



Louisiana Department of Public Safety
Office of Motor Vehicles
Policy 18.01 Reciprocity with Other Countries

Section: 1. Issuance of Driver's License

Effective Date: 01/01/2019

Revised Date: 08/05/2025

Authority:
[R.S. 32:404](#)

Purpose: To allow first time applicants with legal presence presenting a foreign driver's license, from countries with which the department has entered into a reciprocity agreement, to be issued a Louisiana class D or E driver's license without having to take the written and road skills tests.

Definitions:

- **Reciprocal** – an agreement or obligation bearing on or binding each of two parties equally.
- **Reciprocity**- the practice of exchanging things with others for mutual benefit, especially privileges granted by one country or organization to another.

General:

- The Department may enter into a reciprocal agreement with a foreign country which would allow citizens of that foreign country to apply for and be issued a Louisiana driver's license without taking a driver education course, written test, or road skills tests. Similarly, Louisiana citizens would be able to apply for and be issued a driver's license in the same foreign country without taking a written or road test.
- **Foreign countries which have entered into a reciprocity agreement with Louisiana:**
 - Germany –Effective 10/01/98 (Implemented 12/01/98)
 - Switzerland -Effective 07/1/2001
 - Taiwan -Effective 08/14/2018
 - **NOTE**-notarized translations must be authenticated by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston or provided by a translator acceptable to the Office of Motor Vehicles.
 - **South Korea** – Effective 02/04/2019
 - If an individual has an **H2A Visa/status**, the following countries have a reciprocity agreement with Louisiana:
 - Belize
 - Costa Rica
 - El Salvador
 - Guatemala
 - Honduras
 - Panama
 - South Africa

- **The following US Territories are exempted from testing:**
 - American Samoa
 - Guam
 - Mariana Islands
 - Marshall Islands
 - Palau, Micronesia
 - Puerto Rico
 - U.S. Virgin Islands
- Commercial Driver's Licenses for class A, B or C will have to comply with all licensing requirements as they are not included in this program.

Requirements:

- All applicants are required to follow the proof of identification guidelines found in Section 1, Policy [6.00, Identification Requirements](#).
 - The applicant must submit a valid DL from a country the department has an agreement with and the department can request a translation of the document if necessary.
 - The applicant must be able to pass the vision examination and shall be subject to all criminal, civil, and administrative laws governing the operation of a motor vehicle.
 - The applicant may retain the foreign license (as well as the International Driver's License if he is in possession of one); however, he must keep the foreign license valid during the entire time period he possesses a Louisiana license.

Related Policies:

Section 1, Policy 6.00 [Identification Requirements](#)

Section 1, Policy 6.01 [Driver Education Requirements](#)

Section 1, Policy 6.02 [Immigrant and Non-Immigrant Issuance](#)