



Driving in Saskatchewan

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Everyone who wants to drive a vehicle in Saskatchewan needs a valid driver's licence and every vehicle belonging to a Saskatchewan resident needs to be properly registered and insured.

Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) is the provincial government agency in charge of all vehicle licensing, registration, and auto insurance in the province. Visit [SGI's website](#) to learn more about what they do and for information on driving safety and vehicle inspections.

1. About Saskatchewan Licences

Q: What is a valid Saskatchewan driver's licence?

A licence is a document that proves you have met all of the requirements for the type of vehicle you want to drive and understand the laws and practices of driving in Saskatchewan. The licence is issued only after you pay the appropriate fee. Your licence will only be valid for a certain amount of time. Your licence may also have certain "conditions," for example, you might be required to wear your glasses when driving.

Q: Are there different kinds of driver's licences?

Yes. The kind of driver's licence you need depends on the type of vehicle you will drive. For example, to drive a car, truck or van by yourself, you need a Class 5 licence. There

are other licence classifications for driving vehicles such as long-haul trucks, buses, and taxis (commercial licences). For more information on the different classes of driver's licences available in Saskatchewan, please visit SGI's webpage about [classes of driver's licences](#).

Q: Is there a fee for a licence?

Yes. There is a specific fee for each class of licence and there is also a fee for the test (examination) you need to take to qualify for the licence. For more information please contact sgiinquiries@sgj.sk.ca or call the SGI Customer Service Centre at 1-800-667-9868 (free of charge).

Q: How long will my Saskatchewan licence be valid?

Your licence has two parts and each is valid for a different length of time. The photo identification portion is valid for five years and the document portion is valid for one year (expiring on the last day of your birth month). SGI will send you a renewal reminder about three weeks before your licence expires. For this reason, you are required to notify SGI of any address changes within 15 days of moving so that SGI can notify you of any important information and about renewing your licence.

Each time you renew your licence, your health and driving records must be updated to determine if conditions will be applied to your licence.

If you forget to renew your licence and continue to drive, your licence will not be valid and you may receive a ticket or even have your vehicle impounded.

2. Getting a Licence

Q: What is a learner's licence?

A learner's licence means that you are learning to drive a specific class of vehicle. It allows you to practice with an experienced, qualified driver. Before you can get any other licence, you must have your learner's licence or Class 7 licence.

For your Class 7 licence, you must be at least 16 years of age (15 years of age if enrolled in a high school driver education program). You will need to complete a written test about road signs and traffic safety rules at an [SGI testing office](#). You will also have a physical test of your vision. Anyone under the age of 18 years must have permission from their parents or guardians to obtain a driver's licence.

Q: What is the difference between a Class 7 and a Class 5 driver's licence?

A Class 7 driver may only drive a vehicle when accompanied by a supervising driver. A Class 5 driver may drive alone.

Q: What kind of exams do I need to take for my Class 5 driver's licence?

For your Class 5 licence, you need to have a test where you drive on the road and a Driver Examiner accompanies you so that your driving and parking skills can be evaluated.

Q: How can I get ready for my tests?

For the Class 7 Test

You need to study Saskatchewan driving regulations and the rules of the road as outlined by the *Saskatchewan Traffic Safety Act* which is in a free publication called, *The Saskatchewan Driver's Handbook*. The handbook has information on traffic signs, signals, basic driving skills, and Saskatchewan road rules. It can be picked up at any SGI office or motor licence issuer.

You can practice for the written Class 7 test by taking the [interactive on-line quizzes](#). There is no preparation for the vision test, but if you wear glasses, you should bring them with you.

For the Class 5 Test

If you have never had a driver's licence, you will need to complete pre-test requirements, which include 6 hours of in-class instruction, 6 hours of in-car driving training with a qualified instructor, and hold a Class 7 licence for at least nine months prior to your test. Both the in-class instruction and the in-car driving training will cost a fee.

You need to spend a lot of time practising driving with an experienced, licensed driver. When you feel you are ready for your road test, visit an SGI office, pay the road test fee and make an appointment to be tested. Vehicles are not supplied for the test, so you will need to bring a vehicle.

Q: How do I schedule my test?

Visit an SGI office when you feel that you are ready to take your test. Tests may be taken in 62 [testing locations](#) in Saskatchewan. You can also schedule a test by calling (free of charge) 1-800-667-5711 (for Northern Saskatchewan) or

1-800- 667-5105 (for Southern Saskatchewan). In Regina and Saskatoon, you can go to an SGI office and take the test without making an appointment ahead of time.

You will need to bring certain documents to the test (see *What do I need to bring to my test?* below for details). If your documents are accepted, you are assigned a customer number. Then you purchase a written test receipt. After that, you can make an appointment to take your test.

Q: What happens when I pass the test?

If you pass the test, you can validate your Class 7 licence for a full year by paying a fee. However, you will only be charged for the part of the year that is left before your birthday. If you do not pass, you can try again on another day. It will cost a fee for each test.

Q: What do I need to bring to my test?

When you go for your test, you will need to bring two pieces of identification and your residency documents. These establish your legal name, birth date, signature, Saskatchewan residency, and entitlement to be in Canada. Visit SGI's webpage about [establishing your identity](#) to see a list of acceptable documents.

Photo ID is needed to prove you live in Saskatchewan. You will need to bring a piece of mail with your address on it, such as an electricity bill. A list of approved documents is also listed at the website above. (Note: Saskatchewan Health Services Cards are not accepted for proof of residency.)

When you take your Class 5 test, you need to show your valid Class 7 licence. If you are still driving using your home country's licence (rather than a Class 7 licence), you will need to show proof that you passed the written tests.

Q: I don't speak much English yet. Can I take the tests in another language?

No, tests are only available in Canada's official languages: English and French. You are allowed an SGI approved interpreter for written exams, but the interpreter is only allowed to translate what is written. They are not allowed to guide you or help you with the answers. You will still have to provide all the answers.

To find a certified interpreter, contact [SGI](#) or your [Regional Newcomer Gateway](#).

Q: How can I get driving practice?

SGI does not offer driving classes, but you have other options. The six hours of in-car driving with a qualified driving instructor is a good start. A qualified driving instructor is a person who teaches at a driving school. Visit SGI's webpage [to find a qualified driving instructor](#) in your area.

The driving instructor provides the car and usually picks you up from your home for your lessons. Your [Regional Newcomer Gateway](#) might be able to find a driving instructor who speaks your language.

Besides your in-car driving lessons, you can practice driving with any person who has a valid driver's licence. The more practice you can get, the better. It is useful to practice several times on quiet streets before practising in busy areas.

Q: I cannot afford to pay for in-class and in-car training for my Class 5 licence. Can I get financial help?

Yes. SGI has a program called the Immigrant Driver Education Grant that can help you to pay for the six hours of in-class and six hours of in-car training. Visit [SGI's webpage](#) to apply.

If you have questions about this program you can call 306-751-1375 or send an email to sgiinquiries@sgi.sk.ca.

Q: What is the Graduated Driver's Licensing program?

When you get your Class 5 licence, you have partial driving privileges for a period of time. You need to follow driving restrictions concerning the types and number of passengers you can have in the vehicle. You also need to meet requirements. For example, you are not allowed to consume any alcohol **at all** before or while driving. If you drive for a full year without accidents or traffic convictions, you receive total driving privileges.

The Graduated Driver's Licensing Program is a way to help you get more driving experience and to prevent injuries and accidents among new drivers.

For more information, [visit](#) or call SGI at 1-800-667-9868 (free of charge).

3. Previous Licences

Q: I have a driver's licence from another country. Will it be accepted in Saskatchewan without retesting?

If you are moving from another area of Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom (including England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Gibraltar), Switzerland, South Korea, Germany or Austria, and you hold a valid driver's licence there, you can apply for a Saskatchewan driver's licence at any Saskatchewan motor licence issuing office without taking further testing.

Q: I am not from any of the above countries. Will my driver's licence from my country be valid in Saskatchewan?

If you have a driver's licence from any other country than the ones listed above and you can provide proper documents, you can drive for up to three months in Saskatchewan using your home country's licence. The documents you need to show are:

- Your licence from your home country (original)
- An English or French translation of your licence
- An International Driver's Permit
- Proof of your driving record (an official accident and convictions record from your country). This is needed so that SGI can determine if you should be placed in the Graduated Driver's Licensing Program. If you have a good driving record, you can also earn a discount on the cost of your auto insurance.

During the three-month period, you will need to complete the Class 7 written test and the Class 5 road test. If you held a driver's licence in your home country for more than nine months, SGI will not require you to take driver education training. Once you get your Saskatchewan licence, you no longer use your home country driver's licence. However, SGI will let you keep your home country driver's licence in the event you return to your home country.

Q: If my country's driver's licence is not in English or French, can it be approved?

Sometimes SGI is able to approve some foreign licences in their original languages. To find out if this is possible for you, call or visit the main SGI office and ask if there is someone able to approve your licence in its original language. If it is possible, you will make an appointment with the person who will approve your licence.

But, if no SGI staff member is able to approve your licence in its original language, you might be required to provide an English or French translation of your foreign licence.

SGI's main office is located at:
2260 – 11th Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 0J9
Phone: 1-800-667-8015 (free of charge)

More information can be found under the [driver's licences for new residents](#) section on SGI's website, and under [Driver Abstract](#).

Q: I have never had a driver's licence. What do I need to do?

You will be required to take the Class 7 written test and take a certified driver education course for your Class 5 licence. Your driver training can be done either through the High School Driver Education Program if you are a student, or by taking 6 hours of in-class instruction and 6 hours of in-car training with a qualified driving instructor. Please visit SGI's webpage [to find a qualified driving instructor](#) in your area.

After that you can take the Class 5 road test. If you pass, you obtain your driver's license and can drive a personal vehicle.

4. Registering and Insuring a Vehicle

Q: Do I need a valid Saskatchewan driver's licence before I can buy a car?

No. You can buy a car without having a valid Saskatchewan driver's licence. However, you must have a valid driver's licence to drive it.

Q: Do all vehicles in Saskatchewan need to be registered?

Yes. In Saskatchewan, all vehicles need to be registered and insured at an SGI office. You need to register your vehicle with SGI as soon as you buy it.

To register your vehicle you must buy a licence plate to attach to your vehicle and automobile insurance from SGI to cover injury and loss in case of accidents.

You will have to renew your vehicle's registration every year.

Make sure you carry your vehicle's registration with your driver's licence.

For more information on the registration and insurance of new, used and out-of-province vehicles read [How to Register a Vehicle in Saskatchewan](#).

Q: How much do registration and insurance cost?

The amount you pay depends on the age and make of the vehicle. The “make” of the vehicle is the name of the company that makes the vehicle (Ford, Toyota, etc.).

There are three ways to pay for your registration and insurance:

- You can pay for the whole year
- Auto-Pay – monthly payments are taken from your bank account
- Short Term – rather than buying registration and insurance for the whole year, you purchase them for any length of time between 3 and 12 months

If you want to cancel your registration because you are moving out of Saskatchewan, or have sold your vehicle, you can return your licence plates to SGI and get a refund on the months that are left.

5. Road Safety

Q: What happens if I drive without a licence?

If you drive without a licence, you may be legally charged with committing a traffic offence because you have disobeyed the rules of the *Saskatchewan Traffic Safety Act*.

If you have an accident while driving without a licence, your insurance may not apply and you may be personally responsible for all damages to vehicles, property, and people.

Q: Is it always necessary to wear a seat belt when driving or riding in a vehicle in Canada?

Yes. All persons in the vehicle must wear seat belts at all times. If someone under the age of 16 in your vehicle is found not wearing a seatbelt, the driver will have to pay a fine. Any passenger over the age of 16 who receives a seat belt ticket will be responsible for the fine.

Children and infants must be in car seats that are held in place by seat belts. For the safety of the child, the right size of infants’ and children’s car seats must be used and installed properly. Please visit SGI’s webpage on [child car seat safety](#) for more information.

Q: Are there laws about drinking alcohol and driving?

Saskatchewan has very strict laws for drinking and driving.

When you are in your first year of driving within the Graduated Driver's Licensing Program you cannot drink at all before or while driving. If you are a learner driver (class 7) or novice driver (Graduated Driver's Licensing Program), there is zero tolerance for alcohol consumption, which means that if you are found with any amount of alcohol on your breath while driving, you will lose your licence for 30 to 90 days and/or you will have to pay a fee to attend the Driving Without Impairment Program (DWI).

Once you have completed the Graduated Driver's Licensing Program, you cannot have more than 0.04 blood alcohol content while driving.

If the police suspect you have been drinking, they can give you a roadside test to test the level of alcohol in your blood.

If you are caught with a blood alcohol content of more than 0.04, you could lose your licence for 24 hours to 90 days, and the authorities may take your vehicle. You may also be sent to an addiction counsellor, a recovery centre or DWI.

If you have more than 0.08 blood alcohol content, your driver's licence will be suspended for 1 to 5 years; you will pay a fine; and you may lose your vehicle and possibly serve jail time. Because you will have a criminal record, you may not be able to travel outside of Canada for a number of years. You will also be sent to an addiction counsellor and will have to attend a recovery program, or DWI.

Please visit SGI's webpage on [drinking and driving in Saskatchewan](#) for more information.

Q: Are there other ways that my driver's licence could be taken away?

Yes. You can lose your driver's licence or your licence can be suspended if you have a poor driving record. Your driving record is affected when you are involved in accidents that are your fault and by breaking other rules of the *Saskatchewan Traffic Safety Act*.

Q: Is extra care needed when driving in winter in Saskatchewan?

Yes. Just as winter requires different clothes, it also requires different driving abilities. Heavy snowfalls and strong winds make the road difficult to see. Warm and sunny weather makes snow melt, and once the weather gets cold again, the melted snow becomes icy and makes the road slippery. You must be very careful on icy roads.

If you will be driving on the highway, you should check the [road conditions](#) and listen for weather warnings on the radio or local TV stations.

Please visit SGI's [Drive Right](#) webpage, which includes information on poor driving conditions. To learn more about winter driving, please visit SGI's webpage on how to [prepare for winter driving](#) in Saskatchewan.

**This document contains links and is best viewed online.
This document, along with information on other topics,
is available in various languages at:**

www.saskimmigrationcanada.ca/information-in-various-languages

Questions?

Email: immigration@gov.sk.ca

Tel: (Canada 001) 306-798-7467

Website: www.saskimmigrationcanada.ca