

To proxies of applicants: Please pass this document to the owner of the license with the translation.

Information on the Japanese Translation for Switching a Foreign Driver's License to a Japanese License

Switching a foreign driver's license to a Japanese driver's license

A driver's license issued by a foreign administrative office can be switched to a Japanese license (hereinafter referred to as "Gaimen Kirikae") by applying to the Driver's License Center.

To apply for Gaimen Kirikae, applicants must fulfill the following two conditions:

- 1) The applicant's foreign driver's license must be valid (expired licenses cannot be transferred).
- 2) The applicant must be able to prove that he or she stayed in the issuing country for at least three months in total after obtaining the license.

General Gaimen Kirikae procedure at the Driver's License Center

(1) Submission of application documents → (2) Aptitude test → (3) Traffic rule knowledge check → (4) Driving skill check (The applicant is asked to actually drive a vehicle at a course in the Driver's License Center.) → (5) Issuance of the Japanese driver's license

*For information on the documents to be submitted, application fee and tests, please contact the Driver's License Center that has jurisdiction over the region in which the applicant resides.

About the Japanese Translation

One of the documents required when applying for Gaimen Kirikae is a "Japanese Translation of Foreign Driver's License" issued by JAF. (Note that the Japanese Translation does not assure that the license will be switched. For the details of Gaimen Kirikae, please contact the Driver's License Center that has jurisdiction over the region in which you reside.)

You are requested to apply for the Japanese Translation through the Translation Office of your respective JAF branch. JAF may not, however, issue a translation of some foreign licenses. In addition to JAF, some foreign embassies and consular offices in Japan may issue the Japanese Translation of driver's licenses.

Please turn over.

[How to apply]

Bring the required documents to your nearest JAF Translation Office. (Application by proxy is accepted if the applicant is unable to visit the office.)

Documents required

(1) Application form for Japanese Translation of foreign driver's license: The form can be downloaded from the JAF website at: <http://www.jaf.or.jp>. If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact your nearest JAF office by telephone to obtain the form via fax or other method.

(2) A driver's license (original, in principle): Your license will be returned as soon as we copy it. Photocopies are accepted if you are not able to bring the original license. In that case, please prepare clear photocopies of the front and back of the license, preferably in color, that allow the inscriptions on the license to be read clearly.

(3) A photocopy of an alien registration card: This is only required for licenses written in Arabic or Russian and licenses issued in certain countries, including the Republic of Korea, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Union of Myanmar.

Issuance fee

3,000 yen per license

*Please note that JAF will not refund the translation issuance fee even if the application for Gaimen Kirikae is rejected by the Driver's License Center. A fee of 3,000 yen is also charged for re-issuance when the license is lost or for other reason.

Days required for issuance

In principle, the Japanese Translation will be issued on the same day it is requested. It takes approximately two to three weeks to obtain translations for the driver's licenses listed in (3) of "Documents required."

Applications via mail are also accepted when the applicant cannot visit the office

- Send the application form and a photocopy of your license (preferably clear photocopies of the front and back of the license in color) with the issuance fee (3,000 yen) plus return postage (380 yen) by registered postal cash envelope.
- Applications are only accepted from Japanese addresses, and the return address must be within Japan and match the address submitted on the application.
- It takes approximately one week from application to delivery (about two to three weeks to obtain translations for the driver's licenses listed in (3) of "Documents required").

Other important notice

Please note that JAF does not offer translation services for International Driving Permits.

***About handling of personal information**

JAF uses the personal information obtained through its translation issuance operation only for the purposes of performing the operation explained above properly, and it never discloses such information to third parties unless the person in question has given his/her explicit consent. Please note, however, that there are cases where JAF entrusts the required personal information to an organization to which JAF consigns issuance of the translation. Moreover, if an official body such as a court or the police requests JAF to disclose or provide such personal information by law or regulation, we may provide the information to the relevant body.