



Technical Notice (6) Getting ready for the end of the Transition Period

19 October 2020

Driving in Europe

On 31 December 2020, the Transition Period (sometimes also referred to as the “Implementation Period”) under the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement will come to an end. The end of the Transition Period will bring an end to the current status quo whereby Gibraltar, its citizens and its business, have enjoyed EU rights. Therefore, subject to the outcome of ongoing negotiations concerning the UK and Gibraltar’s future relationship with the EU, the end of the Transition Period will bring about important changes which Gibraltar, as a whole, will need to be ready for.

Purpose.

Gibraltar’s departure from the European Union means that certain processes and procedures will inevitably become more difficult, cumbersome and bureaucratic. It is important that citizens and businesses are aware of this and that, where possible, they plan ahead. The Government can only prepare in areas that are within its control. Even then, there will be certain areas where mitigation is not possible because the new situation simply reflects what it means to be outside the European Union.

The purpose of this Notice is to explain what the effect of those changes are on the documentation which you may need to have with you when driving abroad in Europe as from 1 January 2021 and on issues with respect to the exchange of driving licences.



If there is an agreement with respect to the UK and Gibraltar's future relationship with the EU before 31 December 2020.

Matters with respect to the reciprocal recognition and exchange of driving licences will not be covered in any potential UK-EU Agreement on the Future Relationship. It is therefore the case that, even in case of an EU-UK Agreement, these matters will not be catered for within this wider framework.

Therefore, the UK Government is currently engaged in separate discussions with EU Member States and the EFTA Member States individually to agree future arrangements. The intention is for these arrangements to be extended to Gibraltar. These arrangements could cover, for example, issues related to the reciprocal recognition of driving licences and the preservation of current procedures with respect to the exchange of driving licences.

If there are no agreements with respect to the matters covered in this Technical Notice with individual EU Member States and the EFTA Member States prior to 31 December 2020.

If there are no agreements with respect to the matters covered in this Technical Notice as explained above, there will be changes to the documentation you will need to have with you in order to be able to drive abroad in Europe as from 1 January 2021 and to the procedures related to the exchange of driving licences.

Recognition of Gibraltar Driving Licences in Europe.

Gibraltar driving licence holders will still be required to be in possession of their Gibraltar driving licence when driving in Europe. However, in addition, they may also be required to be in possession of one or more relevant International Driving Permits ("IDP").



There are 3 types of IDP:

- 1926 IDP (only required for Liechtenstein)
- 1949 IDP (required for Ireland, Iceland, Spain, Malta, Andorra and Cyprus)
- 1968 IDP (required for all other EU Member States, Monaco, Norway and Switzerland)

The type of IDP you may need depends on the country you will be driving in. Drivers are advised to check this carefully since, for example, if you are driving to Portugal via Spain, you may need both a 1949 IDP and a 1968 IDP.

The 1949 IDP is valid for a period of 12 months (or less, depending on whether your driving licence has less than 12 months left to expire). The 1968 IDP is valid for a period of up to 3 years (or less, depending on whether your driving licence has less than 3 years left to expire).

IDPs can be obtained from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Department counters at the Post Office. There is a GBP 6.00 fee for the issue of IDPs.

Recognition of European Driving Licences in Gibraltar.

HMGoG's intention is to continue to recognise driving licences issued in EU Member States or EFTA Member States after 31 December 2020. Therefore, those coming to Gibraltar to work or on holiday in future should not be required to hold a separate IDP to guarantee the recognition of their driving licences in Gibraltar. HMGoG may review this policy depending on whether reciprocal arrangements are reached with individual countries.

Exchange of Driving Licences.

The information in this section is only relevant to you if you currently reside in an EU Member State or if you plan to reside in an EU Member State after 31 December 2020.



If, after 31 December 2020, you change your residence to that of an EU Member State, you will not have an automatic right under EU law to exchange your Gibraltar driving licence for a driving licence issued by the EU Member State in which you live. Depending on the laws of the EU Member State you move to, you may need to take a new driving test in that country. Those Gibraltar driving licence holders currently living in EU Member States can avoid this by exchanging their Gibraltar driving licences for an EU one ahead of 31 December 2020. Persons who do this will be able to re-exchange their EU Member State driving licence for a Gibraltar driving licence if they return to live in Gibraltar in future.

For EU Member State driving licence holders who have passed their test in the EU and come to Gibraltar to live, HMGoG intends to preserve the same arrangements which exist today. Driving licences will therefore be able to be exchanged for Gibraltar driving licences on the same basis after 31 December 2020. As is the case today, EU driving licence holders who passed their test outside the EU may have restrictions on licence exchange and may need to take a test in order to obtain a Gibraltar driving licence. Again, HMGoG may review this policy depending on the reciprocal arrangements that are reached with individual countries.

GBZ Stickers.

Drivers are advised that, after 1 January 2021, EU Member States may enforce requirements to have GBZ stickers on the rear of their vehicles. This may be the case even if you currently have a number plate which includes the GBZ identifier. You may therefore need a GBZ sticker even if you have a number plate with the Euro symbol and the Gibraltar (GBZ) national identifier.

HMGoG is making arrangements for GBZ stickers to be available for purchase from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Department at the Post Office. They can also, of course, be purchased from other retailers.



Insurance.

You will need to carry a motor insurance Green Card when driving in Europe after 31 December 2020. If you currently drive your vehicle abroad in Europe it is likely that you will have this already. In any event, drivers are advised to check that their motor vehicle insurance arrangements are in order. In case of any doubt, further information can be sought from your insurance company.

Further information

This Notice is meant for guidance only.

Further information can be sought from brexit@gibraltar.gov.gi.