

Transport for NSW

Overseas Licence Policy Change

Communication Toolkit for Stakeholders – Version 2
December 2023



transport.nsw.gov.au

OFFICIAL

Key messages

Overseas Licence Policy Change

- Two core changes that impact overseas drivers were introduced to the [Road Transport \(Driver Licensing\) Regulation 2017](#) on **1 July 2023**.
- The first change is a **six-month residency rule** whereby temporary visa holders who intend to reside continuously within NSW for six months or longer will need to convert to a NSW licence *within* six months if they wish to continue to drive.
- The second change is a **withdrawal of driving privileges**. The regulation now allows for overseas drivers to be stripped of their driving privileges permanently if they accrue 13 demerit points or are convicted of certain speeding, drug and alcohol or serious driving offences. If these overseas licence holders wish to drive again in NSW, they will be required to obtain a NSW driver licence once they have completed their suspension or disqualification period (whatever is applicable). They will not be permitted to drive again in NSW using their overseas licence.
- We all have a role to play when it comes to road safety. This policy change provides an important opportunity for overseas licence holders to learn more about the NSW road transport system.
- Tragically, since the beginning of 2023, there have been five fatal crashes involving a driver or rider with an overseas licence.
- By completing theory and driving tests, overseas drivers can gain the important skills and knowledge they need to be safe on NSW roads and help to reduce the rate of road trauma.

Key messages

Overseas Licence Policy Change

- Thank you to the 20,000+ temporary visa holders who have converted their overseas driver licence to a NSW driver licence since 1 July 2023.
- Have you arrived on a temporary visa from 1 July 2023 and yet to convert your driver licence? Don't delay – head to a Service NSW Service Centre to convert your licence today.
- If you do not convert your overseas licence within 6 months and you continue to drive in NSW, then you will be deemed unlicensed by the NSW Police.
- Make sure you leave enough time to obtain your overseas licence. Depending on the country you received your driver licence, you may need to pass the [Driver Knowledge Test](#), [Hazard Perception Test](#) and [The Driving Test](#) to obtain a NSW driver licence.
- Driving whilst unlicensed will incur a significant fine and may impact insurance coverage on your vehicle or motorbike, especially in an accident.
- The NSW Police can impound vehicles and confiscate number plates from drivers who continue to drive unlicensed or disqualified.

Key messages

Overseas Licence Policy Change

- To support the increased demand for testing for licence conversion, a new Service NSW Driver Testing Centre (with only Driver Testing services available) is now open at the Macquarie Fields Tafe building.
- The Service NSW Macquarie Fields Driver Testing Centre opened for bookings on December 8 and will offer around 300 driving tests a week, especially to help overseas licence holders convert to a NSW driver's licence.
- Visit the Service NSW website [here](#) to find out more about the Service NSW Driver Testing Centre at Macquarie Fields.
- Overseas licence holders can obtain a NSW driver's licence at a Service NSW Service Centre. More information on how to obtain a NSW driver's licence is available at nsw.gov.au.

News/newsletter content

Share this suggested content via your own news stream/newsletter

On 1 July 2023, the NSW Government introduced [two key policy changes](#) for overseas licence holders. The first change was the requirement for all temporary visa holders to convert to a NSW driver licence if they intend to reside in NSW for six months or longer. The second change allows for overseas drivers to be stripped of their driving privileges permanently if they accrue 13 demerit points or are convicted of certain speeding, drug and alcohol or serious driving offences.

We all have a role to play when it comes to road safety. This policy change provides an important opportunity for overseas licence holders to learn more about the NSW road transport system. Tragically, since the beginning of 2023, there have been five fatal crashes involving a driver or rider with an overseas licence.

By completing theory and driving tests, overseas drivers can gain the important skills and knowledge they need to be safe on NSW roads and help to reduce the rate of road trauma. Since 1 July 2023, 20,000+ temporary visa holders have converted their overseas driver licence to a NSW driver licence.

If you do not convert your overseas licence within 6 months and you continue to drive in NSW, then you will be deemed unlicensed by the NSW Police. Driving whilst unlicensed will incur a significant fine and may impact insurance coverage on your vehicle or motorbike, especially in an accident.

Make sure you leave enough time to obtain your overseas licence. Depending on the country you received your driver licence, you may need to pass the [Driver Knowledge Test](#), [Hazard Perception Test](#) and [The Driving Test](#) to obtain a NSW driver licence.

To support the increased demand for testing for licence conversion, a new Service NSW Driver Testing Centre (with only Driver Testing services available) is now open at the Macquarie Fields Tafe building.

The Service NSW Macquarie Fields Driver Testing Centre opened for bookings on December 8, 2023 and will offer around 300 driving tests a week, especially to help overseas licence holders convert to a NSW driver's licence.

Overseas licence holders can obtain a NSW licence at a Service NSW Service Centre. More information on how to obtain a NSW driver's licence is available at nsw.gov.au.

Media release – 9 November 2023



Living in NSW ▾ Working and business ▾ What's happening ▾ Have your say COVID-19

[Home](#) > [Media releases](#) > Overseas licence holders converting to NSW system

Overseas licence holders converting to NSW system

Published: 9 November 2023

[Driving, boating and transport](#) [Legal and justice](#) [Visas and migration](#)



Almost 20,000 drivers on overseas licences have converted to a NSW licence over the past 4 months, with some taken off the road altogether after running up enough demerit points to lose a licence almost 3 times over.

The Minns Labor government has welcomed the first tranche of foreign licence holders rolling over to a NSW licence but is determined to go further than the previous Coalition government, with all drivers on overseas licences in future to be directed to convert their licence.

Under the current regulation brought in by the Liberals, only drivers moving to NSW since 1 July 2023 must convert to a NSW licence.

This has led to 20,000 foreign licence surrenders since that date.

The regulation now allows for overseas drivers to be stripped of their driving privileges permanently if they accrue 13 demerit points or are convicted of certain speeding, drug and alcohol or serious driving offences.

In the past 4 months, drivers who have been hit with suspensions include:

[Click here to access a digital copy of the project media release via nsw.gov.au](#)

Media release – 1 July 2023



Language



MyServiceNSW

(<https://account.service.nsw.gov.au/>)

Service NSW ready to help overseas drivers get a NSW licence

Temporary visa holders who arrive on or after 1 July and who intend to live in NSW for more than six months are encouraged to plan ahead and convert their licence as soon as possible so they can continue to drive with confidence.

Published: 1 Jul 2023

Released by: Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Roads

[Driving, boating and transport \(/media-releases?field_topic_target_id%5B21%5D=21\)](#)

The new regulation changes are designed to give confidence to all road users and ensure all motorists understand the State's road rules and abide by the same standards, with any temporary visa holder required to convert their licence within six months.

The process for converting to a NSW licence will differ depending on the age of the applicant and the country where their licence was issued.

Overseas licence holders from certain recognised countries with similar licence systems to Australia (such as the United Kingdom, Germany and Singapore) as well as experienced drivers aged 25 or older from other recognised countries (including Poland and South Korea) can visit any Service NSW Service Centre to convert their licence without the need to sit a knowledge test or a driving test.

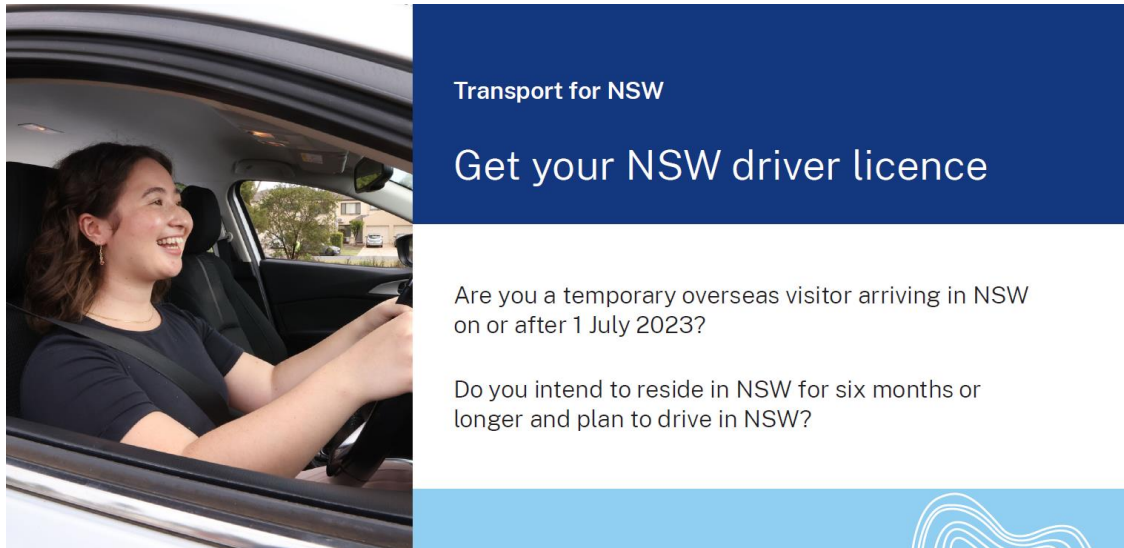
All other overseas licence holders will be required to pass a knowledge test and driving test at a Service Centre to receive a NSW licence. They will be exempt from the learner driver logbook requirement.

While the former government originally announced the new rules would require all overseas licence holders to apply for a NSW driver licence within six months, they backtracked in December 2022 to only apply the change to temporary visa holders arriving from 1 July 2023. The Government is examining these issues.

[Click here to access a digital copy of the project media release via nsw.gov.au](#)

Customer facing communications resources

DL flyer – English (CAL reference: 124583)



Front of flyer

If so, you must obtain a NSW driver licence after residing in NSW for six months to continue driving in NSW.

Allow plenty of time to meet all requirements for a NSW licence. This may include passing a Driver Knowledge Test and Practical Road Driving Test.

Learn more at nsw.gov.au/overseasdriver.



Back of flyer

Instructions to order a digital copy of the flyer: Refer to instructions on page 20 to download from the Transport for NSW Creative Asset Library using the CAL reference in the sub-heading

Customer facing communications resources

DL flyer – Traditional Chinese (CAL reference: 124420)



Front of flyer



Back of flyer

Instructions to order a digital copy of the flyer: Refer to instructions on page 20 to download from the Transport for NSW Creative Asset Library using the CAL reference in the sub-heading

Customer facing communications resources

DL flyer – Simplified Chinese (CAL reference: 124422)



Front of flyer



Back of flyer

Instructions to order a digital copy of the flyer: Refer to instructions on page 20 to download from the Transport for NSW Creative Asset Library using the CAL reference in the sub-heading

Customer facing communications resources

DL flyer – Thai (CAL reference: 124421)



Front of flyer

หากเป็นเช่นนั้น คุณต้องทำใบขับขี่รัฐ NSW หลังจากที่ได้อาศัยอยู่ในรัฐ NSW มาแล้วเป็นเวลา
หกเดือนเพื่อขับรถในรัฐ NSW ต่อไป

เพื่อเวลาให้มากเพื่อให้มีคุณสมบัติครบถ้วนสำหรับใบขับขี่รัฐ NSW ซึ่งอาจรวมถึงการสอบวัด
ความรู้ของผู้ขับรถและการทดสอบขับรถภาคปฏิบัติบนท้องถนนให้ผ่าน

เรียนรู้เพิ่มเติมได้ที่ nsw.gov.au/overseasdriver



Back of flyer

Instructions to order a digital copy of the flyer: Refer to instructions on page 20 to download from the Transport for NSW Creative Asset Library using the CAL reference in the sub-heading

Customer facing communications resources

DL flyer – Vietnamese (CAL reference: 124419)



Front of flyer

Nếu vậy, quý vị phải lấy bằng lái xe NSW sau khi cư trú ở NSW trong sáu tháng để tiếp tục lái xe ở NSW.

Hãy dành nhiều thời gian để đáp ứng tất cả các yêu cầu cho bằng lái NSW. Điều này có thể bao gồm việc thi đậu kỳ Thi Kiến thức Lái xe và kỳ Thi Thực hành Lái xe trên Đường bộ.

Tìm hiểu thêm tại nsw.gov.au/overseasdriver.



Back of flyer

Instructions to order a digital copy of the flyer: Refer to instructions on page 20 to download from the Transport for NSW Creative Asset Library using the CAL reference in the sub-heading

Customer facing communications resources

A4 poster – English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese

Transport for NSW

Get your NSW driver licence



Are you a temporary overseas visitor arriving in NSW on or after 1 July 2023?

Do you intend to reside in NSW for six months or longer and plan to drive in NSW?

If so, you must obtain a NSW driver licence after residing in NSW for six months to continue driving in NSW. Allow plenty of time to meet all requirements for a NSW licence. This may include passing a Driver Knowledge Test and Practical Road Driving Test.



Learn more at nsw.gov.au/overseasdriver

English (CAL ref: 124584)

Transport for NSW

获取 NSW 驾驶执照



你是 2023 年 7 月 1 日或之后抵达 NSW 的临时海外访客吗？

你是否打算在 NSW 居住六个月或更长时间，并计划在 NSW 开车？

如果是的话，你在 NSW 住满六个月后必须获取 NSW 驾驶执照，才能继续在 NSW 开车。请预留足够的时间，以便满足获取 NSW 驾照的所有要求。这可能包括通过 Driver Knowledge Test (驾驶知识考试) 和 Practical Road Driving Test (实践路考)。



请访问 nsw.gov.au/overseasdriver 了解详情

Simplified Chinese (CAL ref: 124417)

Transport for NSW

獲得您的 NSW 駕照



您是 2023 年 7 月 1 日或之後抵達 NSW 的臨時海外訪客嗎？

您打算在 NSW 居住六個月或更長時間並計劃在 NSW 駕駛嗎？

如果是這樣，您必須在 NSW 居住六個月後獲得 NSW 駕照才能繼續在 NSW 駕駛。預留充足的時間來滿足獲得 NSW 駕照的所有要求。這可能包括通過 Driver Knowledge Test (駕駛員知識測試) 和 Practical Road Driving Test (實際道路駕駛測試)。



瀏覽 nsw.gov.au/overseasdriver 了解更多

Traditional Chinese (CAL ref: 124418)

Instructions to order a digital copy of the flyer: Refer to instructions on page 20 to download from the Transport for NSW Creative Asset Library using the CAL reference in the sub-heading

Customer facing communications resources

A4 poster – Thai and Vietnamese

Transport for NSW

ทำใบขับขี่รัฐ NSW ของคุณ

คุณเป็นผู้นำเอือนแบบชั่วคราวที่เดินทางมาถึงรัฐ NSW ตั้งแต่วันที่ 1 กรกฎาคม 2023 เป็นต้นไปหรือไม่?

คุณตั้งใจที่จะอาศัยอยู่ในรัฐ NSW เป็นเวลาหกเดือนหรือนานกว่านั้นและวางแผนที่จะขับรถในรัฐ NSW หรือไม่?

หากเป็นเช่นนั้น คุณต้องทำใบขับขี่รัฐ NSW หลังจากที่ได้อาศัยอยู่ในรัฐ NSW มาเป็นเวลาหกเดือนเพื่อขับรถในรัฐ NSW ต่อไป เพื่อเวลาให้มากที่สุดเพื่อให้มีคุณสมบัติครบถ้วนสำหรับใบขับขี่รัฐ NSW ซึ่งอาจรวมถึงการสอบวัดความรู้ขับขี่และการทดสอบขับรถภาคปฏิบัติบนท้องถนนให้ผ่าน



เรียนรู้เพิ่มเติมได้ที่ nsw.gov.au/overseasdriver

Thai (CAL ref: 124397)

Transport for NSW

Lấy bằng lái xe NSW

Quý vị có phải là du khách tạm thời từ nước ngoài đến NSW vào hoặc sau ngày 1 tháng 7 năm 2023 không?

Quý vị có ý định cư trú tại NSW trong sáu tháng hoặc lâu hơn và dự định lái xe ở NSW không?

Nếu vậy, quý vị phải lấy bằng lái xe NSW sau khi cư trú ở NSW trong sáu tháng để tiếp tục lái xe ở NSW. Hãy dành nhiều thời gian để đáp ứng tất cả các yêu cầu cho bằng lái NSW. Điều này có thể bao gồm việc thi đậu kỳ Thi Kiến thức Lái xe và kỳ Thi Thực hành Lái xe trên Đường bộ.



Tim hiểu thêm tại nsw.gov.au/overseasdriver

Vietnamese (CAL ref: 124396)

Instructions to order a digital copy of the poster: Refer to instructions on page 20 to download from the Transport for NSW Creative Asset Library.

Customer facing communications resources

2-page fact sheet – English



There are two new measures that will apply to overseas licence holders on temporary visas from 1 July 2023 – the 'six-month rule' and 'withdrawal of driving privileges':

Six-month rule

The new arrangements apply to a person who takes up residence in NSW on a temporary visa on or after 1 July 2023.

Under the new arrangements, temporary visa holders will need to obtain a NSW driver licence within six months if they have resided continuously in NSW and wish to continue to drive.

To be a resident of NSW, a person must ordinarily live at an address that is in NSW. A person may visit another state temporarily for a holiday or for work but would be considered to be continuously living in NSW. The timeline starts from the date that a person obtains, changes to, or uses a NSW address as their primary location.

Overseas licence holders who are residents of NSW prior to 1 July 2023 can continue to drive on their overseas licence and would not be required to meet the new requirements.

Example 1:

Person A arrives in NSW on 1 March 2023. The new 'six-month rule' does not apply. Person A can continue to drive in NSW on their overseas licence until they become the holder of a permanent visa under the Migration Act or their overseas licence expires or is otherwise cancelled or suspended.

Example 2:

Person B arrives in NSW on 1 July 2023. Person B will reside continuously in NSW for six months or more from that date. Person B would be required to obtain a NSW driver licence by 1 January 2024.

Example 3:

Person C resides in NSW for five months and then goes to Queensland for a one-month holiday. Person C is still required to obtain a NSW driver licence as their main residence is NSW.



Getting your NSW driver's licence

1. Read the Road User Handbook to familiarise yourself with the NSW road rules to ensure you drive safely on NSW roads.
2. Complete your licence application form and prepare your supporting documentation.
3. Take your application form and required documents to a Service NSW Service Centre including proof of identity, your current overseas licence and translated documents if they're not written in English.
4. You will be advised at a Service NSW Service Centre if you meet licence eligibility, and if you are required to complete the Driver Knowledge Test and Practical Road Driving Test.

Applicants should allow plenty of time to meet all requirements for a NSW driver licence and successfully obtain, not just apply for, a NSW driver licence well before the end of the six-month period.

Penalties

From 1 July 2023, penalties will apply to a temporary visa holder who has resided in NSW for a continuous period of six months or more, and who continues to drive in NSW on their overseas licence. They will be considered to be driving a vehicle unlicensed.

It is proposed that a fine of \$603 will apply for a first offence and a fine of \$924 will apply for a second or subsequent offence. A maximum penalty of \$2200 (20 penalty units) may be imposed by a court.

Learn more at nsw.gov.au/overseasdriver.



Withdrawal of visiting driver privileges

On 1 July 2023, new arrangements will start for all persons in NSW driving on an overseas driver licence. Transport for NSW will permanently withdraw a person's visiting driver privileges if they:

- accrue 13 demerit points; or
- are convicted of a serious driving offence (listed under section 224 of the Road Transport Act 2013), or
- are suspended or disqualified from driving a motor vehicle in any part of Australia or another country, or
- are convicted of a drug or alcohol-related driving offence.

Serious driving offences include the following:

- drive in a manner that causes a serious accident, causing death or grievous bodily harm
- speed in excess of 45 km/h over the speed limit
- speed in excess of 30 km/h over the speed limit
- drive with a prescribed concentration of alcohol or prescribed illicit drug present
- take part in street racing and other hoon offences
- drive without supervision (learner licence holders).

[Click here to access a digital copy of the customer fact sheet via \[nsw.gov.au\]\(https://nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Customer facing communications resources

2-page fact sheet – translated versions available via nsw.gov.au

- [Arabic](#)
- [Chinese \(Simplified\)](#)
- [Chinese \(Traditional\)](#)
- [Croatian](#)
- [Farsi](#)
- [Indonesian](#)
- [Japanese](#)
- [Korean](#)
- [Nepali](#)
- [Serbian](#)
- [Spanish](#)
- [Tagalog \(Fili\)](#)
- [Thai](#)
- [Turkish](#)
- [Urdu](#)
- [Vietnamese](#)

Customer facing communications resources

Frequently Asked Questions

The screenshot shows the NSW Government website interface. At the top left is the NSW Government logo. To the right are search, language, and MyServiceNSW icons. Below the navigation bar, a breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Driving, boating and transport > Driver and rider licences > Visiting or moving to NSW > Driving with an overseas licence in NSW from 1 July 2023 – Frequently asked questions. The main heading is 'Driving with an overseas licence in NSW from 1 July 2023 – Frequently asked questions'. Below this is a paragraph: 'On 1 July 2023 changes were introduced to the Road Transport (Driver Licensing) Regulation 2017 that impact on overseas drivers. Learn more via the FAQs below.' There is a 'Listen' link. On the left, under 'On this page', are links for 'Regulation changes', 'Six-month residency rule', 'Withdrawal of driving privileges', and 'Obtaining a NSW driver licence'. On the right, a sidebar menu lists: 'Visiting or moving to NSW', 'Overseas and interstate visitors', 'Learner and provisional licence holders', 'Applying for a visitor licence', 'Renewing, replacing or surrendering a visitor licence', 'Moving overseas licence' (with a dropdown arrow), 'Moving your licence to NSW', 'Interstate drivers and riders', and 'New Zealand drivers and riders'. The current page is highlighted in the sidebar. At the bottom of the sidebar is a 'Download as PDF' button.

[Click here to access the Frequently Asked Questions resource via nsw.gov.au](#)

Overseas driver photos

Below is a sample of the images available for use. Search for these images plus other overseas driver images in the CAL using search term: **OLPC**



Web content

These nsw.gov.au links contain information relevant to OLPC.

- [Driving with an overseas licence in NSW from 1 July 2023 – FAQs](#)
- [Applying for a temporary overseas visitor licence](#)
- [Driving with an overseas or interstate licence in NSW](#)
- [Moving your licence to NSW](#)
- [Moving your overseas licence to NSW](#)
- [Renewing, replacing or surrendering a temporary visitor licence](#)
- [Visit a service centre](#)
- [Visiting NSW with an overseas learner or provisional licence](#)

Accessing the Transport for NSW Creative Assets Library

- If you already have an account for the Transport for NSW Creative Assets Library (CAL), log in at <https://creativeassets.transport.nsw.gov.au> and search for a specific CAL reference.
- **To create a new account, follow the steps below:**
 - Go to <https://creativeassets.transport.nsw.gov.au>
 - Click 'Register' on the top right-hand side of the page
 - Complete the form
 - Click the box to confirm you agree to the terms and conditions
 - Submit your registration to the administrator for approval
 - You will receive email confirmation when your account is ready to access (generally within 24-28 hours)
 - If you have any issues with the CAL, please contact creativeassets@transport.nsw.gov.au and provide any screenshots of the issue.

If you have any questions about this toolkit or require more information, please email Jess Drewery, Senior Engagement and Education Officer at jess.drewery@transport.nsw.gov.au.

