

C O N T E N T S

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* 1

A Learner's Permit is required when trying to obtain a second-class driver's license, in the following circumstances:

- ① When a person with a quasi-medium vehicle licence, or first-class regular motor vehicle licence is attempting to obtain a second-class large vehicle licence or second-class medium licence.
- ② When a person with a first-class medium vehicle licence is attempting to obtain a second-class large vehicle licence.
- ③ When a person with a special heavy equipment licence is attempting to obtain a second-class large vehicle licence, second-class medium vehicle licence, or second-class regular licence.



Quick Hint

Never drive alone...

Even with a learner's permit, it is extremely dangerous to drive without a person in the car who is qualified to drive the car. You should never do this.

Driving alone is a "Driving illegally with a learner's permit" for which your learner's permit will be revoked.

6 Driving on a Learner's Permit

(1) When a Learner's Permit is Required

In the following circumstances, those who wish to obtain a first-class driver's license must obtain a license appropriate for the kind of automobile being driven¹:

- ① When a person is learning to drive a large vehicle, a medium vehicle, a quasi-medium vehicle, or a regular motor vehicle on a road
- ② When a person is driving a large vehicle, a medium vehicle, a quasi-medium vehicle, or a regular motor vehicle on a road in order to take a licensing test or a graduation test at a designated driving school.

(2) Term of Validity for a Learner's Permit

The term of validity for a learner's permit is six months from the date the license test was taken.

(3) Learning to Drive on a Learner's Permit

When a person with a learner's permit drives a large vehicle, a medium vehicle, a quasi-medium vehicle, or regular motor vehicle for the purpose of learning, he or she must have one of the following people **sitting next to him or her in the front seat** and must drive under this person's instruction.

- ① A driving instructor of a designated driving school (only when actually driving for practice)
- ② A person who has held a first-class license for driving the vehicle for 3 years or more
- ③ A person who is 21 years old or older and holds a second-class license for driving the vehicle

(4) Displaying a "Learner Driver" Sign

When a vehicle is being driven on a learner's permit for the purpose of driving for practice, a **"learner driver" sign** must be displayed in the designated positions at the front and rear of the vehicle.



Affixed between 0.4 meters and 1.2 meters from the ground in a clearly visible spot.

2 Renewing Term of Validity of a Driver's License or a License Information Record

1 Submitting Notification of Changes to Information Listed on Driver's License

- ① When one's personal information changes due to a change of address, marriage, or other reason, it is important to report the change as early as possible to one's local public safety commission.
- ② If one's driver's license is lost, stolen, damaged or going to be renewed for personal informations change, it is possible to apply to one's local public safety commission for the license to be reissued.

4 Revocation of a Learner's Permit

If something such as a mental or physical disability that may interfere with driving happens to a person who has obtained a learner's permit, the person commits a certain traffic violation¹, the person incites a driver to commit a grievous violation, or that person's use of a vehicle not on a road has led to death or injury, his or her learner's permit will be revoked.

5 Returning a Driver's License and Equivalent

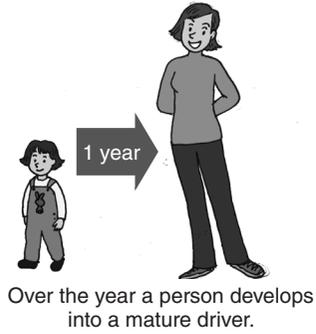
In the following cases a license must be returned to the local public safety commission as quickly as possible. A holder of an Individual Number Card with license information record must have his or her license information record redacted.

- ① If the license is revoked.
- ② If the license is invalidated.
- ③ After being reissued a license, when the license that was lost or stolen has been found or recovered. In this case it is necessary to return the previous (old) license that has been found or recovered.
- ④ If the license expires. (Excluding the case where ② applies.)

5 Novice-Driver Term System

1 Novice-Driver Term

The period of one year² after obtaining a quasi-medium vehicle licence, regular license, large-size motorcycle license, regular motorcycle license, or moped license, is called the **novice-driver term**.

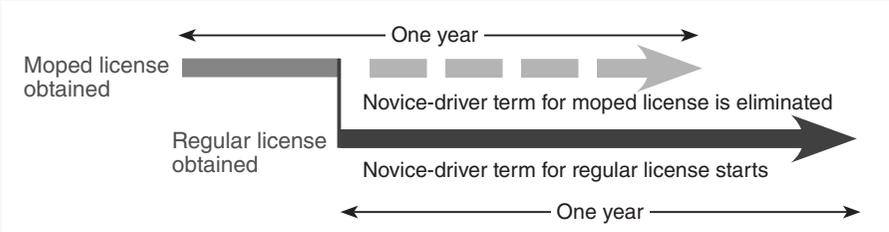


Point

When a higher-grade license is obtained during the novice-driver term

When a license for driving a different type of vehicle (higher-grade license) is obtained during the novice-driver term, the novice-driver term on the previous license is eliminated.

Example: Within one year of obtaining a moped license a person obtains a regular license.



RT Law 106-2

* 1
This includes driving alone without a qualified instructor in the car.

RT Law 106-3
106-4

Quick Hint

When your license has been suspended

You must quickly present your license to your local public safety commission. In this case, when the suspension period is over, your license will be returned.

RT Law 100-2

* 2
Period of one year...
This excludes any period of time that the license is suspended.

Quick Hint

The novice-driver term is a dangerous time when the probability of causing a traffic accident or traffic violation is high.

This is an extremely important period of time for becoming a good driver by following traffic regulations and driving carefully.

2 Automobile Inspections

(1) The Duty to Have One's Automobile Inspected

Every automobile (excluding compact cars excluded from inspection¹ and light special equipment) must undergo a compulsory safety inspection ("shaken") at fixed intervals, and must receive a **motor vehicle inspection certificate** before it can be driven.

Point

Inspection (Shaken) Period -- Major vehicles --

Automobiles to be inspected annually	Automobiles to be inspected every two years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial use Automobiles (excluding vehicles with a total displacement of 660cc or less, and large-size motorcycles, and regular motorcycles) Private use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ①Regular trucks (excluding 660cc or less) ②Passenger automobiles with a seating capacity of 11 passenger or more Rental cars (excluding 660cc or less) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ①Passenger automobiles with a seating capacity of 10 passengers or less ②Regular trucks of 660cc or less ③Large-size motorcycles ④Regular motorcycles (excluding 250cc or less) Rental cars (660cc or less)

Note: Of the automobiles to be inspected every two years, the first required inspection is in the third year for new motorcycles and private passenger automobiles (restricted to gross weight less than 8 tons).

(2) The Inspection Sticker

When an automobile passes inspection, it is issued a vehicle inspection certificate and **inspection sticker**. The inspection sticker must be displayed by sticking onto the inside front windshield² to be easily visible facing forward and from the driver's seat.

The inspection sticker indicates **the next inspection month** (and year).

Inspection Sticker for Four-Wheeled (greater than 660cc) and Two-Wheeled Vehicles



Inspection Sticker for Regular Motor Vehicles 660cc or Less



"8" indicates the year in which the inspection certificate expires, and "11" indicates the month in the inspection sticker.

3 Motor Vehicle Inspection Certificate and Compulsory Automobile Liability Insurance Certificate

Automobiles that require inspection must have a **valid motor vehicle inspection certificate** and a **compulsory automobile liability insurance** (CALI or "jibaiseiki hoken") **certificate** or **mutual relief system insurance** ("sekinin kyosai") **certificate**³.

Automobiles excluded from inspection and mopeds must not be driven without a compulsory automobile liability insurance or mutual relief system insurance certificate.

Before driving an automobile or moped, confirm that it is covered by such insurance and that the term of validity has not expired.

RTV Law 58, 61, 62, 66
RTV Law Enforcement Regulations 37-3

* 1
Compact cars excluded from inspection...

Refers to motorcycles with an engine displacement of 250 cc or less and vehicles with an engine displacement of 660 cc or less that use caterpillar tracks or sleds.

* 2
Two-wheeled vehicles, etc...

For vehicles without a cabin or front windshield, such as large-size and regular motorcycles, the emblem must be stuck onto the license plate at the rear of the vehicle, in the upper left corner so that it is easily visible.

Quick Hint

Insurance Sticker

Compact cars excluded from inspection and mopeds are required to display the "insurance sticker" that indicates that the vehicle is covered by compulsory automobile liability insurance.



Note:
The color of this sticker changes from year to year in the following order: blue, orange, purple, yellow-green, red, yellow, green.

RTV Law 66 I
MVDI Law 8, 9-5

* 3
Mutual relief system...

Refers to compulsory automobile liability mutual aid, which serves the same purpose as compulsory automobile liability insurance and is offered by organizations such as agricultural associations and consumer cooperatives.