



## Driving Licences in Case of a No Deal Brexit

### 1) I live in the EU, can I still use my UK driving licence if there is a no deal brexit?

If you are resident in the EU 27, you may not be able to exchange your licence if the UK leaves the EU. This means that those resident in France, for example, who were previously within their rights not to change their licence, may wish to do so now. On 13th September 2018 the Department of Transport published the following document explaining how holders of UK driving licences could be affected if the UK leaves the EU with no deal. Note again - this is only in case the Withdrawal Agreement is not ratified by the end of March 2019 and if no other agreements are in place by then and assuming they don't call off Brexit. It is a worst case scenario.

Here is a link to the 13th September UK government document:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/driving-in-the-eu-if-theres-no-brexit-deal>

**This is the current law on EU driving licences** Here is a link to the EU rules on driving licences and is valid until 29/03/19.

[https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/vehicles/driving-licence/driving-licence-recognition-validity/index\\_en.htm](https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/vehicles/driving-licence/driving-licence-recognition-validity/index_en.htm)

## **2) Can I use my French licence to drive in the UK?**

The UK has confirmed that EU licences will be valid for both visitors to the UK and EU residents in the UK (subject to current conditions). In addition an International Driving Permit (IDP) will not be required in the UK.

## **3) Is this change of licences certain?**

It is possible that individual countries, or the EU27 as one, may reciprocate and not require licences to be changed in the event of a no deal brexit.

## **4) What if I don't change my licence?**

Your UK driving licence may no longer be valid if there is no deal. Visitors can obtain an International Driving Permit (IDP) or two in addition to their UK licence, but residents in France may be required to have an EU licence.

## **5) When do I need to change my licence?**

If the process of changing your licence isn't started before next March, there is a chance that you could risk having to take a French driving test. You can avoid this by exchanging your UK driving licence for a French one before 29 March 2019.

## **6) What happens if I change my licence and return to live in the UK?**

UK licence holders who have changed for an EU licence will be able to re-exchange for a UK licence if they return to live in the UK.

## **7) How do I exchange my licence?**

Here is a link in French explaining how to exchange:

<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1758>

You may need a DVLA confirmation of your rights if you wish to keep all categories. You can call the DVLA for this and give your last UK address and they will send it to you (for a small fee). You can also try this link for your UK driving records: <https://www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence>

A medical may be required for certain categories - only certain doctors can provide this certificate. More details here:

<https://www.visite-medicale-permis-conduire.org/adresses-des-medecins-agrees/adresses-medecins-agrees-france>.

Note that the waiting times are VERY long. Note - this is VERY important - you do NOT send your original licence with your application. You will be contacted later to exchange when the licence is ready.

You will need to send the following documents and by MAIL only:

- form [Cerfa no. 14879 \\* 01](#) requesting a driver's licence exchange - completed, dated and signed and clearly indicating your e-mail address or your mobile phone number
- form [Cerfa n ° 14948 \\* 01](#) reference 06 must be printed in colour, completed, dated and signed
- 1 colour copy of your driver's licence to exchange
- 1 copy of [proof of identity](#)
- 1 copy of [proof of address](#)
- 1 copy recto-verso:
  - proof of your residence in France for at least 6 months (for example: rental agreement, employment contract, proof of social security, tax notice ...) if you are European (unless you are French), Swiss or Monegasque
  - or your residence permit (titre de séjour) or [Ofii sticker affixed to your passport](#) if you are not European
- 3 [photos](#) (including 2 attached to the 2 cerfa forms)
- If you live outside metropolitan France (in Dom Tom for example) - see the link above
- 1 pre-stamped envelope of the 50 g format ready to post (see the picture) with your name and address.



You must send your file to the following service:

Centre d'expertise et de ressources de titres (CERT) - Échanges de permis de conduire étrangers (Center of Expertise and Titles - Foreign Driver Licence Exchanges)

This service processes applications, unless you are domiciled in Paris.

Where to send it (non Paris residents)?

By mail only:

CERT EPE  
TSA 63527  
44035 NANTES CEDEX 01

For PARIS residents ONLY

Paris information:

<https://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/Demarches/Particulier/Permis-de-conduire-et-papiers-du-vehicule/Permis-de-conduire>

By mail only:

Préfecture de Police  
Direction de la Police Générale  
Bureau des permis de conduire - CREPIC/EPE  
1 bis rue de Lutèce  
75195 PARIS CEDEX 04

### **8) Can I just get an International driving permit (IDP)?**

Your UK driving licence may no longer be valid when living in the EU. It is possible that your residence in the EU means you need an EU recognised right to drive. IDPs are sent to a home address in the UK (the address on a licence) but may be provided instantly at certain UK Post Offices. The AA link for an IDP may not be valid after 29th March 2019.

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

UK residents visiting you in the EU may need to get an IDP (or two) and carry it in

addition to their UK licence. These will be available at Post Offices in the UK. There are two types - Each is governed by a separate United Nations convention - dated 1949 and 1968.

IDPs issued under the 1949 convention will be valid from the day of issue shown on the front of the document. IDPs issued under the 1968 convention before 28 March 2019 will be post-dated to become valid on 28 March 2019 when the convention comes into force, and then from date of issue. This is because 1968 convention IDPs are not valid for use until the 1968 convention is in force for the UK. If you already have a 1949 convention IDP you can continue to use it in all countries in which it applies (including EU countries) for as long as it remains valid. However, from 28 March 2019, when the 1968 convention comes into force for the UK, that convention will govern the arrangements for driving in most EU member states, plus Norway and Switzerland. In the EU, 1949 convention IDPs will only be valid in Cyprus, Ireland, Malta and Spain after 28 March 2019.

**10) I have heard that it takes a long time for an exchange to be processed, so what happens if I don't have a French licence by 29th March 2019?**

The waiting times are VERY long. Currently for most it is in excess of 6 months and this could be much longer if there are lots of requests from British residents to exchange. Note - this is VERY important - you do NOT send your original licence with your application. Keep copies of everything you send and proof you have applied (receipt from La Poste). It is likely that your application to change will be accepted.

**11) I have heard that with the delays in Nantes they may allow préfetures (and some sous-préfetures) to issue licence exchanges again.**

Waiting for this to happen is a risk. There is no certainty the system will change.

**12) My UK licence is valid to age 70. How long is a French licence valid?**

A French licence is renewed every 15 years. Some categories are renewed every 5 years (with a new medical)

A useful category link (in French)

<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N530>