

Driver's License

(1) Acquisition of a Driver's License

In order to acquire a driver's license, one must pass the written test in Japanese (if requested, "kana" attached or English versions can be prepared) and driving skill examination.

The traffic manual (1,010 yen, in Japanese, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Korean, Persian) issued by the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF Phone: 052-872-3685) is a reference book for the examinees.

(2) Renewal of the Driver's License

The driver's license expires on the holder's third birthday from its date of issue. This expiration period will be extended if there are no accidents or violations during a 5-year consecutive period.

Renewal can be made a month before and after the birthday, within a two month period at the Driver's License Examination Center (Phone: 098-868-3401).

Documents Necessary for Renewal

renewal reminder (postcard)

driver's license

renewal fee (general trainee: 3,950 yen, superior trainee: 2,950 yen)

(3) Conversion from a Foreign Driver's License to a Japanese Driver's License

Foreigners residing in Japan for three months or more can apply for a driver's license conversion at the examination center. A Japanese driver's license will be issued after the applicant passes the aptitude test and knowledge and skill confirmation examination that will be conducted after application. An interpreter will be required for those who cannot understand Japanese.

Documents Necessary for Conversion

foreign driver's license and one photocopy

translation of the foreign driver's license (one copy)

portrait photo for passport, one photocopy of the visa stamp

Alien Registration Certificate and one photocopy

one photo (3cm × 2.4cm, taken within six months)

processing fee

(4) Driver's License Examination Locations

* Okinawa Prefecture Police Headquarters Driver's License Section

Safety Driving School	Naha Main School (098-868-3401)
	Central Branch School (098-933-0442)
	Northern Branch School (0980-53-1301)
	Miyako Branch School (09807-2-9990)
	Yaeyama Branch School (09808-2-9542)