



## Agreement between the Portuguese Republic and the United Kingdom on the Mutual Recognition of Driving Licences

NEWS, LATEST,  
CURRENT TOPICS

### AUTHORS



VICKY RODRIGUES  
LAWYER



CÍNTIA MANTINHA  
TRAINEE

On 13th October 2023, in London, the Agreement between the Portuguese Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on Mutual Recognition for Driving Purposes and the Exchange of Driving Licences was signed.

The Agreement stipulates that each Party (State) recognises, for driving purposes, valid and definitive driving licences issued by the Competent Issuing Authorities of the States, for the categories contained therein and up to the period of validity granted by the issuing authorities of the other State.



### **What are the requirements for exchanging driving licences?**

The exchange of driving licences by the licence holder is subject to the following:

- Presentation of a valid document proving the holder's identity and residence;
- Having the minimum age required to drive vehicles in the category or categories for which the licence is to be exchanged, in accordance with the country's legal regulations;
- Submit a valid driving licence, except in the case of exchanging an expired driving licence and in the case of a lost or stolen driving licence, which will be explained below;
- Presentation of a certificate of authenticity of the driving licence issued by the issuing authority or presentation of an access code to the issuing authority's website/platform, or through notification between the States/Parties by e-mail;
- Submission of a medical/psychological examination report, if required by the domestic law of the States/Parties.

### **Expired driving licences:**

With regard to expired driving licences, they will only be accepted if:

- It was valid at the time of obtaining residence in the State/Party that will exchange the driving licence;
- The driving licence was valid for no more

than two years before it was presented for exchange.

Please note that if you are applying to change an expired driving licence, it must be handed in to the Competent Driving Licence Issuer for exchange. If this is not done, the driving licence in question will not be exchanged.

### **Lost, stolen or stolen driving licences:**

When requesting the exchange/issue of a driving licence that has been lost, stolen or robbed, it will be necessary to provide proof that this fact has been reported to the police, namely through a complaint to the competent authorities. Please note that this will only be required under the domestic law of each state. As far as Portugal is concerned, such a document is not required.

Compulsory surrender of driving licences and return to the original issuing authority:

It should be noted that the issuing authority that carries out the driving licence exchange always retains possession of the licence delivered and returns it in its original form within thirty days of collection to the original issuing authority, except for lost, stolen or robbed driving licences, in which case the licence exchange is notified to the original issuing authority within thirty working days.

**Restrictive driving measures:**

States must inform each other of any restrictive driving measures applied to drivers who request, or have requested, the exchange of driving licences, including:

- Identity,
- Driving licence number and;
- Ancillary sanctions consisting of disqualification or prohibition from driving.

Furthermore, states will not be able to exchange and consequently issue driving licences to individuals who have been subject to measures restricting their right to drive. Such licences can only be issued when the restrictions no longer apply to the applicants.