



# Laws about Driving Legally in Western Australia

For overseas licence holders

## THE FOLLOWING LAWS MUST BE OBSERVED:

- It is illegal to drive in Western Australia without a current driver's licence.
- If you have held a permanent visa for 3 months or more, or your overseas driver's licence has expired, you can not drive until you have obtained a Western Australian driver's licence.
- If you have not held a driver's licence for at least 6 months (either overseas or in Western Australia), you can only drive between midnight and 5am if you are driving directly to or from work, directly to or from school, or you are driving in the course of your work. You can not drive between midnight and 5am for any other reason.

## PLEASE NOTE:

- There are very strict laws about driving legally in Western Australia.
- Breaking these laws may lead to:- *charges by the WA Police, Court proceedings, fines, imprisonment, and litigation from injured persons.*

## HOW TO GET A WA LICENCE:

1. Go to a Licensing Centre or regional Licensing Agent and show:

- **your overseas licence.** If your licence is not in English you must provide an official translation. This translation may be from:-
  - a) An overseas consulate,
  - b) the free Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) translation service, **for eligible migrants and refugees**, who
    - have been in Australia for less than two years
    - hold a permanent visa to settle in Australia, or
    - are holders of Provisional Spouse (309), Partner subclass (820), and interdependency subclasses (310 and 826).

**Enquiries regarding the free DIAC translations can be addressed to either of the two Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) providers:-**

- **Polytechnic West AMEP**  
Carlisle: 9267 7335; Thornlie: 9267 7609; Balga: 9207 4278; Fremantle: 9336 7173
- **Central Institute of Technology**  
Perth Campus: 9427 1377
- c) A registered NAATI level 3 translator (Professional Translator), with the NAATI level 3 stamp on the translated document.
- **Proof of your identity and residential status**– with primary and secondary identity documents. One of these documents must contain your signature:  
Primary - Birth certificate, Passport, Australian Citizenship or Immigration Visa.  
Secondary - Medicare card, Health care card or bankcard/passbook.  
Residential address - Telephone or electricity account, lease agreement, bank statement, health care card.

2. The tests you need to pass will depend on whether you have a driver's licence from a "recognised country" as provided in the table below.

Recognised Countries:			
Austria	Germany	Jersey	Singapore
Belgium	Greece	Luxembourg	Spain
Canada	Guernsey	Malta <sup>1</sup>	Sweden
Croatia	Ireland	Netherlands	Switzerland
Denmark	Isle of Man <sup>2</sup>	New Zealand	United Kingdom
Finland	Italy	Norway	USA
France	Japan	Portugal	

<sup>1</sup> Malta- "recognised" where the licence was issued on or after 2 January 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Isle of Man - "recognised" where the licence was issued on or after 1 November 1991.

<b>My licence is from a Recognised Country</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you hold a licence from a “recognised country” and the licence has not expired by more than 12 months, you are exempt from the road rules theory test and the driving test. If you want to obtain a truck (heavy vehicle) licence you will need to do both a theory and practical driving test.</li> </ul>
<b>My licence is NOT from a Recognised Country</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you do not hold a driver’s licence from a “recognised country”, you will be required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>pass a test on Western Australian road rules, and</li> <li>pass a practical driving test.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b>Road Rules Test</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prepare for the road rules test, obtain a copy of “Drive Safe”, the road rules handbook. The “Drive Safe” handbook is available at Licensing Centres, regional Licensing Agents or from the internet at <a href="http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing/20396.asp">http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing/20396.asp</a></li> <li>Learn the road rules in the “Drive Safe” handbook, and/or apply through your AMEP Centre for entry to one of the “English for Driving” courses, which are usually provided part time during term breaks. In this class you will learn the road rules in English, to prepare you to sit the road rules theory test to obtain your learner’s Permit or driver’s licence.</li> <li>When you are ready to sit the road rules theory test, an appointment must be made for you to sit the test orally at a metropolitan Licensing Centre. You also have the option of attending any Licensing Centre or regional Licensing Agent to undertake the computerised test at your convenience. You must make a payment to sit the test.</li> <li>If you have held a permanent visa for 3 months or more, or your overseas driver’s licence has expired, you can not drive on your overseas licence. You will be issued with a Learner’s Permit and you can only drive with an experienced driver in the car who has held a licence of the same class shown on your Learner’s Permit for 4 or more years.</li> <li>You must display “L” plates on your car and you can only drive with an experienced driver in preparation for the practical driving test.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Driving Test</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When your driving instructor or supervisor believes you are ready, you can make an appointment to sit for your practical driving test through a Licensing Centre or regional Licensing Agent.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you want to obtain a truck (heavy vehicle) licence you will be required to also pass both a theory and practical driving test.</li> </ul>

3. If you have an overseas driver’s licence but have not held it for 2 or more years, or you are under 19 years of age, you will be issued a provisional licence. Your driver’s licence will show when the provisional driving period ends.

Driving on a provisional licence means that:

- you must display ‘P’ plates on the front and back of your car when you are driving;
- you must not drive with any alcohol in your blood;
- if you have not held a driver’s licence for at least 6 months (either overseas or in WA) you can not drive between midnight and 5am, except for particular work or school reasons; and
- your licence will be cancelled if you commit certain driving offences.

**PLEASE NOTE:** 1) It is essential that your car is licensed for the purpose of third party insurance, which pays medical bills for injured persons.

2) You can also pay to insure your car, through an insurance company, for assistance with payment of car repair costs in the case of car accidents.