Louisiana Department of Public Safety  
Office of Motor Vehicles  
Policy 18.01 Reciprocity with Other Countries

Section: 1. Issuance of Driver’s License

Effective Date: 01/01/1998
Revised Date: 02/04/2019

Authority:
R.S. 32:404

Purpose: To allow first time applicants with legal presence presenting a foreign driver’s license, from countries with which the department has entered into a reciprocity agreement, to be issued a Louisiana class D or E driver’s license without having to take the written and road skills tests.

Definitions:

- **Reciprocal** – an agreement or obligation bearing on or binding each of two parties equally.
- **Reciprocity** - the practice of exchanging things with others for mutual benefit, especially privileges granted by one country or organization to another.

Purpose: The Department may enter into a reciprocal agreement with a foreign country which would allow citizens of that foreign country to apply for and be issued a Louisiana driver's license without taking a driver education course, written test, or road skills tests. Similarly, Louisiana citizens would be able to apply for and be issued a driver's license in the same foreign country without taking a written or road test.

Requirements: All applicants are required to follow the proof of identification guidelines found in Section 1, Policy 6.00, Identification Requirements.

- The applicant must submit a valid DL from a country the department has an agreement with and the department can request a translation of the document if necessary.
- The applicant must be able to pass the vision examination and shall be subject to all criminal, civil, and administrative laws governing the operation of a motor vehicle.
- The applicant may retain the foreign license (as well as the International Driver’s License if he is in possession of one); however, he must keep the foreign license valid during the entire time period he possesses a Louisiana license.
General:

- Foreign countries which have entered into a reciprocity agreement with Louisiana:
  - Germany – Effective 10/01/98 (Implemented 12/01/98)
  - Switzerland – Effective 07/1/2001
  - Taiwan – Effective 08/14/2018
    - NOTE: notarized translations must be authenticated by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston or provided by a translator acceptable to the Office of Motor Vehicles.
  - South Korea – Effective 02/04/2019

- The following US Territories are exempted from testing:
  - American Samoa
  - Guam
  - Mariana Islands
  - Marshall Islands
  - Palau, Micronesia
  - Puerto Rico
  - U.S. Virgin Islands

- Commercial Driver’s Licenses for class A, B or C will have to comply with all licensing requirements as they are not included in this program.

Related Policies:
Section 1, Policy 6.00 Identification Requirements
Section 1, Policy 6.01 Driver Education Requirements
Section 1, Policy 6.02 Driver’s License Issuance for Aliens Temporarily Residing In Louisiana