

From: TRANS Driver Programs Branch driver.programs@gov.ab.ca

Subject: RE: Reciprocal Class 6 Licenses - Why not France?

Date: December 8, 2016 at 4:14 PM

To: samwalkerkierluk@me.com

Cc: TRANS Contact Us trans.contact.us.m@gov.ab.ca, Jennifer Tate Jennifer.Tate@gov.ab.ca, John Hicks john.hicks@gov.ab.ca, Terry Wallace Terry.Wallace@gov.ab.ca, Trisha Horbachewsky trisha.horbachewsky@gov.ab.ca, Kelley Merilees-Keppel kelley.merilees-keppel@gov.ab.ca, Heather Bolichowski heather.bolichowski@gov.ab.ca

TD

Thank you for your provincial government web inquiry.

In 2008, when Alberta's reciprocal driver licence exchange agreement was signed with France, only private passenger vehicle licences were considered. Alberta is open to the possibility of renegotiating our current agreement with France, which would begin with evaluating the licence class equivalencies and licence qualification requirements. Intergovernmental agreements are necessarily complex in nature and process, so it is not possible to say when an amendment, if undertaken, would be completed.

Of the eight Canadian jurisdictions whose licences France reciprocates, seven including Alberta exchange private passenger vehicle licences only, the equivalent of an Alberta Class 5. New Brunswick is the only province which exchanges all licence classes. Alberta is not considering exchanging commercial class driver's licences with any jurisdiction.

Traffic safety is a top priority for the Alberta government, and it informs our program designs. We continually look at other jurisdictions' programming and align ours with best practices. We also welcome feedback from Albertans.

Thank you for using our web services.

From: Samuel Walker-Kierluk [<mailto:samwalkerkierluk@me.com>]

Sent: Monday, December 05, 2016 3:22 PM

To: TRANS Contact Us

Subject: Re: Reciprocal Class 6 Licenses - Why not France?

Hello,

I had inquired about the lack of Class 6 license exchanges with France, through Alberta Connects, and a reply was prepared by Alberta Transportation. Because there is no way to reply to an response from Alberta Connects, I'm getting in touch with your department directly. I apologise if this is not an appropriate email address to use, but it's the best one I could find on the web site!

As you can see below (correspondence with Alberta Connects is included), I had inquired to Alberta Connects about why Alberta and France do not exchange class 6 licenses, given that almost every other country on the planet can exchange any license class with France. I received a reply regarding the differences in requirements from Alberta and France, and I understand this: France has a tiered motorcycle license system, yet Alberta has only one motorcycle license type.

This argument makes sense, but this does not explain why this is possible in other places, but not Alberta. In Canada, New Brunswick is able to exchange Class 6 licenses with France, and I have

checked their requirements, which are virtually the same as Alberta's. In addition, ten out of the eighteen states with which France has *any* kind of exchange agreement will exchange Class 6 licenses. I have checked most of these states, and they don't even have a graduated license system for bikes - just take the test, and you get your motorcycle license. Many of these states do not even include a GDL component to licensing in general, making them even farther behind in regulations than Alberta, yet they are able to exchange motorcycle licenses with France. This is in addition to the rest of the countries that are able to exchange *all* license classes with France - including countries like Oman, Nicaragua, Mauritania, Libya, Swaziland, and Vietnam.

To provide full information, here is the complete list, from the French government's website, listing countries with which France will exchange licenses, and for what class, in PDF format: http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/IMG/pdf/Liste_permis_de_conduire_valables_a_l_echange_01_2014_cle8cc6c4.pdf

As you can see from that list, France will exchange licenses from just about every jurisdiction - including states with lower standards than Alberta, right through to corrupt third-world countries (sorry, that's a bit judgmental, but you can see the list for yourself) - but not Alberta, and some other provinces, which is why I find the answer of "it is not possible to reciprocate licenses [with incompatible requirements]" to be odd.

I am wondering if there is anyone in particular who would be involved with negotiating these agreements whom I can contact, or if I could be given the contact information of the relevant authority from the French side. I mean no disrespect to anyone who reads this, or to whom replied to my last inquiry... I just find the answer to make no sense, given how France will exchange motorcycle licenses from just about everywhere around the world. As someone who enjoys paying taxes and relishes in the thought of being able to understand and give feedback on government actions, I would love to discuss this with someone from the government. :)

Please feel free to contact me as listed below.

Kindest regards,
Sam Walker-Kierluk
samwalkerkierluk@me.com
403-332-3396

On Dec 05, 2016, at 04:16 PM, AlbertaConnects@gov.ab.ca wrote:

*****please do not reply **THIS EMAIL ADDRESS IS NOT MONITORED**

Thank you for visiting the Alberta Government feedback web site. Following is the response to your question prepared by Transportation :

Thank you for writing to Alberta Connects concerning exchanging a Class 6 license with France

When a reciprocal driver licensing agreement was signed with France in 2008, only

When a reciprocal driver licensing agreement was signed with France in 2000, only French Class B and Alberta Class 5 licences were included. Most reciprocal agreements that Alberta has signed do not include motorcycle operator licences, as you noted. This has happened in large part because an Alberta Class 6 licence holder can operate any size and type of motorcycle. Many jurisdictions limit riders by type, size and engine displacement and adhere to a progressive motorcycle licensing structure. Because those licence categories do not correspond to Alberta classifications, it is not possible to reciprocate licences in that class.

Exchanging your Alberta Class 5/6 licence for a French Class B licence will enable you to drive private passenger vehicles in France. However, if it is your intention to ride a motorcycle while in France, you will have to comply with France's rider licensing requirements.

Upon your return to Alberta, and provided your Alberta licence has not been expired for more than three years, you can renew your Alberta licence and retain your Class 6 without additional testing.

Thank you for using Alberta Connects.

On 2016-12-01 23:07:00.0 you wrote:

Hello,

I've lived in Alberta since 2012, at which time I exchanged my full Ontario license for a Class 5 license. I gained my Class 6 license in 2014 in Alberta. I am interested in moving to France for a couple of years, followed by a return to Alberta, but have seen from the Service Alberta website that only my Class 5 license will be exchanged in France: the website says that only Australia, the Isle of Man, and Switzerland have exchange agreements with Alberta for class 6 licenses.

I am wondering why there is no exchange available for Class 6 licenses with France, and whom I might petition about pursuing this issue. The Government of France website shows that they take exchanges of both motorcycle and auto licenses from almost every other country on the planet, so I find it odd that Alberta stands alone with just Iran, Bosnia/Herzegovina, and several states and provinces in North America as regions which won't do reciprocal exchanges of motorcycle licenses with France.

I would greatly appreciate any information that is available on this topic, or if you have a better place to

contact, I am interested in enquiring with them.

Regards,
Sam Walker-Kierluk

The Alberta feedback site is constantly updated to provide you with important information about Alberta programs and services. We invite you to visit us soon. Your Alberta, a new e-newsletter from the Government of Alberta, will keep you up-to-date on the province's latest projects and plans.

To sign-up, visit <http://www.alberta.ca/contact.cfm>

Internet www.Alberta.ca (AC-425008)

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