

DRIVING IN ITALY

HOLDING AN EU DRIVING LICENCE

Once you have registered as a RESIDENT with the Vital Records Bureau (Anagrafe) of your local Town Hall (Comune), in accordance with the EU directives you can:

- a. **Convert** your foreign driving licence into an Italian driving licence, which will be replaced by a duplicate in case of loss or theft.
- b. **Hold** your driving licence issued by another EU member state until its expiration date* (see the important note in the next page). In case of loss or theft, you will have to contact the competent authorities of the Country where your licence was issued to ask for a duplicate. This process could be unexpectedly complex, therefore please double check with your authorities to know more and to avoid further/possible difficulties.

Only in some particular cases to be verified and in case of loss or theft of your EU driving license you should normally be entitled to replace it with an Italian one by submitting to the relevant Authority:

- the police declaration
- a Certificate, issued by the Country where your license was issued, detailing your original driving license details.

What to do if your EU driving licence has expired.

If you hold a EU driving licence which is administratively valid under article 7, paragraph 2, of Directive 2006/126/EC (hence which has got a validity of 10 years), you can drive with your current document as long as it remains valid; when it expires, **you will need to contact the "Motorizzazione Civile", the Italian Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency** either in person or through an automobile bureau service, in Italian "*Agenzia Pratiche Auto*", and apply for conversion of the foreign licence, which has to be withdrawn and returned to the competent Authorities, according to the current practice.

Conversion may also be applied for before the end of the period of administrative validity of the EU driving licence. In this case, you can choose to:

1. Assign the remaining period of validity to the Italian driving licence (meaning that your new Italian licence will have the same expiration date as your foreign one). In this case you will not have to submit the medical certificate;
2. Obtain a new period of validity, attaching the required medical certificate to the application.

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***IMPORTANT NOTE:**

In case you:

- Hold an EU driving license without a limited administrative validity (meaning without any indicated expiration date)
- Hold an EU driving license with a validity of more than 10 years - which is the longest one admitted in Italy

your driving license will be valid for two years from the date of your Italian residency acquisition. Then, it will be mandatory for you to convert your license into an Italian one to be law abiding.

Your original license will be withdrawn and returned to the foreign competent Authorities.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Any foreign driving license may be converted into an Italian one provided that it had not previously been obtained by conversion of a driving license issued by a non-EU country having no bilateral agreement with Italy (i.e. if you hold a German driving license obtained by a conversion of a US driving license, you cannot convert it into an Italian one, since there are no bilateral agreements between Italy and USA).

USEFUL LINKS

<http://www.aci.it/il-club/soci-in-viaggio/services-for-eu-and-non-eu-citizens/services-for-eu-and-non-eu-citizens/exchanging-your-foreign-driving-licence.html> (da aggiornare)

<https://www.mit.gov.it/conversione-patente-estera>

*Attention please: from May 25th 2021 the agreement between Italy and Ukraine expired, this means that Driving licence are no longer convertible
while the agreements with Switzerland are valid until 12/06/2026*

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HOLDING A NON-EU DRIVING LICENCE

If you hold a non-EU driving licence, this document must be accompanied by an International Driving Permit (Certificato di Guida Internazionale) which is issued in your country by the competent Authority, such as the American Automobile Association (AAA) in the United States, and has to be obtained before travelling to Italy.

Art. 135, paragraph 8 of the Italian Highway Code recalls:

“The holder of a driving licence issued by a country not belonging to the European Union or to the European economic Area who drives in Italy without an international permit or an official translation as indicated in sub-section 1, shall be subject to an administrative fine of between 400 and 1600 euro.”

So, if you hold a non-EU driving licence and you come to Italy every now and then, for business or tourism, you can drive with no limitations or requirements other than holding, together with your national licence, the above mentioned International Driving Permit or the sworn translation.

However, if you're planning to move and stay in Italy for a longer time, after the first year of **permanent residency** in Italy, your International Driving Permit is no longer valid and you will need to get an Italian driver's licence.

Therefore, within one year from your registration as a RESIDENT with the Register Office (*Anagrafe*) of your local Town Hall (*Comune*), you must:

- a. **Convert your driving licence into a Italian one**, should a bilateral Agreement be in place between the country issuing your licence and Italy. This is a relatively simple bureaucratic process. As an example, Italy has reciprocal agreements with Argentina, Japan, South Korea, Morocco and Tunisia.
- b. **Obtain an Italian driving licence**, should a bilateral agreement be NOT in place between the country issuing your licence and Italy.

As an example, Italy has no reciprocal agreements with Australia, Canada, China, India and USA.

The list of convertible driving licences may change depending on possible forthcoming bilateral agreements between Italy and other countries.

Check the updated list on www.mit.gov.it/mit/site.php?p=cm&o=vd&id=308#1 or ask Professional Relo.

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PENALTIES

Individuals holding a non-EU driving licence can drive in Italy at the condition that their DL is accompanied by an International permit as well. However, following the first year of permanent residency in Italy (meaning after 1 year from registering as a RESIDENT with the Register Office – *Anagrafe* - of the local Town Hall – *Comune* -), the International Driving Permit is no longer valid and becomes mandatory to get an Italian driver's licence.

PENALTIES applied when driving with an expired intl. DL are ruled by the following article/s of the Italian Highway Code (*Codice della Strada* – CDS):

Driving Holders of driving licenses issued by a country not belonging to the European Union or to the European economic Area who, after more than one year from becoming resident in Italy, drive with a driving license which is no longer valid* shall be subject to the penalties indicated in article 116, sub-sections 15 and 17 (heavy fines and, based on specific circumstances, your vehicle can be locked for a period of 3 months and/or your driving license can be suspended for a period between 3 and 12 months).

*The driving license of anyone residing in Italy for more than 1 year is, even if valid, considered expired in order to drive in Italy.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Once the holder of a NON convertible**, non EU DL (e.g. USA) has obtained the Italian permit, he/she will be considered by the Italian highway code as a newly licensed driver by all means and will therefore be subjected to the same limitations.

To know about driving conditions and penalties applicable to a “newly licenced” driver see:

- Police Department's web site : www.poliziadistato.it/articolo/11365-Neopatentati

**Holders of a convertible DL are not subjected to the same restriction. In this case the Italian permit is obtained through a purely administrative formality, not foreseeing any written or driving test.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Any foreign driving license may be converted into an Italian one provided that it had not previously been obtained by conversion of a driving license issued by an non-EU country having no bilateral agreement with Italy (i.e. if you hold a German driving license obtained by a conversion of a US driving license, you cannot convert it into an Italian one, since there are no bilateral agreements between Italy and USA).

ITALIAN DRIVING LICENCE

HOW TO OBTAIN AN ITALIAN DRIVING LICENCE

Based on the 3 following pre-conditions:

1. You hold a non- EU driving licence
2. Your driving licence cannot be converted
3. You have resided in Italy for more than one year

in order to keep driving in Italy you have to enrol in a driving school and complete a theoretical and practical training, have a medical examination and produce relevant documents.

More precisely, documents required are:

- copy of your passport
- copy of your national, valid driving licence
- copy of your Italian Tax Code (*Codice Fiscale*)
- copy of your Italian ID card (*Carta d'Identità*)
- copy of your valid Residence Permit (*Permesso di Soggiorno*)
- 3 Photos (passport size)
- Medical certificate.

The exam consists in:

- A written questionnaire in Italian (also available in French and German upon request), with “true-false” questions.
- A practical driving test.

Once the Italian driving licence is newly acquired, please note that you will be considered a **novice driver** (*neopatentato*), regardless your age and the years you have been driving. Therefore, during a certain period of time you will have to respect some limitations and rules. As an example, not exhaustively:

- Lower speed limits
- Alcohol rate allowance equal to 0
- Higher fines with double points withdrawn from the driving license
- **Prohibition to drive cars with a power, based on the engine power of the vehicle, above 55 Kw/t versus 1 tons (unladen weight).**

To get specific and updated information about which limitations are applied to novice drivers please visit:
www.poliziadistato.it/articolo/11365-Neopatentati/

DRIVING LICENCES

Theory classes

The theory classes may take place at any driving school and are held in Italian. Therefore, it is essential that you know at least the basics of the language before starting the classes.

Typically, there are 12 classes, each lasting 1.5 hours, held twice a week. The teaching techniques and duration vary from school to school.

Enrolling on theory classes is not compulsory: you can choose to study on your own, without having to keep to the timetable of the driving school, and take the exam as an external candidate. You can practise on-line and try quizzes available in Italian. There are also a few bilingual manuals to help for a better understanding.

Practice lessons

Italian law requires that driving licence applicants have at least 6 hours of driver training at a driving school, with a certified and authorized instructor. While an 18-year-old applicant will require much more hours, these may be enough for those already driving.

The 6 driving hours normally are divided as follows:

- 2 hours on urban roads
- 2 hours on motorways or suburban roads
- 2 hours at night.

The approximate cost of a driving licence ranges between € 750 and € 1.000 depending on the town where you live and the number of driving hours you require.

Driving a vehicle with automatic transmission

Automatic transmission vehicles still have a small market in Italy, although they are becoming increasingly popular. The main reasons lie in that vehicles with automatic transmission are more expensive, consume more fuel and do not support a sporty driving style. Nevertheless, automatic transmission is being chosen especially by young people, who appreciate its comfort, particularly when driving in town.

It is difficult to find driving schools with automatic transmission vehicles. Please ask Professional Relo to find out what is available near to your place.

Nota Bene: Whilst an automatic transmission vehicle licence is solely for vehicles with automatic transmission, a manual transmission vehicle licence permits the holder to drive a vehicle of either kind.

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HOLDING A SWISS DRIVING LICENCE

In case you hold a Swiss driving license, it will be valid for **one year** from the date of your Italian residency **Registration**. Then, it will be mandatory for you to convert your license into an Italian one to be law abiding. You can decide to convert your Swiss license even earlier, before 1 year, with two possible scenarios:

- the Italian driving license will last according to the remaining period of validity of your original license
 - the Italian driving license will be issued with a brand-new validity period, by submitting a medical certificate.
- In both cases, your Swiss license will be withdrawn and returned to the foreign competent Authorities.

HOLDING A UK DRIVING LICENCE

The UK driving licence, especially if held by a NON EU citizen, should be accompanied by an additional documentation available on DVLA (Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency) website.

<https://www.gov.uk>

DRIVING EU-NON EU MOTOR VEHICLE

MOTOR VEHICLES

Importation of Motor Vehicles from an EU Member State

If you are moving to Italy with a motor vehicle, this has to be registered in Italy **within 2 months from your Town Hall registration** (Art. 93 Highway Code).

Before registering your vehicle at the Italian Motor Vehicles Agency (*Motorizzazione Civile*), check whether it is type-approved (*omologato*).

In addition, if the vehicle is more than 6 months old or covered more than 6000 km, it may be required to undertake a road test (*collaudo*) in order to check its conditions.

On the contrary, if you register a vehicle less than 6 months old or that covered less than 6000 km, the Motor Vehicles Agency requires the declaration of newness and the payment of VAT (IVA) on the entire cost of the vehicle.

If the vehicle is a model which has obtained EC type-approval, the Certificate of Conformity - CoC (*Certificato di Conformità*) issued by the Manufacturer is valid in all EU Member States.

You can find out whether your vehicle has undergone EC or national type-approval from the car documents or from the manufacturer. If you do not have the CoC ask the Manufacturer in your EU Member State to issue it. Please be sure to obtain the CoC before moving to Italy to simplify the vehicle importation process.

When you have completed your car registration, an Italian number plate will be issued and you will be provided with the Italian vehicle registration certificate (*libretto di circolazione*) and the ownership certificate (*certificato di proprietà*).

In Italy there are specialized agencies on automobile bureau service (*Agenzia Pratiche Auto*) dealing with vehicles registration.

Please ask Professional Relo should you need to identify the closer one to your place.

Importations of MOTOR VEHICLES from a non-EU Member State

It is inadvisable to import Motor Vehicles from a non-EU country.

Circulation in Italy of MOTOR VEHICLES registered abroad

With regards to driving in Italy, an important amendment to the Highway Code has been published on March 21, pursuant to Law 238 of December 23, 2021.

Based on it, motor vehicles and motorcycles registered abroad and circulating in Italy will have to be registered with the R.E.V.E. (Pubblico Registro Automobilistico Estero).

Foreign citizens who obtain residence in Italy will have to register their vehicles in Italy, already registered abroad.

They are requested to register the vehicle **within 2 months of obtaining residence**.

Foreign citizens residing abroad will be able to circulate in Italy with vehicles bearing foreign license plates for a maximum of one year.

For those who, on the other hand, have a leased or rented vehicle, the REVE provides that they must have onboard the vehicle, in addition to the foreign registration certificate, a dated document - signed by the holder of the vehicle - showing for what reason and for how long they will use the vehicle they are driving.

Foreign citizens residing in Italy who, for various reasons and for a period of more than 30 days, even if not continuous in the calendar year, use vehicles registered in the name of natural or legal persons with residence/seat abroad, are obliged to register the foreign vehicle with the Reve. This obligation is the responsibility of the person using the vehicle.

Buying or leasing a vehicle in Italy

In order to buy or lease a vehicle you may be requested the following documents:

- Tax Code (*Codice Fiscale*)
- Italian ID (*Carta d'Identità*)
- Driving Licence (*Patente*)
- Italian pay-slip (*Busta Paga*)
- Italian bank account coordinates

Each car dealer may require different or additional documents; we suggest therefore to check any specific requests before proceeding.