

<INTERCULTURAL NOTES・多文化コラム>



Revised Procedures Regarding Driver's License Obtainment, Renewal and Conversion for Foreign Nationals From 1 October

10月1日から外国人の方の運転免許の取得・更新・外免切替手続が変わりました

1 Obtainment/Renewal of Foreign Driver's License in Japan

Before Revision	After Revision
Required documents for obtaining a driver's license: ★ For persons with a residence certificate (<i>Juminhyo</i>): ▶ Copy of residence certificate ★ For persons without a residence certificate (<i>Juminhyo</i>): ▶ Passport and Certificate of Temporary Residence (<i>Ichiji Taizai Shomei</i>)	Required documents for obtaining a driver's license: ★ For persons with a residence certificate (<i>Juminhyo</i>): ▶ Copy of residence certificate ★ Persons without a residence certificate (<i>Juminhyo</i>): ▶ No eligibility to take the test
Required documents for renewal of a driver's license: ▶ Current driver's license (<i>Untenmenkyo-sho</i>)	Required documents for renewal of a driver's license: ▶ Current driver's license (<i>Untenmenkyo-sho</i>), copy of residence certificate (<i>Juminhyo</i>), Residence Card (<i>Zairyu Card</i>)

2 Conversion to Japanese License

Before Revision	After Revision
Knowledge test (theory test) : Testing the knowledge necessary for driving ★ Illustrated questions ▶ 10 questions (available in 20 languages) ★ Passing criteria ▶ 70% (7 points) or above	Knowledge test (theory test) : ★ True/false essay questions (including signs) ▶ 50 questions (available in 20 languages) ★ Passing criteria ▶ 90% (90 points) or above
Skill test (practical test) : Verification of driving skills ★ Skill test at the test center ★ Passing criteria ▶ 70% or above ※There are more special deduction items related to driving faults than in the general test. 	Skill test at the test center: ★ Added tests (at pedestrian crossings, etc). ★ Passing criteria ▶ 70% or above ※Special deduction items related to driving faults have been reduced, and the content is the same as the general test. 

For details, please refer to the following websites.

	National Police Agency Website: https://www.npa.go.jp/news/release/2025/20250711_gaiyou.pdf	
	Shizuoka Prefectural Police Website: Procedures for driver's license renewal and change of description for foreign nationals https://www.pref.shizuoka.jp/police/shinse/menkyo/oshirase/200799	
	Stricter address verification for foreign nationals in accordance with revisions to driving license tests and related matters https://www.pref.shizuoka.jp/police/shinse/menkyo/hourei/2007992	