

Applying for a UK driver's licence

April 2010

As of 25 March 2010 asylum seekers can no longer apply for a UK driver's licence.

If you have applied for asylum in the UK and have **not** yet received leave to remain, you will no longer be able to apply for a UK driver's licence as of 25 March 2010.

Recent changes to government rules mean that only those who have been granted some form of leave to remain in the UK **for a period of at least 185 days** will be eligible to apply for a UK driver's licence. This change does not affect those who applied for a UK driver's licence before the 25 March 2010.

Driving in the UK on a licence issued by any other country

If you have a full valid driving licence from a country outside the UK and the **documentary proof** of this, you will be able to drive on your overseas licence for up to 12 months from the date you entered the UK. After this period you cannot drive.

Requirements for driving in the UK if you have leave to remain for at least 185 days

Insurance

In addition to having a valid driving licence, all drivers in the UK must have valid motor insurance; it is a criminal offence to drive in the UK without insurance or to allow others to drive your car without insurance.

Many companies provide insurance; your car insurance rate will be based on several factors such as your sex, age, the model of car you drive and whether you have had a car accident before. You can obtain telephone numbers of companies that provide car insurance in the telephone book.

Ministry of Transport (MOT)

Private vehicles that are over three years old will also have to pass a yearly check - Ministry of Transport (MOT) to prove that your car is safe to be driven. The MOT test covers things such as lighting, steering, and emissions.

Many local garages are authorised to perform testing and issue you the certificate that confirms your car has passed the test. You will have to pay a fee for the MOT test, generally ranging from £54.00 - £62.00 depending on the type of inspection carried out. To make an appointment to have your car MOT tested you must call a MOT garage; numbers are available in the telephone book.

Road tax

Drivers must pay road tax – and prove that they have done so by displaying the valid ‘road tax disc’ document in or on the vehicle at all times. It is a criminal offence not to display this disc; you can be prosecuted by law. Additionally, if you do not display a valid road tax disc, your car can be towed away and may be destroyed.

You can buy the road tax discs at many Post Office branches. You can also apply online for a tax disc on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) website:

http://www.taxdisc.direct.gov.uk/EvlPortalApp/application?origin=vnav_bar.jsp&event=bea.portal.framework.internal.refresh&pageid=Apply+for+a+tax+disc+NOW

Where to get more information about obtaining a UK driver’s licence

If after reading this leaflet you have other questions about obtaining a UK driver’s licence, you can contact the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) customer enquires telephone line on 0300 790 6801 or complete their online enquiry form:

https://emaildvla.direct.gov.uk/emaildvla/cegemail/directgov/en/driver_1_14.html