

RAESPO



engineers in recruiting



Driving **licence** and car

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Driving licence

You may drive in the Netherlands with a driving licence issued by a European Union country (Spain). This licence allows you to drive in the Netherlands for 15 years from the date of issue of your licence. This applies to the following categories: AM, A1, A2, A, B and BE. However, the driving licence must be valid. If the date of issue was more than 15 years ago, but the driving licence has not yet expired, you may still drive with it for 2 years from the date you come to live in the Netherlands.

For the other categories: C1, C, D1, D, C1E, D1E and DE, the driving licence is valid for a maximum of 5 years from the date of issue of your driving licence.

If your driving licence has expired (or the period), you must exchange your foreign driving licence for a Dutch driving licence. To do so, you will need this:

- A valid identity document
- A colour photo
- Your current (foreign/Spanish) driving licence needed



This is how you exchange your driving licence:

1. Go to the municipality where you are registered
2. At the counter/employee, indicate that you want to exchange your foreign driving licence and then you can fill in an application form
3. There are charges for exchanging your driving licence, you can pay these. These fees vary from one municipality to another.
4. The municipality sends the application and all required documents to RDW (Dienst Wegverkeer).
5. The RDW takes care of the registration of motorised vehicles and driving licences in the Netherlands.
5. If everything is in order, you will receive a letter within 15 working days. This will state that you can collect the driving licence from the municipality within 5 working days. If several data are needed, this will also be mentioned in this letter and the exchange will take longer.
6. The foreign/Spanish driving licence will be sent back to Spain and so you will not get it back. This is required by law.

During the time your driving licence is being exchanged, you are not allowed to drive on public roads. You may receive a fine for this, as you will have to be able to show your driving licence when checked on the road.





Car

When you come to live in the Netherlands and are registered in the Netherlands, you are not allowed to drive in the Netherlands with a foreign number plate. This has to do with tax liability. In the Netherlands, if you use the Dutch roads with vehicles you own, you pay tax on them.

If you want to move your car with you, you have to register it in the Dutch vehicle registration register and pay tax. This is also known as importing. There are costs involved. Importing your car can be arranged with the RDW and is done as follows:

1. First, you must make an inspection appointment at an RDW inspection station. This can be done via the RDW site and you can log in with DigiD.
2. Your car must accompany you to the inspection, if you come to the appointment driving, apply for a one-day registration plate via the RDW site after making the inspection appointment. This registration number is valid on the day of the inspection appointment. This is free of charge and allows you to drive to and from the RDW inspection station.
3. You must bring the following to the inspection appointment: the complete original foreign vehicle registration certificate (this will be confiscated, so take a copy for the BPM declaration) and your proof of identity.
4. The vehicle will be identified and the documents assessed. If all is well, the RDW records the data in the Dutch vehicle registration register.

You will then have to file a tax return for passenger cars and motorbikes (BPM).
 You can file the tax return via the website of the Belastingdienst (Tax and Customs Administration):
<https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/nl/bpm/content/online-aangifte-bpm>

After approval by the RDW and the Tax Administration, the registration certificate will be sent to you. You must have the number plates made yourself at an authorised number plate manufacturer (<https://www.rdw.nl/particulier/locatiewijzer>).

◦ **WA-insurance**

WA-insurance stands for 'third-party liability insurance'. If you own a car, scooter, moped or moped, you have to take out third-party insurance. With third-party insurance, you are insured for damage you cause to another person with your motor vehicle. You can take out third-party insurance with most insurers. Bringing a car to the Netherlands involves many steps and some are complicated. You may therefore choose to buy a car in the Netherlands instead of moving it with you to the Netherlands. This choice is of course up to you.

Checklist	Task	Completed
Driving licence	Check whether your driving licence is still valid	
	Check when your driving licence was issued and whether you are still allowed to drive it in the Netherlands	
	If you need to exchange your driving licence, go to the town hall of the municipality where you live and follow the process	
Car	Make an inspection appointment at the RDW	
	Apply for a one-day registration plate	
	Bring to the appointment: proof of identity and registration certificate	
	After approval, file the BPM return	
	After receipt of the vehicle registration certificate, have a registration plate made	
Insurance	Take out third-party insurance	

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