



TRANSITIONAL REGIME FOR THE RECOGNITION AND EXCHANGE OF DRIVING LICENSES ISSUED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM.

A transitional regime has been designed to allow British and foreign nationals, holders of British driving licenses, residing in Portugal to continue to drive in national territory, as long as there is reciprocity in relation to Portuguese driving license holders resident in the United Kingdom.

This regime will remain in force until a final bilateral agreement on the recognition and exchange of driving licenses between Portugal and the United Kingdom is reached.

- The application of this law is in anticipation of reciprocal treatment by the British authorities towards Portuguese citizens residing in the United Kingdom.
- In the event that Portuguese citizens residing in the United Kingdom are not subject to reciprocity, its application will be totally or partially suspended, leaving the decision to the Council of Ministers.

This law came into force on 1st April 2021.

Who is contemplated by this scheme?

- All legal residents, holders of valid British driving licenses, issued in the United Kingdom. For the time being, these licenses will be recognized in the same terms as driving licenses issued by other Member States of the European Union.
- However, they must proceed with the exchange for a Portuguese driving license, being exempted from taking the driving test.
- The Portuguese driving license, granted by exchanging a foreign license, shall make reference to the categories of vehicles registered in the foreign license.
- The law applies to driving license change applications pending at the date of it coming into force.



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