

## Exchanging your UK driving licence for a French one following Brexit

The exchange of your driving license for a French license following the UK's withdrawal from Europe is now compulsory if live permanently in France.

Your current driving licence issued by a non European country is recognized only for 1 year from the acquisition of normal residence in France if you move over after the 1st January 2021. If you were resident before this date your current driving licence is valid until 01/01/2022

### **To be exchanged, your license must meet the following conditions:**

- Be valid
- Have been issued by the country in which you had your normal residence before settling in France
- Have been issued by a state practicing reciprocity of license exchange with France which the UK is
- Be written in French or be accompanied by an official translation. The translation must be legalized or apostilled if it is done abroad. If it is done in France, it must be done by an authorized translator - I can do the translation.

### **You must meet the following requirements:**

- Have the minimum age to drive in France vehicles of the equivalent category of your license
- Having your normal residence in France
- Have a valid residence permit if you are not European nor French - this is your carte de sejour.
- Comply with any medical prescriptions noted on your permit. For example, wearing glasses is compulsory.
- If necessary, have passed a medical examination for fitness to drive. For example, if your state of health implies a restriction on the period of validity of the permit.
  - Not to have been sanctioned by a suspension, withdrawal or cancellation of your right to drive in the country of issue of the license
  - Not to have been sanctioned in France, before having obtained a driving license in another State, by cancellation or invalidation of your right to drive

## **WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY - Application is online via the ANTS.gouv.fr website**

- Color image of the front and back of the original driver's license
  - Translation of the driver's license if it is not written in French. The translation must be legalized or apostilled if it is carried out abroad. If it is done in France, it must be done by an authorized translator
  - Proof of identity
  - Proof of address of less than 6 months
  - Proof of residence in France -carte de sejour
  - Digital photo-signature (if you do not have access to a photo and digital signature service, you are asked to complete and send by mail a photo signature form (FPS) during the teleprocedure)
  - Certificate of rights to drive **less than 3 months** issued by the foreign authorities having issued the driving license (DVLA) . This document verifies that your license has not been suspended, withdrawn or canceled.
  - Translation of the certificate of driving rights if it is not written in French, **by a translator authorized in France**.
  - If you do not have the nationality of the country of issue of the permit, proof of residence normal in the foreign state at the time of issuance of the foreign license. For example, registration certificate and removal from consular registers, employment contract, pay slips, work certificates ...
  - If your license has been canceled or suspended: cancellation or suspension decision + letter informing the prefecture of the exchange obligation + medical opinion

## **ISSUING THE DRIVING LICENSE**

After examining your request, your original foreign driver is required to verify its authenticity (except in the event of suspension or cancellation).

You are contacted by SMS and email.

The email tells you how to hand in your driving license. In exchange for your license, you receive a secure deposit certificate (ADS) of your foreign driving license.

This certificate allows you to drive while waiting to receive your French license, within the limit of the duration of recognition of your foreign license.

Depending on the complexity of your case, the processing time may be several months - at

present it is up to 12 months delay . It is notably linked to the verification of your driving rights via the European Union driving license network "RESPER".

To monitor the production of your license, you can use the ANTS service for monitoring the production and transmission of your driving license.

The driver's license is sent by registered post.

This is a secure shipment, with hand delivery against signature.

- The address you indicate during the online procedure must be as complete as possible (building number, apartment number, letterbox number, floor, corridor, staircase, "residing at", ...) .
- Your mailbox must show the first and last name of the person receiving the mail.

If you are absent during the passage of the postman, you must go to the Post Office within 15 days, with your calling card or with the number of the Expert Letter. After this period, your driver's license is returned to the ANTS.