

What to Do When Your License Expires

If you do not renew your license before the expiration date you will be required to apply for a license again. However, if you take the driver's license test within a certain amount of time even after the expiration date, it is possible to obtain a license by provisional measures exempting a part of the test (the techniques and theory section). (If your license expires, you are not allowed to drive until a new license is issued.).

Please undergo the procedures at the Saitama Prefectural Police Department Drivers' Licensing Center.

(1) For those without a valid reason for having failed to renew their license:

- a) Within 6 months of the expiration: Although it is possible to obtain a new license without taking the 'techniques and theory' section of the test by means of certain procedures, your driving record will not be carried over from your old license.
- b) If it has been over 6 months, but not yet a year since the expiration of your regular, heavy, medium or semi medium-sized vehicle license, you may apply for a learner's license without taking the techniques and theory section of the test.
- c) For all other license types, there is no such provision.

(2) For those with an unavoidable reason for failing to renew their license (such as hospitalization and living abroad, etc.):

- a) Within 6 months after expiration: It is possible to obtain a new license without taking the techniques and theory section of the test, and your driving record will continue from the license you had until then without interruption.
- b) Over 6 months but not yet 3 years after expiration: You can be issued a new license if you follow the specified procedure within one month after said unavoidable circumstances have subsided. Although it is possible to obtain a license without taking the techniques and theory section, The operation record / history will be continued from the previous license.

(3) Test procedures

- a) Test times
Monday - Friday, 13:00 - 13:45 (Closed over holidays and the New Year's Holiday Period)
- b) To apply you'll need
 - ① Your expired license
 - ② Your Residence Card or Special Permanent Resident Certificate, etc.

- ③ Resident Record (with all your details (excluding your Individual Number))
- ④ One photograph (3.0cm x 2.4cm) (Three photographs if you are applying for a learner's license)
- ⑤ Renewal Notification Postcard (it is possible to apply even without this)
- ⑥ If there was an unavoidable reason why you were unable to renew your license in time you'll need to state the reason and provide documentary evidence (medical certificate, passport, etc.)
- ⑦ Application fee