

# What you need to know about foreign driver's licenses

During a routine traffic stop, have you ever come across a foreign driver's license? What should you look for? What does the law say about who may legally drive on a foreign driver's license?

The following instructional tips have been prepared by the Michigan Secretary of State's Office to assist you at traffic stops and reduce the chances for misunderstandings.



## Michigan's foreign driver's license law was amended in 2016



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Before March 2016, only drivers **from recognized treaty countries** could legally drive in Michigan on a foreign driver's license. The licenses had to be printed in English, or accompanied with a written English translation.

In 2016, the law was changed to **allow drivers from non-treaty countries to drive legally in Michigan if they meet the following conditions:**

- The driver's license is in English, or a written English translation is provided with it, and
- The driver provides proof of legal presence in the U.S.

It is important to remember that the 2016 law change doesn't affect **drivers from treaty countries**. They may continue to drive legally in Michigan without needing to provide proof of legal presence.

### Is it a treaty or non-treaty country?

The treaty and non-treaty countries are listed on the back of this tip sheet for your information. A reference card of these countries is also available for you to keep in your squad car.

## Answers to your questions

### What documents are needed to show legal presence?

- A valid, unexpired foreign passport with U.S. visa, along with evidence of entry (I-94 stamp or printout)
- A valid, employment authorization document (I-766)
- Other immigration documents that demonstrate legal presence or ability to work in the U.S., including a Form I-94, State Department bio-data form and supervision documents (other documents may be acceptable)

### What is a foreign International Driving Permit?

The International Driving Permit (sometimes called an International Driver's License) is the written English translation of a foreign driver's license. It can't be used as a driver's license.

### Have more questions?

Call the Secretary of State's Information Center at **888-767-6424** or email **SOSWebMaster@Michigan.gov** for help.

### Who issues foreign International Driving Permits?

The United States doesn't issue International Driving Permits to foreign visitors. To get an IDP, the driver should contact the motor vehicle department of the country that issued the license.

### How long can someone use a foreign driver's license in Michigan?

Foreign drivers who are visiting don't need a Michigan driver's license. Only those who intend to become a Michigan resident and live in the state permanently should apply for one.

## TREATY COUNTRIES

(Doesn't need to show proof of legal presence)

- Albania
- Algeria
- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Bahamas
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belgium
- Belize
- Benin
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Central African Rep.
- Chile
- China (Taiwan)
- Columbia
- Congo
- Congo Democratic Rep.
- Costa Rica
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Cuba
- Cyprus
- Czech Rep.
- Denmark
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Fiji
- Finland
- France
- Gambia
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan
- Korea
- Kyrgyz Rep.
- Laos
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macao
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Mali
- Malta
- Maruitius
- Mexico
- Monaco
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Namibia
- Nicaragua
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Rwanda
- St. Lucia
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines
- San Marino
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Slovak Rep.
- Slovenia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Suriname
- Swaziland
- Sweden
- Syrian Arab Rep
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Togo
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Uganda
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- Uruguay
- Vatican City
- Venezuela
- Vietnam Rep.
- Western Samoa
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

## NON-TREATY COUNTRIES

(Must show proof of legal presence)

- Afghanistan
- Andorra
- Angola
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Armenia
- Aruba
- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- Belarus
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Brunei
- Burma
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Cape Verde
- Chad
- China
- Comoros
- Croatia
- Curacao
- Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Estonia
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Holy See
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Kosovo
- Kuwait
- Latvia
- Liberia
- Libya
- Liechtenstein
- Macedonia
- Maldives
- Marshall Islands
- Mauritania
- Micronesia Moldova
- Mongolia
- Mozambique
- Nauru
- Nepal
- Oman Pakistan
- Palau
- Palestinian Territories
- Qatar
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Samoa
- Sao Tome Principe
- Saudi Arabia
- Sint Maarten
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Switzerland
- Tajikistan
- Tonga
- Turkmenistan
- Tuvalu
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Yemen

