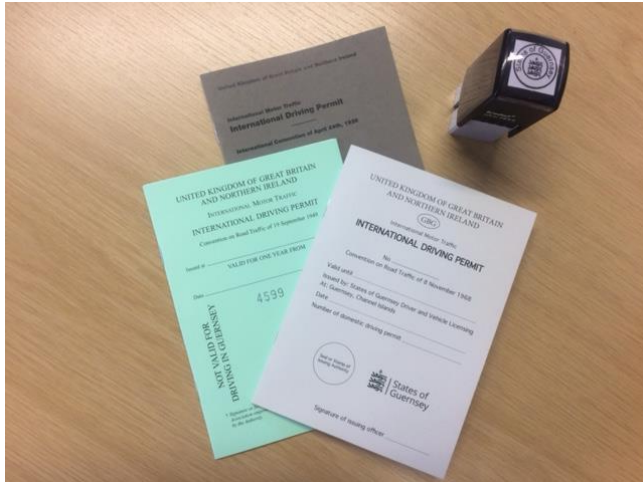




## Advice for motorists driving abroad



### Why are things changing?

The rules for issuing International Driving Permits (IDPs) are changing **on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019** when Guernsey ratifies the UN Convention on Road Traffic 1968 (“the Vienna Convention”). This leaflet details the documents you will need to ensure that you can drive legally throughout Europe and beyond.

This advice may subsequently change, particularly in the event that the UK negotiates mutual recognition of driving licences as part of any withdrawal agreement with the EU or it reaches agreements with individual EU Member States prior to Brexit and Guernsey licence holders form part of that agreement.

### What is an International Driving Permit (IDP)?

An IDP is a translation of your driving licence that allows you to drive in other countries provided that you also carry your domestic (Guernsey issued) driving licence. They are currently issued for travel in all countries that are signatories to the 1926 Paris and 1949 Geneva conventions on road traffic.

From 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019, the issuing of 1968 IDPs will replace 1949 IDPs as the principal document issued for driving in most of Europe.

### Do I need an IDP to drive in the UK, Jersey, Gibraltar or IOM?

No, there is no requirement to hold an IDP to drive in the UK, Jersey, Gibraltar or the Isle of Man.

## **Do I need an IDP to drive elsewhere in Europe?**

Guernsey issued driving licences (also issued to residents of Alderney, Sark, Herm and Jethou) are currently valid in all EU / EEA countries that are signatories to the 1949 Geneva Convention on road traffic (“the Geneva Convention”) provided that they are accompanied by a 1949 IDP.

In practice, the majority of EU / EEA Member States do not currently insist on an IDP being produced but legally the requirement is determined by domestic legislative requirements in individual EU / EEA countries. As Germany, Croatia, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia are not signatories to the Geneva Convention, recognition of Guernsey issued driving licences in these countries is not currently guaranteed. For Liechtenstein a 1926 IDP is required.

If the UK leaves the European Union without a deal or Guernsey does not form part of any deal that is agreed, you are likely to require an IDP in addition to your domestic driving licence in order to legally drive in some or all EU / EEA countries apart from Ireland and Switzerland.

In order to avoid the potential risk of being refused access to drive in or through certain European countries, including hiring a vehicle there, the States of Guernsey decided to ratify the Vienna Convention and, in so doing, guarantee the right of Guernsey issued driving licence holders to drive in all EU / EEA countries with an IDP irrespective of any decision regarding Brexit.

Accordingly, post-dated 1968 IDPs are now being issued for travel to all signatory countries to the Vienna Convention – effective from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Required IDPs for driving in the EU/EEA from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 are:

- 1926 IDP - Liechtenstein;
- 1949 IDP - Spain, Iceland, Malta and Cyprus;
- 1968 IDP - All other EU Countries plus Norway.

In some cases you may need more than one IDP. For example, if driving down to Spain through France then you will need both a 1968 IDP (for France) and 1949 IDP (for Spain) from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

**It is recommended that appropriate IDP(s) are obtained if you are planning to drive outside of the UK, Jersey, Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Ireland or Switzerland from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019.**

Further information on which IDP is required to drive overseas, both before and after 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019, is detailed in the Appendix at the end of this note.

*Please note this list will be updated as and when circumstances change.*

## **What if I already hold a valid IDP?**

If you already have a 1926 or 1949 IDP you can continue to use it for as long as it remains valid. However, from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019, when the Vienna Convention comes into force in Guernsey, that convention will govern the arrangements for driving in most EU countries states and 1949 IDPs will no longer be valid.

Accordingly, if you are planning to drive in a country that is a signatory to both the 1949 Geneva and 1968 Vienna conventions from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 then it is recommended that you obtain a 1968 IDP. If your travel begins before 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and continues into April and you are proposing to travel on a 1949 IDP then you should check whether it will still be valid in the country in which you are planning to drive, as the 1968 IDP format will replace it from this date.

## **How do I obtain an IDP?**

You can get an IDP from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing (DVL) Office at Bulwer Avenue, either by attending in person or by sending in a postal application. The application form can be downloaded at -

[www.gov.gg/drivingabroad](http://www.gov.gg/drivingabroad)

For each application you will be required to produce –

- A completed and signed application form;
- A passport sized photo, (two if requesting a second IDP);
- Payment of £13 per IDP.

Processing of IDPs will be prioritised according to the indicated date of travel, and where possible, will be issued at least five days in advance of this date. The offices at Bulwer Avenue are open to the public from 9.00 am – 4.00 pm Monday – Friday for ‘in person’ applications.

Notes –

1. An IDP can only be issued against a Guernsey driving licence;
2. IDPs must be issued to the same address as your Guernsey driving licence;
3. An IDP is not valid for use in Guernsey;

4. A Guernsey driving licence is issued in two parts. You must carry both the photo card and the paper counterpart when travelling, as well as the IDP or you could be fined (or worse);
5. To apply for an IDP you must be 18 years of age or over;
6. An IDP cannot be issued to a provisional licence holder;
7. An IDP cannot be issued if you are disqualified from driving;
8. You can only apply for an IDP three months before you travel;
9. An IDP cannot be backdated;
10. If taking up residence or employment, or travelling for a reason other than tourism, find out about your personal position before relying on an IDP;
11. Check the accuracy of the personal information on your driving licence and IDP. If there are any errors or you have a change of name or address, notify DVL straight away.

For further information, Tel: 243400 – option 1

### **How long does an IDP last?**

A 1968 IDP is valid for three years or until your driving licence expires, whichever is sooner. The expiry date is shown on the front of the IDP.

A 1926 or 1949 IDP is valid for 12 months but may be subject to restrictions in certain visiting countries if issued before 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

### **When can I apply for a new IDP?**

You can apply now for 1949 IDPs (for Spain, Iceland, Malta or Cyprus and certain non-EU countries) and 1926 IDPs (for Liechtenstein, Mexico etc). 1949 IDPs will be valid from the day of issue shown on the front of the document for a period of twelve months.

From 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 DVL will start issuing post-dated 1968 IDPs with a validity date commencing 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 for anyone travelling abroad before that date. From 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 onwards 1968 IDPs will be valid from the date of issue and will be valid for three years or until the expiry of the driving licence, whichever is sooner.

### **Displaying of 'GBG' Distinguishing Sign**

Under the 1949 Geneva and 1968 Vienna conventions on road traffic it is a requirement to display a GBG sticker (GBA for Alderney in respect of the 1949 agreement) on the rear of all motor vehicles and registered trailers from Guernsey when travelling abroad.

## **Vehicle registration documents**

You should carry your vehicle registration documents with you when driving abroad.

## **Vehicle insurance requirements**

A motor insurance 'Green Card' is evidence of motor insurance when driving abroad. The EU, EEA, Andorra, Serbia & Switzerland are part of a Green card-free circulation area and hence you currently don't need to carry a motor insurance Green Card to drive a Guernsey (or Alderney) registered motor vehicle in these countries.

Once the UK Leaves the EU and in the event that there is no EU Exit deal and the EU does not make a decision ensuring that UK and Guernsey registered vehicles will not be checked for proof of insurance, then drivers of Guernsey registered vehicles will need to carry a Green card when driving in the EU and EEA.

Some countries also require separate insurance cover for trailers. This means that you may also need a separate Green card for your trailer.

You should contact your vehicle insurer for more information about the requirement or otherwise for a Green Card to be issued for your travel and in respect of the procedures you should follow in the event of being involved in an accident whilst driving abroad.

## **Trailer registration**

From 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 it will become necessary to register commercial trailers weighing over 750 kg and non-commercial trailers over 3,500 kg. A voluntary registration scheme will also apply to non-mandatory registrations. Separate guidance is being issued on Trailer registration requirements.

## **Moving to or living in the EU**

If, after Brexit, you become resident in an EU country you will not as things currently stand have an automatic right under EU law to exchange your Guernsey issued driving licence for an equivalent licence from the EU country you're living in. Depending on the laws of the EU country you move to, you may need to take a new driving test in that country.

However, it is possible that the UK Government will negotiate bilateral arrangements with individual EU countries regarding both mutual recognition and exchange of driving licences in due course so information in this regard might subsequently change if such arrangements are extended to Guernsey.

## **Visiting drivers**

Existing arrangements for EU driving licence holders who are visiting or working in Guernsey on a temporary basis will not change.

Visitors with driving licences from EU or non-EU countries like the USA, Canada, Serbia, Japan and New Zealand will enjoy the same arrangements as they do today. Guernsey, like the UK, does not require visiting motorists, for example those coming to Guernsey on holiday or to work, to hold a separate IDP to guarantee the recognition of their driving licence.

Driving entitlement is recognised on a temporary basis for a period of up to twelve months at which point driving licence holders would be required to either exchange their licence, where agreement exists, or to take a practical driving test. Persons declaring themselves to be resident in Guernsey should exchange their foreign driving licence for a Guernsey issued licence as soon as possible but no later than 12 months after moving to Guernsey.

## IDP requirements for driving abroad

### List of Countries for which an IDP is not required –

UK	Ireland	Jersey	Isle of Man	Switzerland	Gibraltar
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### List of EU/EEA Countries in which a 1968 Permit is required from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 -

(1949 Permits are currently issued for all bar Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Croatia and Switzerland)

Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia	Czech Republic
Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany
Greece	Hungary	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania
Luxembourg	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Portugal
Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia	Sweden	

### List of EU/EEA Countries in which a 1949 Permit will continue to be required –

Cyprus	Iceland	Malta	Spain
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### List of EU/EEA Countries in which a 1926 Permit will continue to be required –

Liechtenstein
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## List of non-EU/EEA Country requirements –

Country	Before 29 March 2019	29 March 2019 onwards	Other requirements
Albania	1949	1968	
Algeria	1949	1949	
Argentina	1949	1949	
Armenia	1949	1968	
Australia	1949	1949	
Azerbaijan	1949	1968	
Bahamas	1949	1968	IDP needed for stays longer than 90 days.
Bahrain	1926	1968	IDP needed for car hire, and for stays longer than 90 days. You must get your permit certified by local authorities when you arrive.
Bangladesh	1949	1949	
Barbados	1949	1949	
Belarus	1949	1968	
Benin	1949	1949	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1949	1968	
Botswana	1949	1949	IDP needed for car hire.
Brazil	1926	1968	You need to <a href="#">get a certified translation of your IDP from the British consulate.</a>
Burkina Faso	1949	1949	
Cambodia	1949	1949	
Canada	1949	1949	
Cape Verde	1949	1968	
Central African Republic	1949	1968	
Chile	1949	1949	
Congo	1949	1949	
Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	1949	1968	
Cuba	1949	1968	
Democratic Republic of Congo	1949	1968	



Country	Before 29 March 2019	29 March 2019 onwards	Other requirements
Dominica	1949		
Dominican Republic	1949	1949	IDP needed for stays longer than 90 days.
Ecuador	1949	1949	
Egypt	1949	1949	
Eswatini (previously Swaziland)	1949	1968	You may need to show an IDP to your insurance company if you're involved in an accident.
Fiji	1949	1949	
French Polynesia	1949	1968	
Georgia	1949	1968	IDP needed for stays longer than 90 days.
Ghana	1949	1949	
Guam	1949	1949	IDP needed for stays over 30 days. You may need to show an IDP to your insurers if involved in an accident.
Guatemala	1949	1949	
Guyana	1949	1968	
Haiti	1949	1949	IDP needed for stays longer than 90 days.
India	1949	1949	
Iran	1926	1968	
Iraq	1926	1968	
Israel	1949	1968	
Jamaica	1949	1949	
Japan	1949	1949	
Jordan	1949	1949	
Kazakhstan	1949	1968	
Kenya	1926	1968	IDP needed for stays longer than 90 days.
Kuwait	1926	1968	
Kyrgyzstan	None	1968	
Laos	1949	1949	
Lebanon	1949	1949	
Lesotho	1949	1949	
Liberia	1949	1968	

Country	Before 29 March 2019	29 March 2019 onwards	Other requirements
Macedonia	1949	1968	
Madagascar	1949	1949	
Malawi	1949	1949	IDP needed for stays over 90 days.
Malaysia (Sabah)	1949	1949	
Mali	1949	1949	
Mexico	1926	1926	
Moldova	1949	1968	
Monaco	1949	1968	
Mongolia	1949	1968	
Montenegro	1949	1968	
Morocco	1949	1968	
Namibia	1949	1949	IDP needed for car hire. You may need to show an IDP to insurers if involved in an accident.
New Zealand	1949	1949	
Niger	1949	1968	
Nigeria	1949	1949	
Pakistan	1926	1968	
Papua New Guinea	1949	1949	IDP needed for stays over 30 days.
Paraguay	1949	1949	
Peru	1949	1968	
Philippines	1949	1968	IDP needed for stays over 90 days.
Qatar	1949	1968	
Russian Federation	1949	1968	
Rwanda	1949	1949	
San Marino	1949	1968	
Saudi Arabia	1949	1968	IDP needed for car hire.
Senegal	1949	1968	
Serbia	1949	1968	
Seychelles	1949	1968	
Sierra Leone	1949	1949	
Singapore	1949	1949	IDP needed for car hire, and for stays longer than 30 days.

Country	Before 29 March 2019	29 March 2019 onwards	Other requirements
Somalia	1926	1926	
South Africa	1949	1968	You may need to show an IDP to your insurers if involved in an accident.
South Korea	1949	1949	
Sri Lanka	1949	1949	As well as the IDP, you must get a Sri Lankan recognition permit from the <a href="#">Automobile Association of Ceylon (AAC)</a> in Colombo.
St. Lucia	1949	1949	Show your Guernsey driving licence or IDP to the police to get a visitor's licence.
St. Vincent	1949	1949	Show your Guernsey driving licence or IDP to the police to get a visitor's licence.
Syria	1949	1949	
Tajikistan	None	1968	
Thailand	1949	1949	
Togo	1949	1949	
Trinidad & Tobago	1949	1949	IDP needed for stays longer than 90 days.
Tunisia	1949	1968	
Turkey	1949	1968	
Turkmenistan	None	1968	
Uganda	1949	1949	IDP needed for stays longer than 90 days.
Ukraine	1949	1968	
United Arab Emirates	1949	1968	
United States	1949	1949	You may need to show an IDP to your insurers if involved in an accident.
Uruguay	1926	1968	
Uzbekistan	None	1968	
Vatican City	1949	1949	
Venezuela	1949	1949	
Vietnam	1949	1968	
Zimbabwe	1949	1968	