



## Factsheet: Reciprocal / Non-Reciprocal Licensing for Out of Country Drivers

### What:

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#### What is reciprocal licensing?

- Clients originating from countries that have signed a Reciprocal Licensing Agreement with Alberta who are lawfully entitled to be or to remain in Canada and have established residency in Alberta can exchange their out of country driver's license for an Alberta driver's license provided they meet the following requirements:
  - The driver must be at least 18 years old. If a client is under 18 years old, consent for a minor is required or proof of self-sufficiency or marriage is required.
  - The driver must present proof of presence and residency in Alberta by providing federal travel authorization documents such as employment authorization and record of landing.
  - The driver must provide proof of date first licensed. If the client has been licensed for two or more years as a fully licensed driver in their country of origin the Graduated Driving Licence program conditions do not apply.
  - The driver must meet all requirements for the class of licence being applied to in order to drive a motor vehicle.
  - The driver will be required to pass a vision screening test and disclose all medical conditions or physical disabilities that may affect their ability to safely drive a motor vehicle.

#### What is non-reciprocal licensing?

- Clients originating from a country that has not signed a Reciprocal Licensing Agreement with Alberta who are lawfully entitled to be or to remain in Canada and have now established residency in Alberta cannot exchange their out of country driver's license for an Alberta driver's license.

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- Non-reciprocal out of country drivers are only eligible to apply for an Alberta Class 5 or 7. Clients who meet the Alberta GDL exit timelines (2 or more years) **must** complete and pass the following:
  - Knowledge test
  - Vision screening
  - Advanced road test
- Clients who **do not** have the required 2 year exit requirement or **do not** want to complete the Advanced Road Test will be placed in the GDL Program upon completing and passing the following:
  - Knowledge test
  - Vision screening
  - Basic road test

## Who:

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### Who has signed a Reciprocal Licensing Agreement with Alberta?

- Countries that have entered into a Reciprocal Licensing Agreement with Alberta are:
  - Austria for Class 5
  - Belgium for Class 5
  - France for Class 5
  - Germany for Class 5
  - Japan for Classes 5 and 6
  - Republic of Korea for Class 5
  - Switzerland for Classes 5 and 6
  - USA for Classes 5, 6 and 7
  - United Kingdom (UK) of Great Britain
  - The reciprocal licensing agreement signed with the United Kingdom of Great Britain includes England, Scotland and Wales. Clients surrendering a driver's licence from Northern or the Republic of Ireland must complete full testing.

### Who verifies documents to establish legal presence and residency?

- Service Alberta and/or their Agents review the documents presented. All non-reciprocal licensing documents must be reviewed to establish legal presence and residency.
- The turnaround time for confirming authenticity of these documents is 10 working days if there is a question of authenticity. This 10 day turnaround for licensing is the standard in other Canadian jurisdictions. Service Alberta continually reviews licensing processes with a view to implement any means possible to streamline the process without compromising licensing integrity.

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- Licensing delays may occasionally occur if acceptable confirmation is unavailable from the country of origin to verify prior driver licensing status. Service Alberta has been working with Consulate offices to expedite the provision of necessary documents.

## Why:

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### Why do we have Reciprocal Licensing Agreements with certain countries?

- The Reciprocal Licensing Agreement makes it easier for individuals who are lawfully entitled to be or to remain in Canada to obtain a driver's license.

### Why are non-reciprocal out of country drivers not allowed to exchange their out of country driver's license for an Alberta driver's license?

- The Alberta Traffic Safety Plan aims to make Alberta's roads the safest in the county. Given that driving standards and road safety varies from country to country, the Government of Alberta will not allow drivers to exchange their out of country driver's license for an Alberta driver's license unless their country of origin has signed a Reciprocal Licensing Agreement with Alberta.

## When:

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### When a country does not have a Reciprocal Licensing Agreement with Alberta must the client enrol in the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program?

- If the client has been a fully licensed driver for at least two years in the country they came from, a Graduated Driver License will not apply, however, clients are only eligible to apply for an Alberta Class 5 or 7 and must complete and pass the following:
  - Knowledge test
  - Vision screening
  - Advanced Road Test
- Clients who **do not** have the required 2 year exit requirement or **do not** want to complete the Advanced Road Test will be placed in the GDL Program upon completing and passing the following:
  - Knowledge test
  - Vision screening
  - Basic road test

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## When are clients exempt from taking a knowledge and/or road test?

- Clients are exempt from taking a knowledge and/or road test when they provide proof that they previously held a Canadian driver's license prior to being issued another country's driver's license.

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Graphics: World Flag Database, Accessed June 13, 2008 from: <http://www.flags.net/indexb.htm>