

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

Information on the Japanese Translation attached to Driver's Licenses issued in Switzerland, Germany, France, Belgium, Monaco and Taiwan

Japan Automobile Federation (JAF)

The Road Traffic Law stipulates that individuals with driver's licenses issued in the above countries/regions are allowed to drive vehicles complying with Japanese laws and regulations only when they carry both the original license issued in the above countries/regions and a Japanese Translation of such issued by JAF, or foreign embassies or consular offices in Japan.

- Those who drive vehicles in Japan must carry the Japanese Translation of the license with them at all times, together with the original driver's license issued in the countries/region above.
- The effective period of the Japanese Translation is one year from the date of entry into Japan. (For re-entry after leaving Japan, the effective period is one year from the date of re-entry.) However, conditions vary for those who registers as a resident or as a foreign national in Japan, leaves and reenters this country within three months. For details, please contact the Driver's License Center that has jurisdiction over the region where you reside.
- When you are driving, police may request that you present your passport to check the days elapsed from your entry into Japan.
- You are not allowed to drive vehicles in Japan beyond one year from your entry into Japan, even if the Japanese Translation is attached to your license.
- Those who intend to stay in Japan for a long period and drive are recommended to obtain a Japanese driver's license. You can apply to switch your current license to a Japanese driver's license if you have the aforementioned Japanese Translation. For details, please contact the Driver's License Center that has jurisdiction over the region where you reside.

Please turn over.

[How to apply for Japanese Translation]

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

***Even if you apply in person, the translation will be sent to you by mail.**

Documents required

(1) Application form for Japanese Translation of foreign driver's license: The form can be downloaded from the JAF website at: <https://english.jaf.or.jp/use-jaf-more/drive-in-japan/switch-to-japanese-license> or scan the 2D code at the bottom of this page. 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 license, 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.

Issuance fee

4,000 yen per translation.

*A fee of 4,000 yen is also charged for re-issuance when the license is lost or for other reason.

Days required for issuance

The Japanese Translation will be issued on the same day up to two weeks. The processing time varies depending on the issuing country, condition, content of the driver's license, and JAF Branch Office. For details, please contact your nearest Branch Office in advance.

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

• Please send the above required documents (1) and (2) (not the original, but clear color copies of both the front and back of your driver's license) together with the issuance fee of 4,000 yen by cash registered mail to the JAF branch mailing address. Return postage is not required.

*JAF will pay for return postage of your translation. However, please note that if it is undeliverable within a certain period of time and the translation needs to be redelivered, you will be expected to pay for the redelivery. If you request express delivery, please contact the JAF branch in advance, as you will be responsible for the charge.

• 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 to two weeks from application to delivery.

***Please note that JAF does not accept the application (including the transmission of issuance fee) from overseas and that JAF does not send the Japanese Translation to overseas.**

Other important notice

The effective period of the Japanese Translation is the same as that of the original driver's license. When the license is renewed or its inscriptions are changed, such as an address change, a new Japanese Translation must be obtained.

*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 in principle unless the person in question has given his/her explicit consent. Please note, however, that if an official body such as a court or the police requests JAF to disclose such information by law or regulation, we may provide the information to the relevant body. Please check "[Personal Information Handling](#)" on the translation issuance application form for other personal information handling.

Scan here to download the application form.



Japanese



English