



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:** 01/01/1998

**Revised Date:** 02/04/2019

**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.

**Purpose:** 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.

**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.

**General:**

- **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
  
- **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.

**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](#)