

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)**

**CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION AND THE**

**EXCHANGE OF DRIVER'S LICENCES**

**BETWEEN**

**ALBERTA INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION**

**OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA**

**AND**

**THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF THE FRENCH  
REPUBLIC**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) CONCERNING  
THE EXCHANGE OF DRIVER'S LICENCES**

Between Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation of the Province of Alberta ("Alberta") and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the French Republic as represented by the Consul General of France in Vancouver ("France");

Whereas France and Alberta issue Driver Licences, which authorize residents of their respective jurisdictions to drive motor vehicles within each of their respective jurisdictions;

And whereas France and Alberta make it a requirement that a person who resides in their respective jurisdictions hold a Valid Driver Licence while driving a motor vehicle on a public highway;

And whereas France and Alberta wish to extend mutual recognition of each others' Driver Licences in accordance with this MOU, for the purpose of issuing Drivers' Licences to persons who have held a Driver Licence issued by either France or Alberta and who have moved to, and are residing in that jurisdiction, thereby requiring that person to obtain a Driver Licence issued by the other.

Have reached the following understandings:

Definitions

1. For the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):

"Driver Licence" means a licence issued by either France or Alberta which enables the holder of the Driver Licence to drive a motor vehicle on a highway, subject to the terms and conditions of the class of Driver Licence and any other conditions associated with it, and subject to the applicable laws and regulations in that jurisdiction;

"Valid" means that the Driver Licence that is being exchanged is not expired, revoked, suspended, withdrawn or cancelled by the issuing jurisdiction or the authority acting on behalf of that jurisdiction, or that the Driver Licence is not subject to any other kind of restriction which results in the Driver Licence being unable to be used for the purpose for which it was intended by the holder thereof.

2. In the case of France:

"Class B Driver Licence" means a Valid Driver Licence that is issued by France, authorizing its holder to drive;

- any motor vehicle not exceeding 3,500 kilograms gross vehicle weight rating, for the transportation of goods and/or persons, and having not more than eight (8) seats in addition to the driver's seat;

- to which motor vehicle can be hitched a trailer:
  - of less than 750 kilograms;
  - exceeding 750 kilograms, provided the maximum combined gross vehicle weight rating of the drawing vehicle and the trailer does not exceed 3,500 kilograms and the maximum loaded weight of the trailer is less than the empty weight of the drawing vehicle.

3. In the case of Alberta:

"Class 5 Driver Licence" means a Valid Driver Licence issued by Alberta authorizing its holder to drive a motor vehicle. The holder of a Class 5 operator's licence may operate the following:

- a two-axle single motor vehicle;
- a recreational vehicle with not more than three-axes;
- a two-axle motor vehicle or a two-axle recreational vehicle towing a trailer with one or more axles, if the trailer is not equipped with air brakes,
- a three-axle recreational vehicle and a trailer if the trailer has not more than two-axes and is not equipped with air brakes;
- a moped.

4. In the case of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the French Republic:

"Jurisdiction" means France.

5. In the case of Alberta:

"Jurisdiction" means the Province of Alberta.

Driver Licences - France

6. Prior to completing an exchange for a class of Driver Licence issued by Alberta, the person exchanging the Driver Licence issued by France will provide, upon application for exchange, documentation satisfactory to Alberta, which will reveal the licence:

- a) as being a Valid Driver Licence, and
- b) as being held by a person who has held a Driver Licence for at least 24 months in the last three years; or
- c) where the Valid Driver Licence has been held by a person who has held a Driver Licence for less than 24 months in the last three years, the precise amount of time that such Valid Driver Licence has been held by the person to whom it was issued.

Upon exchange, such person will surrender their Driver Licence issued by France to Alberta.

7. A person who holds a Class B Driver Licence issued by France may, upon becoming a resident of Alberta, exchange such Driver Licence for:
  - a) a Class 5 Driver Licence upon passing a vision test, complying with all medical requirements as established by Alberta, and paying any fees that are prescribed by the laws of Alberta, without additional training and theoretical and practical testing being required for the exchange, if the person has held the relevant class of Driver Licence for 24 months in the last 3 years, as described in Paragraph 6;
  - b) if the person has less than 24 months driving experience they will be placed in the Graduated Driver Licensing Program, in the Probationary Stage.
8. A person who exchanges a Driver Licence issued by France under Paragraph 7 for a Class 5 Driver Licence issued by Alberta is eligible to apply for a Class 5 Driver Licence and other Driver Licences issued by Alberta upon fulfilling the requirements that are prescribed by Alberta laws and regulations.
9. Every driver licence issued by France and exchanged for a driver licence issued by Alberta under Paragraph 7 will be forwarded by Alberta to the Consulate General of France in Vancouver (address below) who will in turn forward it to the issuing authority in France.

Consulat Général de France à Vancouver  
Suite 1100, 1130 West Pender Street, Vancouver BC V6E 4A4  
Tel: (604) 681-4345, ext. 224  
Fax: (604) 681-4287  
admin-francais.vancouver-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr

#### Driver's Licenses - Alberta

10. A person who holds a Valid Class 5 Driver Licence and who is 18 years of age or older may, upon becoming a resident of France and upon complying with all medical and vision requirements as established by France, exchange such class of Driver Licence for a Class B Driver Licence, after paying any fees that may be prescribed by France and surrendering their Alberta Driver Licence to France.
11. A person who holds a Valid Class 5 Probationary Driver Licence and who is 18 years of age or older may, upon becoming a resident of France, and upon complying with all medical and vision requirements as established by France, exchange such class of Driver Licence for a Class B Driver Licence, after paying any fees that may be prescribed by France and surrendering their Alberta Driver Licence to France. Such person will be subject to all laws, regulations and policies applicable to probationary drivers in France.
12. Upon completing an exchange of a Driver Licence issued by Alberta under Paragraphs 10 or 11, the Alberta Driver Licence will be surrendered to France.

Checking Validity /Authenticity of Driver's Licences Presented for Exchange

13. France and Alberta will verify with each other the validity/authenticity of the driver's licence that an applicant is presenting for exchange.
14. All documents in French shall be translated into English by a translator prior to the drivers licence being exchanged for an Alberta operator's licence.

General

15. The implementation of this MOU will be subject to any laws or regulations in effect in the jurisdiction of France and Alberta, including any laws or regulations which may in the future be enacted by each other.
16. France and Alberta will notify the other within thirty days of any change to the laws or regulations in their jurisdiction that will affect the operation of this MOU.
17. France and Alberta will give all their notices pursuant to this MOU in writing and will give them by personal delivery, or send them by electronic facsimile, or mail them by registered mail, or deliver them by courier services. Subject to change by France or Alberta with written notice, the notice will be addressed as follows:

To France        Ministère des Affaires étrangères et européennes  
                      Direction des Français de l'Etranger  
                      Service des Affaires civiles et de l'Entraide judiciaire  
                      Sous-Direction des Conventions et de l'Entraide judiciaire  
                      244, boulevard Saint-Germain  
                      75303 PARIS 07 SP  
                      France  
                      Facsimile: 33 1 43 17 89 13  
                      Permisdeconduire.fae-saej-cej@diplomatie.gouv.fr

To Alberta:        Service Alberta  
                      Director, Motor Vehicles North  
                      3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, John E Brownlee Building  
                      10365 - 97 Street  
                      Edmonton, AB  
                      T5J 3W7  
                      Phone: (780) 427-7013  
                      Facsimile: (780) 422-3096  
                      firoz.mohamed@gov.ab.ca

Notices will be deemed to have been effectively given on the date of personal delivery by courier service, or by electronic facsimile, or in the case of service by registered mail seven (7) days after the date of mailing.

18. This MOU may be amended or modified only by mutual written consent by both France and Alberta.
19. This MOU will enter into force on the day of signature thereof. It shall be concluded for an unlimited period. France and Alberta may terminate this MOU by sending a letter to the other. Termination shall become effective after a period of six (6) months from the date of its notification.

Signed at Edmonton in duplicate

this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2008 in the English language and French language.

  
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FOR ALBERTA TRANSPORTATION  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Shaun Hammond  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Transportation Safety Services Division  
On behalf of  
Alberta Transportation

  
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FOR THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

Luc Serot Alméras  
Counsul General of France