



Visitors and new residents

Driving legally and safely in South Australia

Welcome. We hope you enjoy your stay, but more importantly we want you to stay safe. If you're intending to drive in South Australia during your stay, make sure you are driving legally and safely.

The road rules

There are many laws governing road users in South Australia. The most important point, however, is that you must drive with care and consideration of other road users.

Ensure that you are familiar with the rules for driving. These rules are explained in *The Driver's Handbook* which is available from the website sa.gov.au/motoring or from any Service SA customer service centre. A few of the key rules to remember are explained below.



Remember that we DRIVE ON THE LEFT in Australia. If you're visiting from a country where vehicles are driven on the right-hand side of the road, this can be disorientating when driving in Australia. You'll need to take extra care when driving, cycling and walking. Keep some reminders close by. You can print out our DRIVE ON LEFT IN AUSTRALIA card from our website and put it in a prominent place in your car or pick up some copies from any Service SA customer service centre.



The default speed limit in urban areas is 50km/h unless otherwise sign posted. The speed limit on most Australian highways is 100km/h - only a few roads allow you to travel at a maximum speed of 110km/h. Police regularly conduct speed checks using speed cameras, radar and lasers along all types of roads.



Wearing a seatbelt is a life or death matter - both for you and your passengers. Drivers must ensure that they and any passengers in the vehicle are wearing a seatbelt or child restraint.

Interstate licence holders

If you are visiting temporarily, you may drive with a current interstate driver's licence. You must adhere to all conditions your licence is issued under in your state, as well as the rules applicable in South Australia.

If you are relocating permanently to South Australia, you must surrender your interstate driver's licence and obtain a South Australian licence within three months.

You can apply at any Service SA customer service centre. After you have paid the fee and your photo has been taken, you will receive a temporary licence and your photo licence will be posted to you.

Overseas licence holders

Temporary visitors, students and workers

Students, visitors and those who are working in South Australia on current temporary visas are permitted to drive with an overseas licence as stated below only while that licence is current. If that licence expires, you are required to obtain a South Australian driver's licence.

If you hold a current overseas driver's licence of a particular class you may drive a vehicle of an equivalent class in South Australia if:

- you also hold a current International Driving Permit;
- or
- your foreign licence is written in English or is accompanied by an English translation of the details on the licence;
- and
- you are not disqualified from driving in South Australia or elsewhere.

You are required to carry your licence (and English translation if applicable) at all times when driving. You must produce the licence to Police on request.

Permanent residents

If you are issued a permanent visa and become a resident of South Australia, you must obtain a South Australian driver's licence within three months and you may be required to surrender your overseas driver's licence. Once you are issued with a South Australian learner's permit or driver's licence, your overseas licence is invalid.

South Australia recognises the driver licensing and testing standards in the countries listed below. If you hold, or have held within the preceding five years, a driver's licence for a car or motorcycle only, you are not required to undertake equivalent driving tests in South Australia.

Austria	France	Italy	Spain
Belgium	Germany	Japan	Sweden
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Greece	Jersey	Switzerland
Canada	Guernsey	Luxembourg	United Kingdom**
Croatia	Ireland**	Malta	United States
Denmark	Isle of Man	Norway	
Finland	Netherlands	Portugal	
	New Zealand*	Singapore	

* New Zealand licence holders will be issued with the equivalent South Australian licence for all licence classes except for class MC (Road Trains and B Doubles).

** Please note; a provisional licence in the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom is equivalent to a South Australian learner's permit and cannot be transferred.

South Australia also recognises 'driver experience' from the following countries.

Bulgaria	Republic of	Taiwan	Slovenia
Cyprus	Korea	Poland	South Africa
Czech Republic	Latvia	Romania	
Estonia	Lithuania	Serbia	
Hungary	Hong Kong*	Slovakia	

* An applicant aged 25 years or older must have held the Hong Kong driver's licence for a minimum of 12 months and provide evidence they were a resident in Hong Kong for it to be accepted for transfer without undertaking any driving tests. Evidence of residency in addition to the Hong Kong licence will be required.

A person aged 25 years or older with a driver's licence from one of these countries is treated the same as someone who holds a licence from a recognised country and is not required to undertake any driving tests.

If you hold a licence from a country not listed or you are aged under 25 years from a country where 'driver experience' is recognised, you are required to:

- pass a theory test based on the Australian Road Rules
- pass a hazard perception test; and
- pass a practical driving test with an authorised instructor.

When you pass the driving test you will receive a 'Certificate of Competency', which should be presented along with your overseas licence to obtain your South Australian driver's licence.

After you have paid the licence fee and your photo has been taken, a temporary driver's licence will be issued to you and your photo licence will be posted to you.

Licence classes other than a car or motorcycle are not transferable.

Present the following at a Service SA customer service centre to apply:

- your current driver's licence. If your licence is not written in English, you must provide an English translation of your driver's licence or your International Driving Permit
- evidence of identity which is evidence of your signature, your age and address
- payment for your written test
- medical certificate if required
- concession card if entitled

Translation services are available at The Interpreting and Translation Centre,

Interpreting and Translating Centre (ITC)
Phone 1800 280 203
www.translate.sa.gov.au

The Department of Social Services' Free On-line Translating Service

www.translating.dss.gov.au
Phone 1800 962 100

National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters

www.naati.com.au

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www.service.sa.gov.au