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Commissioner (Driving License)
Assistant/Deputy Commissioners in-charge of District Offices
Chief Examiners of Motor Vehicles

Conversion of Foreign Driving License into Sri Lankan Driving License

Procedure for issuing a Sri Lankan driving license to a holder of driving license issued outside of Sri Lanka, under the provisions of section 131 of Motor Traffic Act.

01. Common Considerations

- a. The driving license produced for the conversion must be issued by one of the countries signatory to the Vienna convention of 1968 or Geneva convention of 1949 listed in schedule 1, or a SAARC country listed in schedule 2
- b. The driving license produced for the conversion (foreign license) must be valid for at least one year from the date of conversion.
- c. Only full driving license are considered for conversion. Training/learner's license/permit, novice license, temporary license, probationary license or other similar types of licenses are not considered for conversion.
- d. Conversion is applied for motorcycles vehicle class (denoted by A in Sri Lankan license) and light vehicles class (denoted by B in Sri Lankan license) only.
- e. All restrictions and conditions applied in the foreign license (e.g. corrective lens user, automatic transmission only, hearing aid user, etc.) will be applied in the converted Sri Lankan license.
- f. Commissioner General, at discretion, may ask for written confirmation of validity of a foreign driving license from the relevant embassy in Sri Lanka or any other means of verification, where deemed necessary.
- g. The Commissioner General of Motor Traffic has the full authority to decide whether or not to issue a Sri Lankan driving license based on a foreign driving license and to mete relevant conditions.

02. Conversion of Foreign Driving License for Foreigners

All conditions mentioned in "01. Common Considerations" and following conditions are applicable.

Document verifications must be produced where applicable.

- i. Sri Lankan visa for at least one year duration
- ii. Certificate to confirm mental and physical fitness, issued by the National Transport Medical Institute
- iii. Passing the practical examination conducted by an Examiner of Motor Vehicles
- iv. If the driving license is not issued by the home country of the applicant, visa for the country which issued the license (validity of the visa must overlap the validity of the driving licence)
- v. Validity period of the Sri Lankan driving license must be decided based on the remaining Sri Lankan visa of the applicant

03. Conversion of Foreign Driving License for Sri Lankans/Sri Lankan Dual Citizens

All conditions mentioned in "01. Common Considerations" and following conditions are applicable.

Document verifications must be produced where applicable.

- i. Valid Sri Lankan passport and Sri Lankan national identity card (Sri Lankan citizenship)
- ii. Certificate to confirm mental and physical fitness, issued by the National Transport Medical Institute
- iii. Passing the practical examination conducted by an Examiner of Motor Vehicles
- iv. Visa for the country which issued the driving license (validity of the visa must overlap the validity of the driving licence)

04. Issuing a temporary Sri Lankan driving license under the provisions of section 132 of Motor Traffic Act

A temporary driving license shall be issued as per the section 132 of Motor Traffic Act, to foreign national applicants who does not meet the requirement in paragraph "02. i.". All conditions from "b." to "g." in "01. Common Considerations", as well as following conditions are applicable in issuing a temporary driving license to a foreign national visiting Sri Lanka.

- i. The maximum validity of the temporary driving license will be the lesser period from 5-month validity or remaining Sri Lankan visa period of the applicant.
- ii. Fee is applied based on the number of months of validity of the temporary licence.

05. Exceptions

- a. Sri Lankan driving license will be issued to foreign diplomats and staff members of foreign missions in Sri Lanka and without considering aforementioned conditions, according to the written requests from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka.
- b. For citizens of countries which has signed reciprocal driving license exchange agreements, Sri Lankan driving licenses will be issued according to the provisions of relevant agreements.
- c. In occasions where significant justifications are produced for converting the heavy vehicle classes of foreign driving licenses, consideration is given to such conversions with the special approval from the Commissioner General of Motor Traffic and subject to passing a practical test.

06. Procedures mentioned in this circular shall not obstruct Sri Lankan and foreign national applicants from obtaining a Sri Lankan driving license through the normal procedure.

-Signature-

Nishantha Anurudhdha Weerasinghe
Commissioner General
Department of Motor Traffic

**** If an inconsistency occurs between the original circular issued in Sinhala language and this translation, the original circular issued in Sinhala must be deemed accurate and legally valid.**