A Non-Japanese Driver will be Entitled to Drive in Japan if in the Following Cases

International driving permit

CONDITION

You must have the license that conforms to the model pursuant to the Geneva Convention observed in the contracting states concerned.

There are ninety-three states and two territories (incl. Japan).

Admissible Period to Drive

You will be entitled to drive for the overlapping period between---

- one year from the date of issue and
- one year after you have entered Japan.

Foreign driving license

CONDITIONS

The license must have been issued by states or territories with the license system that conforms to the system in use in Japan.

There are five states and one territory concerned.

You must attach to the license a Japanese translation made by a duly authorized individual.

Admissible Period to Drive

You will be entitled to drive for one year after entering Japan only if such a translation is attached.

Driving license switched from a foreign driving license

CONDITIONS

After acquiring the license issued by the administrative authority in a foreign country, you must have stayed in that country for a total of three months.

The license must be effective to switch in any country.

The switching process involves only the inspection of documents concerned if the license has been issued in the designated states. If in the others, however, you will be tested on driving techniques and knowledge.

Japanese driving license

CONDITIONS

You must take classes at a driving school in Japan and pass an achievement test after graduating.

You must take such a test at one of the Drivers License Test Centers. You can take the test either in Japanese or English.

Admissible Period to Drive

The period is the same as in the case of Japanese citizens.

You will be provided with a driving license with green-colored line, which means a newly licensed driver.

The license is valid for three years.

You need to renew the license just like Japanese citizens do.

Once renewed, you will be provided with a driving license (with a blue- or gold-colored line) as proof of a regular or excellent driver.