

A guide to convert foreign driver's license to Israeli driver's license

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Foreign driver's license (including International License) is only valid in Israel for a period of one year (from the date of first entry); before this year elapses, one needs to convert his foreign license to Israeli driver's license. Note that insurance coverage may depend on it.

Since 2017, the Ministry of Transportation introduced a policy for foreign journalists who hold a valid B1 visa and a GPO card - they are now exempt from the road test (as well as the theory test) when converting their driver's license. The conversion process is now straightforward and conditioned only on an eye test and general medical examination. No fees will be charged for the conversion process; the eye test costs NIS 50 and the Israeli license itself costs about NIS 226 for 5 years.

Please note:

- The minimum remaining period on your B1 visa required for the beginning of the conversion process is three months. We recommend renewing your B1 visa and GPO card just before converting your driver's license.
- Converting to Israeli license **does not** mean that you have to give up your foreign national license – it remains valid.

The conversion process is as follows:

1. Set an appointment via [My Visit](#) site, at your preferred license office:

Jerusalem: 10 Haoman Street, Talpiot (Ms Yana is known to be helpful)

Holon (center): 1 Halokhamim Street

Haifa: 2 Edison Street

Be'er Sheva: 5 Hamanof Street

2. Ask for an identity number (called an "89" number as it begins with these digits). In order to receive such a number, the applicant must present:

A) a valid foreign license (if your license is not also in English, an international license is necessary), B) a passport with a valid B1 visa and C) a valid GPO card.

3. After receiving an identity number, visit one of the [dozens of photo stations](#) nationwide, which have an arrangement with the Ministry of Transportation. Have your photo taken, free of charge, and receive a "green form" for driver's license – free of charge.

4. With your "green form" go to an optometrist and have your eyes checked; most of the photo stations are located inside optometrists shops so you could have both done at once (NIS 50 for the eye check). Lastly, have your doctor confirm your general medical status and sign the green form as well.

5. Now that you have a "green form" with identity number, a photo and two signatures (doctor & optometrist), return to one of the four Ministry of Transportation district licensing offices (must schedule another appointment at My Visit) to complete the license conversion process. A temporary paper license (valid for six months) will be issued on the spot and becomes valid upon stamping the payment (NIS 80 per year).

6. The Israeli plastic driver's license, valid for 5 year and bearing your photo, will be sent to you by post to the address you have given to the Ministry of Interior upon your B1 visa application. The permanent plastic license should be received within a month (if it does not – inquire at 08-9949700) – but meanwhile your paper license is valid. Congratulations!

Drive Safely!