

## Exchanging a foreign driving-licence

### General

As a rule, residents of the Netherlands are required to have a Dutch driving-licence in order to drive a motor vehicle. There are, however, a number of exceptions to this rule. Holders of driving-licences issued in other member states of the European Union are entitled to drive in the Netherlands on their foreign licence for a year after registering as a Dutch resident. Holders of driving-licences issued in countries outside the EU may drive in the Netherlands on their foreign licence for a period of six months after registering as a Dutch resident. As soon as this period expires, the person in question either has to take a driving test in the Netherlands to acquire a Dutch driving-licence, or exchange their own, foreign licence for a Dutch one.

### How to exchange a licence

You have recently become entitled to benefit from the 35% tax ruling. This means that you and the other member(s) of your family can ask for an exchange form for your foreign driving-licence at your local council office.

In addition to the fully completed form, you are required to submit:

- ❖ A copy of a statement issued by the Tax Office in Heerlen proving that you or the other member(s) of your family are entitled to benefit from the 35% tax ruling;
- ❖ The original, valid foreign driving-licence;
- ❖ An extract from the municipal register;
- ❖ A statement of capability ; and
- ❖ Two identical, recent passport photographs.

As soon as the municipal fees have been paid, the council will send the entire application to the Minister of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, c/o the Department of Road Transport, P.O. Box 9000, 9640 HA, Veendam.

### Statement of capability

If you wish to apply for a Dutch driving-licence for the category/ies A and/or B, you first have to fill in a "personal declaration". This Personal Declaration can be obtained from your local council. If you also wish to apply for the Dutch category/ies C and/or D and/or E (E for B, E for C or E for D), or you are over seventy years of age, you will be required to undergo a medical examination. In that case, you should apply for a Personal Declaration in combination with a Medical Certificate. The relevant section of the form should be filled in by a doctor other than your own family doctor. You send then both the Personal Declaration and the extract from the municipal register to one of the Central Bureaus for Certificates of Proficiency (CBR).

### Foreign licences

As so many different types of driving-licences from various countries are submitted for exchange, the validity or authenticity of every document has to be verified. The Department of Road Transport may therefore ask you to have the validity and significance of certain information confirmed by the Consulate or Embassy of the country that issued the foreign driving-licence. You may also be required to have the content of the foreign driving-licence translated by an attested interpreter/translator.

### Return of foreign driving-licences

If you have a clearly demonstrable interest in having your foreign driving-licence returned, please submit a written request to this end with your exchange application, enclosing any documents proving this interest.