

## **Valid certificate of insurance and valid driving licence requirements**



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## **A valid certificate of insurance**

The only legally acceptable proof of insurance is either the original valid insurance certificate or its electronic equivalent, not the insurance schedule.

A certificate delivered to you electronically by your insurer is legally acceptable but we are not obliged to provide the means by which an electronic certificate may be read. You may be asked to provide a printed copy or asked to email it to a police email address.

We will not accept any documentation other than a valid insurance certificate issued by an insurer or broker and will not make enquiries with brokers or insurers on behalf of the claimant to confirm that insurance has been taken out. The legal onus is upon the claimant to prove insurance and not upon the Police to seek evidence of cover.

When applying for insurance, it is absolutely necessary to tell the insurance company that the vehicle has been seized and, if the policy holder was driving unlicensed or uninsured, or had allowed the vehicle to be used unlicensed or uninsured, that a prosecution (including a fixed penalty notice) for uninsured or unlicensed use may be pending.

Failing to tell the insurer of any possible or pending prosecution, or of existing endorsements, may result in the immediate cancellation of the policy and prevent the release of your vehicle.

## **Warning**

Insurers may access your driving record at the DVLA to find out if you have disclosed your endorsements. Anyone who makes a false statement, or fails to disclose all relevant information to their insurer, may commit a serious offence in addition to possibly invalidating the insurance - which insurers may consider to have been fraudulently obtained.

## **A valid driving licence**

The owner, keeper or third party driver must produce a valid driving licence for the vehicle which has been seized. Please note that a check on the validity of your driving entitlement will be made with the DVLA.

If an old style paper licence is produced, photographic identification may also be asked for in order to validate the licence holder's identity.

Please note that if the photograph on a photocard licence is more than 10 years old, the holder must return the licence to the DVLA for a new photograph to be applied. It is an offence if the holder fails to do so and DVLA may revoke your entitlement to drive if you have failed to return a licence for the photograph to be updated. The licence holder may continue to drive whilst the licence is at the DVLA as the expired photograph does not affect the entitlement to drive.

Provisional licence holders will be expected to come with a person who is entitled to supervise them when the vehicle is collected. Provisional licence holders for motorcycles must also produce their CBT.

## Guidance for reclaiming a seized vehicle

If a person remains in possession of any superseded driving licence which the DVLA has demanded the return of, it will be seized by police and returned to the DVLA.

If your licence shows a previous or invalid address, we may require the claimant to send the licence to the DVLA.

### **EU or EEA licences**

An EU or EEA licence is valid in all EU member states and EEA countries for the duration of the licence validity. If the licence holder is disqualified in another EU Member State or EEA country, that disqualification applies in the UK too.

### **International non-EU licences**

If producing a licence from a country outside the EU or EEA it must be accompanied by a passport with an entry stamp showing the date of the licence holder's entry to the UK.

With some exceptions, including some concessions for students on a fixed term course, drivers may not drive in the UK on a licence issued by a non-EU or EEA country for more than 12 months after their arrival in the UK. Any person who last entered the UK more than 12 months previously will not be covered by the licence or driving permit issued in their own country.

An International Driving Permit is only an international translation of the licence and has no authority or entitlement to drive in its own right. It must be accompanied by the domestic driving licence to which it refers.