

Exchanging your driving licence, and the clock already running

What the DGT table says about your country, the deadline that starts without telling you, and the mistake that closes the short route for good.

1 · The papers to gather first

Get everything together before you start. Almost every step in this guide stops dead for one missing document, and starting again costs more than waiting a day.

- Your original foreign licence: the DGT takes it in at the moment of the exchange and does not give it back.
- Your valid passport or identity document, and your NIE or TIE.
- Proof that you live here: the padrón certificate or your residence document. The exchange is only for residents in Spain.
- The psychotechnical report from an authorised assessment centre. The centre sends it to the DGT electronically; you keep the receipt.
- A recent photograph in the format the DGT asks for, and the fee form paid.
- If your licence is not in Spanish and your country has no recognised model, the translation the procedure requires.

2 · The order to do things in

- 1 Find your country in the official table of countries with an agreement and read what is next to it. Checked on 22/09/2026: for motorbike or car, most appear as NO TESTS, with fee II.3 of 28,87 €; lorry or bus usually requires tests, with fee II.1 of 94,05 €. EU and EEA licences never require an examination.
- 2 Count your deadline. A licence from outside the EU and the EEA is valid in Spain for at most six months from the day you acquire normal residence here. After that it stops being valid to drive on.
- 3 Book the psychotechnical at an authorised centre near your home.
- 4 Open the file on the DGT website or book at the provincial office, and pay the fee that applies to your case.
- 5 Go with everything and hand over the original licence. You are given a provisional document so you can keep driving in Spain while it is processed.
- 6 Do not open one file per category: the exchange carries over, in one go, every authorisation you already held in your country.

3 · The mistakes we see again and again

- Taking a licence in your home country when you are already a legal resident in Spain. The DGT states that such a licence is NOT exchangeable, and that closes the short route.
- Believing that a few days out of Spain reset the six months. They do not.
- Handing over the original just before a trip abroad. The provisional works inside Spain; outside it is another story.
- Being an EU or EEA citizen and assuming you must exchange. An EU or EEA licence in force is valid in Spain; the exchange exists, but look at your own case before handing anything in.
- Assuming that driving here on a licence that is no longer valid is just a fine. If there is a crash, the argument is no longer with the Guardia Civil but with your insurer.

4 · Where you can check it yourself

Official pages, checked on 22/09/2026. The administration changes its screens without warning: if something does not match, the official source wins, not this guide.

- **DGT, canjes de permisos extranjeros**

<https://www.dgt.es/nuestros-servicios/permisos-de-conducir/permisos-extranjeros-y-de-fuerzas-y-cuerpos-de-seguridad/canjes-de-permisos/canjes-de-permisos-extranjeros/>

- **DGT, países con convenio de canjes, pruebas exigidas y tasa**

<https://www.dgt.es/nuestros-servicios/permisos-de-conducir/permisos-extranjeros-y-de-fuerzas-y-cuerpos-de-seguridad/canjes-de-permisos/paises-con-convenio-de-canjes/>

- **DGT, conducir con un permiso extranjero**

<https://www.dgt.es/nuestros-servicios/permisos-de-conducir/permisos-extranjeros-y-de-fuerzas-y-cuerpos-de-seguridad/conducir-con-un-permiso-extranjero/>

- **Sede electrónica de la DGT**

<https://sede.dgt.gob.es/es/>

- **Real Decreto 818/2009, Reglamento General de Conductores**

<https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-2009-9481>

If you would rather we did it

€99 the file, the medical appointment and the full procedure

+ €0 if your country has no agreement: we say so and there is no invoice

We are not a driving school or a medical centre. We build the file, find you the psychotechnical and follow the procedure through. If your country has no exchange agreement, we tell you on day one, free, rather than selling you a file that cannot go anywhere. The DGT fee and the psychotechnical are paid separately, each where it is due.

A question? One message is enough

Write to us on WhatsApp at **+34 613 13 87 84** (wa.me/34613138784) and a person answers.
Asking costs nothing and commits you to nothing.

Information guide, not legal or tax advice. contact@holaowners.com · holaowners.com