FAQs for driving in Ireland

A guide for Ukrainian drivers

2 August 2022

The information included in this document is correct at the time of printing but is subject to change so please visit www.rsa.ie for the latest information.

Driving licences

Can I drive on my Ukrainian licence in Ireland?

Yes. You can drive on your Ukrainian driving licence while in Ireland under temporary protection. You don't need to exchange it for an Irish driving licence or sit a driving test.

What does 'living in Ireland under temporary protection' mean?

This means that you have a letter from the Minister for Justice confirming that you are a beneficiary of Temporary Protection in Ireland granted under section 60 of the International Protection Act 2015. For more information please see the FAQs for Ukraine nationals and residents of Ukraine on the Department of Justice website.

I am the holder of a Ukrainian driving licence but I'm not here under temporary protection. Can I drive on this licence in Ireland?

No. You will need to go through the necessary steps to get a driving licence in the vehicle category you wish to drive.

I've been living in Ireland prior to the war. Can I exchange my Ukrainian driving licence for an Irish driving licence?

No. You will need to go through the necessary steps to get a driving licence in the vehicle category you wish to drive.

I already exchanged my Ukrainian driving licence for an Irish driving licence. How do I get my Ukrainian licence back?

You will need to:

- Return your Irish driving licence to: National Driver Licence Service, PO Box 858, Southside Delivery Office, Cork.
- Enclose a written request in English stating that you are surrendering your Irish licence in return for your Ukrainian driving licence
- Include your Irish postal address for the return of your Ukrainian licence and a phone number, should we need to contact you.

I applied to exchange my Ukrainian driving licence but have not yet received my Irish driving licence. How do I get my Ukrainian licence back?

You will need to send an email in English to: Ukrainelicence@ndls.ie stating the following:

- Your NDLS application number, if available
- Your name and date of birth
- Your request to cancel your application to exchange your Ukrainian driving licence and the return of your Ukrainian driving licence.
- Your Irish postal address for the return of your Ukrainian driving licence and a telephone number, should we need to contact you.

I'm in Ireland under temporary protection. Can I exchange my Ukrainian driving licence for an Irish driving licence?

No. Irish legislation no longer provides for the exchange of Ukrainian driving licences. Ukrainian drivers living in Ireland under temporary protection can drive on their Ukrainian driving licence as it is now recognised in Ireland.

I already exchanged my Ukrainian driving licence for an Irish driving licence. Can I keep the Irish driving licence?

Yes. Your Irish driving licence is valid for one year from the date it was issued.

I've lost my Ukrainian driving licence. Can I drive in Ireland?

No. If you lost your Ukrainian driving licence you will need to go through the necessary steps to get an Irish driving licence in the vehicle category you wish to drive.

My Ukrainian driving licence has expired or is due to expire. Can I drive on it in Ireland?

No. You can only drive on a current, valid Ukrainian driving licence in Ireland. However, some Ukrainian driving licences have been extended so please check if this applies to you.

The information I am looking for is not provided in this leaflet. Where can I get further information?

Further information is available on www.NDLS.ie or you can also email Ukrainelicence@ndls.ie

Professional bus or truck drivers

Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC)

What are the rules for driving a bus or truck professionally in Ireland?

Professional truck and bus drivers with qualifications obtained in the Ukraine will be temporarily recognised in the EU, however the following conditions apply in Ireland.

You must:

- hold a verified Ukrainian driving licence for the vehicle you wish to drive.
- hold a verified Ukrainian driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC)
- complete compulsory training and any checks, as required

More detailed information on becoming a professional bus/truck driver in Ireland is available on https://www.rsa.ie/services/professional-drivers/cpc

I have an EU truck/bus licence and Driver CPC. Can I drive professionally in Ireland?

If you previously exchanged your Ukrainian licence for an EU licence and hold a CPC qualification, you can drive professionally in Ireland until the expiry date of your licence or CPC card (whichever expires first). After that time, you are not allowed to drive professionally.

Can I renew my EU licence and CPC qualification in Ireland?

This depends on the following:

- If you're resident here and hold an EU licence which you originally exchanged from a Ukrainian licence, this can't be renewed in Ireland.

- If you're resident here and hold an original EU licence (obtained your qualification within the EU) this licence can be renewed in Ireland. You can also complete training here to renew your driver CPC qualification.

Information about renewing your licence is available at:
www.rsa.ie/services/licensed-drivers/driving-licence/manage-your-licence

More information on CPC training and qualification is available on:
www.rsa.ie/services/professional-drivers/cpc

I hold an EU licence and completed CPC training in an EU country. Will I get credit for this in Ireland?

If you completed all CPC training in another EU country, you need to apply for a CPC card from that country.

If you completed some training in an EU country, we will need to see evidence of this and will review your documents. For more information please visit:
www.rsa.ie/services/professional-drivers/cpc/foreign-cpc-drivers

I hold an EU licence and CPC qualification, but don't have proof. What should I do?

If you don't have a Driver CPC card or 'Code 95' on your licence, you must start the CPC qualification process here in Ireland.

For more information please visit: www.rsa.ie/services/professional-drivers

Using your car in Ireland

Can I drive my Ukrainian-registered car in Ireland?
Yes. However, there are certain vehicle importation rules you must follow, depending on how long you stay in Ireland. For further advice or contact details please visit www.revenue.ie

Do I need to pay any vehicle tax when I enter Ireland?
Ukrainians can apply for an exemption from this where a vehicle is temporarily brought into Ireland, known as a 'vehicle temporary exemption'. For further advice or contact details please visit www.revenue.ie

If you decide in the future to register your car in Ireland (with Irish registration plates) Revenue would also provide advice on your application.

Can I register my Ukrainian car in Ireland?
Yes, but it will need to pass a number of checks first. Further guidance is available on: www.citizensinformation.ie under 'Importing a vehicle into Ireland' or in www.revenue.ie.

Do I need insurance to drive in Ireland?
Yes, by law you must be insured to drive your vehicle when using it on Irish roads.

Can I insure my Ukrainian car in Ireland?
The Motor (Transport) Insurance Bureau of Ukraine (UA) has prepared a list of Ukrainian Insurance Providers that allows Ukrainian refugees to renew their insurance policies online and to get an International Insurance Green Card. You can find more information about this at www.mibi.ie

Vehicle safety

Do I need to get my Ukrainian vehicle roadworthiness tested?
If your car has Ukrainian number plates you don't have to get it tested. It only becomes subject to testing when it is registered in Ireland. However, by law you must always keep your vehicle in a safe and roadworthy condition when used on Irish roads.

If I register my car in Ireland, do I have to get it roadworthiness tested?
Yes. Once you register your Ukrainian car in Ireland, it must be roadworthiness tested i.e. it must undergo a National Car Test (NCT). The test due date will be based on the date the car entered Ireland. Once your car reaches four years old, it will need to be tested. Once your vehicle is four years or more, you must apply for a NCT right away. Please contact the National Car Testing Service (NCTS) at 01 4135992 or book a test online at www.ncts.ie

We offer helpful advice and tips about vehicle care on www.rsa.ie under 'Car maintenance'.

I plan to buy a car in Ireland. Is there any advice available?
We offer helpful advice and tips on www.rsa.ie under 'Advice on buying a used car'.

Údaras Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre
Road Safety Authority

Páirc Ghnó Ghleann na Muaidhe, Cnoc an tSabhaircín, Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath, Béal an Átha, Co. Mhaigh Eo, F26 V6E4.

Moy Valley Business Park, Primrose Hill, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo, F26 V6E4.

Tel: (096) 25 000 Email: info@rsa.ie
Website: www.rsa.ie

RSA MyRoadSafety.ie

Your online resource to easily and safely manage all your driver information, services, tests, permits and licences.