

Motor Vehicle Division Policy Memo # 17-06

Taiwan Reciprocity-Driver's Licenses

DATE: July 31, 2017

FROM: Melissa Spiegel, Director, Motor Vehicle Division

TO: All DIS staff, Iowa County Treasurers and County Treasurers' staff that issue driver's licenses and identification cards

SUBJECT

This policy memo explains the process streamlining the exchange of valid noncommercial driver's licenses for an applicant from Taiwan, living in Iowa, and an applicant from Iowa, living in Taiwan.

EXPLANATION

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Republic of China (Taiwan) through the Ministry of Transportation and Communications have established comparable driving skills requirements which must be demonstrated by a driver's license applicant prior to a driver's license being issued. Therefore, the DOT and Taiwan have agreed to a streamlined process of exchanging valid noncommercial driver's licenses between the two jurisdictions. The questions and answers below further explain the process and requirements and specifically address what will occur when an applicant from Taiwan seeks and Iowa driver's license and vice versa. The applicable manual will be updated with applicable information contained in this policy memo in the next calendar quarter. **This policy is effective August 7, 2017.**

HELPFUL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following questions and answers provide additional information that will be helpful to you and to customers.

APPLICANT FROM TAIWAN (LIVING IN IOWA) SEEKS AN IOWA DRIVER'S LICENSE

WHAT IS THE BASIC PROCESS FOR AN APPLICANT FROM TAIWAN, LIVING IN IOWA, WHO SEEKS AN IOWA DRIVER'S LICENSE?

The DOT may allow a person aged 18 or over, lawfully present in the United States, who meets Iowa residency requirements, and who possesses a valid, unexpired Class B, C, D and E Taiwanese driver's license to exchange that license for an Iowa noncommercial (Class C) Operator's License without a vehicle group designation or endorsement. The applicant will be required to pay all requisite fees and pass: (1) a vision screening, and (2) a knowledge test, but will not be required to submit to a driving skills test.

WHAT IF I SUSPECT THE APPLICANT IS NOT QUALIFIED TO SAFELY OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE?

You may require a driving skills test and/or medical documentation attesting to the physical or mental capabilities of an applicant prior to granting licensing in situations where you have reason to believe that the applicant is not qualified to safely operate a motor vehicle.

IS PROOF OF IDENTITY AND COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS STILL REQUIRED?

All applicants for an Iowa driver's license are required to present proof of identity as required to comply with the laws and regulations of this jurisdiction, and we will apply the same application standards, rules, and regulations in licensing decisions as we would for any resident of Iowa, including suspension, revocation or restriction of a license already issued, as well as the reexamination of a driver previously granted a license.

WHAT IF THE APPLICANT'S DRIVER'S LICENSE OR OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION IS NOT IN ENGLISH?

You may require an applicant to present an International Driving Permit and a notarized translation issued by Taipei Economic and Cultural Consulate in Chicago, IL to assist in the translation of the Taiwanese driver's license. In addition, you may require an applicant to provide a translation of any documents presented as identification into the English language. If you require a translation, please contact your supervisor. Examples of a Taiwanese driver's license have been attached at the end of this memo.

MUST THE APPLICANT SURRENDER THEIR TAIWANESE DRIVER'S LICENSE?

Yes, the applicant is required to surrender the foreign jurisdiction's driver's license. We must then destroy it so as to no longer be recognizable. Once destruction has occurred, we must inform Taiwan. Please contact your supervisor or hearing officer when you obtain a surrendered Taiwanese driver's license so they can provide you with instructions for destroying it and notifying Taiwan. Notification and a copy of the scanned license must be emailed to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Chicago, Illinois at chi@mofa.gov.tw

WHEN DOES THE IOWA DRIVER'S LICENSE ISSUED TO AN APPLICANT UNDER THIS PROCESS EXPIRE?

Any Operator's License issued by DOT under this process expires automatically upon the termination of the applicant's legal presence in Iowa as previously determined and verified by DOT. DOT must re-verify the licensee's legal presence prior to any renewal.

WHAT IF I HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT THE VALIDITY OR AUTHENTICITY OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE SUBMITTED FOR EXCHANGE UNDER THIS PROCESS?

In case of doubts related to validity or authenticity of a driver's license submitted for exchange, with the consent of the holder of the driver's license for release of this information, you may verify with Taiwan that the applicant has a valid driver's license. If consent is withheld, an exchange may not occur. Please contact your supervisor if you need to verify with Taiwan whether an applicant has a valid driver's license.

APPLICANT FROM IOWA (LIVING IN TAIWAN) SEEKS A TAIWANESE DRIVER'S LICENSE

WHAT IS THE BASIC PROCESS FOR AN APPLICANT FROM IOWA, LIVING IN TAIWAN, WHO SEEKS A TAIWANESE DRIVER'S LICENSE?

Taiwan may allow a person aged 18 or over, residing in Taiwan who possesses a valid, unexpired Iowa Class C Operator's or Class D Chauffeur's License to exchange that license for a Class B driver's license after paying all requisite fees and passing: (1) a physical (aptitude) test, and (2) a knowledge test, without however, being required to submit to a driving skills test.

WHAT IF TAIWAN SUSPECTS THE APPLICANT IS NOT QUALIFIED TO SAFELY OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE?

Taiwan may require a driving skills test and/or medical documentation attesting to the physical or mental capabilities of an applicant prior to granting licensing in situations where there is reason to believe that the applicant is not qualified to safely operate a motor vehicle.

IS PROOF OF IDENTITY AND COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS STILL REQUIRED?

All applicants for a driver's license are required to present proof of identity as required to comply with the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction, and Taiwan will apply the same application standards, rules, and regulations in licensing decisions as it would for any resident of Taiwan, including suspension, revocation or restriction of a license already issued, as well as the reexamination of a driver previously granted a license.

IS AN APPLICANT REQUIRED TO HAVE THEIR DRIVER'S LICENSE OR OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION TRANSLATED INTO MANDARIN?

No, according to the agreement, Taiwan does not require an applicant from Iowa to provide a translation of their Iowa Driver's License or other required documentation.

MUST THE APPLICANT SURRENDER THEIR IOWA DRIVER'S LICENSE?

Yes, the applicant is required to surrender the foreign jurisdiction's driver's license. It shall then be destroyed so as to no longer be recognizable. Once destruction has occurred, Taiwan shall inform DOT and we will update our records accordingly.

MUST THE APPLICANT PRESENT A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION OF THEIR IOWA DRIVER'S LICENSE?

Taiwan may require an applicant to present a certificate of authentication of the Iowa driver's license issued by the Iowa Department of Transportation under a process used for authenticating documents for use in foreign countries, which is completed by the U.S. Department of State.

WHAT IF TAIWAN HAS DOUBTS ABOUT THE VALIDITY OR AUTHENTICITY OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE SUBMITTED FOR EXCHANGE UNDER THIS PROCESS?

In case of doubts related to validity or authenticity of a driver's license submitted for exchange, with the consent of the holder of the driver's license for release of this information, Taiwan may verify with DOT that the applicant has a valid driver's license. If consent is withheld, an exchange may not occur.

Attachment 1: Format of driver's license of R.O.C.(Taiwan)

Original version issued before June 30, 2011

New Version since July 1, 2011

(License Front-Side)

Driver's License Issued by Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Republic of China					Photo
Driver's License Number		Gender			
Name					
Date of Birth		License Class		Condition of Holder	
Address					
Date of Expiry		Area Control Number			
Date of Issue		Date of Review			

(License Back-Side)

Serial Number		Mobilization Number	
Condition of Holder	A. No restrictions		B. Auto Transmission
	C. Other Conditions		
Change of Address		Stamp of Registration Authorities	
Professional Driver's License Review		Fine will be imposed if the license is not reviewed on time. The license will be revoked if it is overdue for more than 1 year.	
Note			

Note: 1. Professional drivers shall have their driver's licenses reviewed every 3 years.
 2. To translate dates of birth, issue and expiry to Western style add 1911 to the first two digits, e.g., 1911+88=1999.

(License Front-Side)

Driver's License Issued by Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Republic of China				Photo
Driver's License Number		Number of times Reissued		
Name		Gender		
Date of Birth		Blood Type		
Address				
Date of Expiry		Area Control Number		
Condition of Holder		License Class		
Date of Issue		Date of Review		

(License Back-Side)

Serial Number		Mobilization Number	
Condition of Holder	A. Handicapped Person Special License Plate Number		B. Auto Transmission
	C. Other Conditions		
Change of Address		Stamp of Registration Authorities	
Professional Driver's License Review		Fine will be imposed if the license is not reviewed on time. The license will be revoked if it is overdue for more than 1 year.	
Note			

中華民國		交通部製發汽車駕駛執照		(相 片)
寫照號碼	A234567890	性別	女	
姓名	陳筱玲			
出生日期	057.06.05	駕照種類	普通小型車	
住址	新北市樹林區中正路248巷7號			
有效日期	107.06.05	警務編號	4052021010814	
換照日期	101.08.14	警務編號	4052021010814	

印製號碼	(省) 00000025	動員編號	
持照條件	A駕駛特製車號牌	B駕駛自動排檔車	
C加註條件	張		
住址變更	張		
職業駕駛	應按期審驗逾期罰款，逾期一年本照註銷		
備註			

Original version issued before June 30, 2011

中華民國		交通部製發汽車駕駛執照		張
寫照號碼	A234567890	性別	女	
姓名	陳筱玲			
出生日期	057.06.05	駕照種類	普通小型車	
住址	新北市樹林區中正路248巷7號			
有效日期	107.06.05	警務編號	4052021010814	
換照日期	101.08.14	警務編號	4052021010814	

印製號碼	(文) 17491798	動員編號	
持照條件	A無限制	B駕駛自動排檔車	
C加註條件	張		
住址變更	張		
職業駕駛	應按期審驗逾期罰款，逾期一年本照註銷		
備註			

New version from July 1, 2011

中華民國		交通部製發汽車駕駛執照		張
寫照號碼	A234567890	性別	女	
姓名	陳筱玲			
出生日期	057.06.05	駕照種類	普通小型車	
住址	新北市樹林區中正路248巷7號			
有效日期	=====	警務編號	4091491020709	
換照日期	101.08.14	警務編號	4091491020709	

印製號碼	(文) 17491799	動員編號	
持照條件	A無限制	B駕駛自動排檔車	
C加註條件	張		
住址變更	張		
職業駕駛	應按期審驗逾期罰款，逾期一年本照註銷		
備註			

New version exempt from renewal from July 1, 2013