

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

DL Application – Foreign Documents

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 227.112, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is hereby seeking comment on DL Application – Foreign Documents, a proposed guidance document.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

Comments may be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for 21 days by:

1. Department's website:

<https://appengine.egov.com/apps/wi/dot/guidance-docs?guidDocId=DMV46>

2. Mailing written comments to:

Division of Motor Vehicles
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
4822 Madison Yards Way
PO Box 7336
Madison, WI 53707-7336

WEBSITE LOCATION OF FINAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

The final version of this guidance document will be posted at wisconsindot.gov to allow for ongoing comment.

AGENCY CONTACT

DOTDMVGuidanceDocs@DOT.WI.GOV



State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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Driving in Wisconsin with a foreign driver license

[How to apply](#)

[Motorcycle](#)

[Documentation requirements](#)

[Renewal and changes](#)

[Lost or stolen](#)

[Suspended or revoked](#)

[Occupational license](#)

[New residents](#)

[Driver license/ID cards](#)

[Commercial license](#)

[Teen drivers](#)

[Vehicles](#)

Foreign motorists from any of the countries who are party to the United Nations Convention on Road Traffic (Geneva, 1949) or the Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Motor Vehicle Traffic (Washington, D.C., 1943) who visit the United States as tourists can drive legally using their valid domestic driver license for a period not to exceed one year from the date of arrival. They may drive either a personal or rental car.

Tourists from countries who are party to the Geneva Convention and the Regulation of Inter-

American Motor Vehicle Traffic can also legally drive their own private cars bearing valid license plates/registration tags issued in their native country for a period not to exceed one year from their date of arrival.

Foreign tourists whose country is not among those that are party to the terms of either convention may be required to obtain a driver license and secure license plates/registration tags upon arrival in the United States (U.S.).

Foreign students attending school in the U.S. who are at least 16 years old and their privilege to operate a motor vehicle in Wisconsin is not suspended, revoked, cancelled or disqualified, can drive with their home country's valid license for up to one year. After one year, they must meet the same [licensing requirements](#) as a Wisconsin resident.

In addition to having a valid foreign driver license, visitors are advised to obtain an International Driving Permit in their native country prior to arrival in the U.S., as authorized by the 1943/1949 or 1968 conventions, or attach an English translation to their national driving license. The International Driving Permit is translated into the nine official languages of the United Nations, including English, and serves as a translation to be used in conjunction with the visitor's valid driver license. It can be useful in emergencies, such as traffic violations or auto accidents, particularly when a foreign language is involved.

Note: Foreign motorists from France, Germany or the Republic of Korea (South Korea) who apply for a class D Regular Wisconsin driver license may be eligible to have the knowledge and skills tests waived under a [reciprocal agreement for driver licensing](#) with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

Countries party to the 1943 or 1949 conventions:

Afghanistan*	Albania	Algeria
Andorra	Angola*	Antigua*
Argentina***	Armenia*	Australia
Austria	Bahamas	Bahrain*
Bangladesh	Barbados**	Belgium
Belize	Benin	Bhutan*
Bolivia*/***	Botswana	Brazil (Inter-American Driving Permit Only)
Brunei	Bulgaria	Burkina Faso* (formerly Upper Volta)
Cambodia (formerly Kampuchea)	Cameroon	Canada
Cape Verde Islands*	Cayman Islands*	Central African Republic

Chad*	Chile***	Colombia*/***
Comoros*	Congo, Republic and Democratic Republic (Brazzaville, Kinshasa)	Costa Rica*/***
Côte d'Ivoire	Croatia*	Cuba
Curacao C	Cyprus	Czech Republic (formerly Czechoslovakia)
Denmark	Djibouti*	Dominica*/**
Dominican Republic***	Ecuador***	Egypt
El Salvador*/***	Equatorial Guinea*	Estonia*
Fiji	Finland	France (including overseas territories)
French Polynesia	Gabon*	Gambia
Georgia	Germany*	Ghana
Gibraltar	Greece	Grenada
Guadeloupe	Guatemala***	Guernsey
Guinea*	Guinea-Bissau*	Guyana
Haiti***	Honduras*/***	Hong Kong
Hungary	Iceland	India
Indonesia*	Iran*	Ireland
Isle of Man	Israel	Italy
Jamaica	Japan	Jersey
Jordan	Kazakhstan*	Kenya*
Korea, Republic	Kosovo (formerly Yugoslavia)	Kuwait*
Kyrgyzstan	Laos	Latvia
Lebanon	Lesotho	Liberia*

Libya*	Liechtenstein*	Lithuania*
Luxembourg	Macao*	Macedonia
Madagascar	Malawi	Malaysia
Mali	Malta	Martinique
Mauritania*	Mauritius	Mexico*/***
Moldova	Monaco	Montserrat
Morocco	Mozambique	Myanmar*
Namibia	Nepal*	Netherlands
New Caledonia	New Zealand	Nicaragua*/***
Niger	Nigeria	Norway
Oman*	Pakistan*	Panama*
Papua New Guinea	Paraguay***	Peru***
Philippines	Poland	Portugal
Qatar*	Romania	Russia
Rwanda	St. Christopher, Nevis & Anguilla*/**	St. Kitts
St. Lucia	St. Vincent & the Grenadine	San Marino
São Tomé & Príncipe*	Saudi Arabia*	Senegal
Seychelles	Sierra Leone	Singapore
Slovakia	Slovenia*	South Africa
Spain	Sri Lanka	Sudan*
Suriname	Swaziland	Sweden
Switzerland	Syria	Taiwan

Tajikistan*	Tanzania	Thailand
Togo	Trinidad & Tobago***	Tunisia
Turkey	Turkmenistan*	Uganda
Ukraine	United Arab Emirates*	United Kingdom
Uruguay (Inter-American Driving Permit Only)	Vatican City (Holy See)	Venezuela***
Vietnam*	Western Samoa	Windward Islands
Yemen*	Zambia	Zimbabwe

*Not party to 1949 Convention – International Driving Permit honored.

**U.S. driver's license and IDP recognized on presentation to local police and payment of special registration fee upon arrival.

***Geographical areas which honor Inter-American Driving Permits (Convention on Regulation of Inter-American Motor Vehicle Traffic, Organization of American States, Washington, D.C., 1943) as of June 1996.

These countries also made the convention applicable to their territorial possessions.

Driver Information Section

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