be placed on the Department of Motor Vehicle database.

For more information about travel & driver licensing requirements outside of the US, visit the US State Department Road Safety Overseas website: <http://travel.state.gov/travel>

EXCEPTION TO THE SSN REQUIREMENT:

If you are legally present in the US, but ineligible for an SSN, you are exempt from SSN requirements. If you don't present a SSN, you **must** bring your I-20, I-94 AND Passport.

APPLYING FOR A DRIVER'S LICENSE IF YOU'RE OVER 18:

If you are a visitor in California over 18 and have a valid driver license from your home state or country, you may drive in this state without getting a California driver license as long as your home state license remains valid.

If you take a job here or become a resident, you must get a California driver license within 10 days. Residency is established by voting in a California election, paying resident tuition, filing for a homeowner's property tax exemption, or any other privilege or benefit not ordinarily extended to nonresidents.

To apply for an original driver license if you're over 18, you will need to do the following:

- Visit a DMV office (make an appointment for faster service)
- Complete application form DL 44 (Must be an original. No copies.)
- Give a thumb print
- Have your picture taken
- Verify your birth date and legal presence (**I-20, I-94, and PASSPORT****)
- Provide your true full name (Legal name, as on your passport)
- Pay the application fee
- Pass a vision exam
- Pass a traffic laws and sign test. There are 36 questions on the test. You have three chances to pass. (NOTE: To allow you sufficient time for testing DMV will *not* be administering written or audio exams after 4:30 p.m.)

** FOR YOUR I-94, IF YOU ENTERED VIA AIR OR SEA, YOU SHOULD GO TO WWW.CBP.GOV/I94 TO PRINT OUT YOUR I-94 NUMBER. IF YOU ENTERED THE U.S. VIA A LAND BORDER, YOU SHOULD BRING YOUR PAPER I-94 (A WHITE CARD STAPLED IN YOUR PASSPORT)

You will then be issued a permit if you have never been licensed before. When you practice, you must have an accompanying adult who is 18 years or older, with a valid California license. This person must be close enough to you to take control of the vehicle if necessary. It is illegal for you to drive alone.

If you have a license from another country, you will be required to take a driving test. If you have a license from another state, the driving test can be waived.

To take your driving test, you will need to:

- Make a driving test appointment. (Driving tests *are not* given without an appointment.) You may also call 1-800-777-0133 between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, to make a driving test appointment.
- Provide proof of financial responsibility
- Meet the California insurance requirements

You have three chances to pass the driving test. If you fail, you may practice for a while, and then make another appointment. There is no waiting period, but you must make an appointment. If you fail to successfully complete the driving test on the first attempt, you must pay a \$6 fee for each additional driving test that is administered under an application for an original or renewal driver license.

After you pass your driving test you will be issued an interim license valid for 60 days until you receive your new photo license in the mail. Double-check your address before you leave DMV and tell the DMV representative if you have moved or if your address is incorrect. If you have not received your license after 60 days, call 1-800-777-0133 and they can check on the status for you. Have your interim license with you to provide information when requested.

If your name is different on your birth date and/or legal presence document than the one you are currently using, you will also need to provide an additional acceptable document to establish your true full name, such as; a marriage certificate, dissolution of marriage, adoption or name change document that shows your current name.

HOW MUCH COVERAGE IS NEEDED TO RENEW MY VEHICLE?

You must have liability insurance covering damage to the person or property of others. Comprehensive or collision coverage only is for damage to your vehicle, and does not meet the financial responsibility requirement.

Full coverage may only cover your damage. Check your policy or talk to your agent or broker to be sure that you have the correct liability insurance coverage for each vehicle you own. The minimum liability insurance coverage required for private passenger vehicles per accident is \$35,000 and is defined by the following levels of coverage:

- \$15,000 for injury/death to one person
- \$30,000 for injury/death to more than one person
- \$5,000 for damage to property