

From the office of the
Minister of the Environment



Department of the
Environment

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MINISTER'S OFFICE

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Our reference:

FYI
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8 April 2013

Thank you for your letter of 7 March 2013 with which you enclosed signed copies of the Memorandum of Understanding recognising the exchange of driving licences between the Province of Alberta, Canada, and Northern Ireland.

I have signed these documents on behalf of the licensing authority in Northern Ireland and I have pleasure in returning one copy to you.

I am pleased that we have been able to conclude this arrangement, which will be to the mutual benefit of our respective citizens.

*Sincerely
Alex*

ALEX ATTWOOD MLA
Minister of the Environment

**ALBERTA – NORTHERN IRELAND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
(MOU) CONCERNING RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION AND EXCHANGE OF
DRIVER LICENCES**

BETWEEN:

**Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of Alberta, Canada
as represented by the Minister of Transportation
("Alberta")**

and

**Northern Ireland
as represented by the Minister of Environment
("Northern Ireland")**

(Collectively "the Participants")

Preamble

Whereas the Participants each issue Driver Licences which authorize residents of their respective jurisdictions to operate motor vehicles within each of their respective jurisdictions;

And whereas both Participants make it a requirement that a person who resides in their respective jurisdictions hold a valid and subsisting driver's licence while operating a motor vehicle on a public highway;

And whereas the Participants wish to extend mutual recognition of each others' Driver Licences in accordance with this MOU, for the purpose of issuing Driver Licences to individuals who have held a Driver Licence issued by one Participant and who have moved to and are residing in the jurisdiction of the other Participant and are seeking to obtain a driver licence issued by the other Participant.

The Participants agree pursuant to this MOU as follows:

Definitions

1. For the purpose of this MOU:

- (a) "Driver Licence" means a licence issued by either Participant which enables the Holder to operate a motor vehicle on a highway, subject to the terms and conditions of the class of licence and any other conditions associated

with it, and subject to the applicable laws and regulations in the jurisdiction of the Participant that issued the licence;

- (b) "Holder" means the individual person to whom the Driver Licence has been issued.
- (c) "Valid" when used in relation to a Driver Licence means that, at the relevant time, the licence is current and has not expired nor been suspended, withdrawn or otherwise cancelled by the issuing Participant or an authority acting on behalf of that Participant, and that the licence is not subject to any kind of restriction which results in the Holder being unable to use the licence for the purpose of operating a motor vehicle.
- (d) In the case of Northern Ireland:
 - (i) "Category A1 Driver Licence" means a Valid Driver Licence issued by Northern Ireland which authorizes the Holder to operate any light motorcycle with an engine displacement not exceeding 125 cc and a power output of up to 11kW (14.6bhp).
 - (ii) "Category A Driver Licence" means a Valid Driver Licence issued by Northern Ireland which authorizes the Holder to operate motorcycles with or without a sidecar.
 - (iii) "Category B1 Driver Licence" means a Valid Driver Licence issued by Northern Ireland which authorizes the Holder to operate motor tricycles/quadracycles up to 550kg unladen.
 - (iv) "Category B Driver Licence" means a Valid Driver Licence is issued by Northern Ireland which authorizes the Holder to drive vehicles with up to 8 passenger seats and up to 3,500kg, with a trailer up to 750kg; and, for the purposes of this MOU, includes:

(A) a Valid Driver Licence in any one of the following higher licence categories:

- (I) C1
- (II) C
- (III) D1
- (IV) D
- (V) B+E
- (VI) C1+E
- (VII) C+E
- (VIII) D1+E
- (IX) D+E

(e) In the case of Alberta:

(i) "Class 5 Driver Licence" means a Valid Driver Licence issued by Alberta which authorizes the Holder to operate any of the following motor vehicles regardless of transmission type:

- (A) a two-axle single motor vehicle;
- (B) a recreational vehicle with not more than three axles;
- (C) 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;
- (D) a three-axle recreational vehicle towing a trailer if the trailer has not more than two axles and is not equipped with air brakes;
- (E) a moped;

and includes, for the purposes of this MOU, a Valid Driver Licence in any one of the following higher licence categories: Class 1, 2, 3 or 4.

(ii) "Class 6 Driver Licence" means a Valid Driver Licence issued by Alberta which authorizes the Holder to operate any motorcycle regardless of transmission type and a moped, unless there is a restriction noted on the licence restricting the Holder to operation of a three-wheeled motorcycle.

(iii) "Probationary" means that the Driver Licence is issued under the Graduated Driver Licensing Program and that probationary conditions apply to the Holder.

Exchanging a Northern Ireland Driver Licence for an Alberta Driver Licence

2. A Holder of a Valid Northern Ireland Driver Licence may, upon becoming a resident of Alberta, apply to exchange the Northern Ireland Driver Licence for an Alberta Driver Licence under the following conditions:

- (a) a Holder of any Driver Licence who has held the Driver Licence for less than 24 months will be placed in the Probationary stage of Alberta's Graduated Driver Licensing Program;
- (b) a Holder of a Category B Driver Licence who has held the Driver Licence for 24 months or more in the last 3 years may, without additional driver training or driver skill testing, exchange the Category B Driver Licence for a Class 5 Driver Licence upon

passing a vision test, complying with all medical requirements as established by Alberta, and paying any fees prescribed by the laws of Alberta;

- (c) a Holder of a Category A1 or A Driver Licence who has held the Driver Licence for 24 months or more in the last 3 years may, without additional driver training or driver skill testing, exchange the Category A1 Driver Licence or Category A Driver Licence for a Class 6 Driver Licence upon passing a vision test, complying with all medical requirements as established by Alberta, and paying any fees prescribed by the laws of Alberta;
3. Upon application for exchange of a Driver Licence issued by Northern Ireland for a Driver Licence issued by Alberta, the Holder will provide documentation satisfactory to Alberta proving:
- (a) the identity of the Holder;
 - (b) that the Holder is a resident of Alberta,
 - (c) that the Holder's Northern Ireland Driver Licence is Valid and
 - (i) that the Holder has held a Valid Driver Licence for at least 24 months in the last three years, or
 - (ii) where the Holder has held a Valid Driver Licence for less than 24 months in the last three years, the precise amount of time that the Holder has held a Valid Driver Licence.
4. Where an application for exchange is approved by Alberta, the Holder will surrender the Northern Ireland Driver Licence to Alberta and the exchange will be recorded on the Holder's Alberta motor vehicle operator's record. Alberta will notify Northern Ireland of the exchange by sending an email to the individual identified in clause 12 setting out the Holder's name, identification number on the Northern Ireland Driver Licence, and the date of the exchange. Alberta will then destroy the surrendered Driver Licence.
5. A Holder who exchanges a Northern Ireland Driver Licence for an Alberta Driver Licence is eligible to apply for another class of Alberta Driver Licence upon fulfilling all requirements prescribed by Alberta laws and regulations.

Exchanging an Alberta Driver Licence for a Northern Ireland Driver Licence

6. A Holder of a Valid Alberta Driver Licence may, upon becoming a resident of Northern Ireland, apply to exchange the Alberta Driver Licence for a Northern Ireland Driver Licence under the following conditions:
 - (a) a Holder of a Class 5 Alberta Driver Licence may, without additional driver training or driver skill testing, exchange the Class 5 Driver Licence for a Category B Northern Ireland Driver Licence upon passing a vision test and complying with all medical requirements as established by Northern Ireland, and paying any fees prescribed by the laws of Northern Ireland;
 - (b) a Holder of a Class 6 Alberta Driver Licence may, without additional driver training or driver skill testing, exchange the Class 6 Driver Licence for a Category A Northern Ireland Driver Licence upon passing a vision test and complying with all medical requirements as established by Northern Ireland, and paying any fees prescribed by the laws of Northern Ireland;
 - (c) a Holder of a Class 5/6 Alberta Driver Licence may, without additional driver training or driver skill testing, exchange the Class 5/6 Driver Licence for a Category A,B Northern Ireland Driver Licence upon passing a vision test and complying with all medical requirements as established by Northern Ireland, and paying any fees prescribed by the laws of Northern Ireland;
 - (d) a Holder of a Probationary Class 5 and/or a Probationary Class 6 Driver Licence may, subject to the laws of Northern Ireland, regulations and policies applicable to "newly qualified or otherwise restricted drivers", exchange the Probationary Driver Licence for a corresponding Category A or B and Northern Ireland Driver Licence upon passing a vision test and complying with all medical requirements as established by Northern Ireland, and paying any fees prescribed by the laws of Northern Ireland.

7. Upon application for exchange of a Driver Licence issued by Alberta for a Driver Licence issued by Northern Ireland, the Holder will provide documentation satisfactory to Northern Ireland proving:
 - (a) the identity of the Holder;
 - (b) that the Holder is a resident of Northern Ireland,
 - (c) that the Holder's Alberta Driver Licence is Valid and

(d) that the Holder meets Northern Ireland's minimum age requirements for the category of Driver Licence applied for.

8. Where an application for exchange is approved by Northern Ireland, the Holder will surrender the Alberta Driver Licence to Northern Ireland and the exchange will be recorded on the Holder's operator record. Northern Ireland will then destroy the surrendered Driver Licence.

Checking Authenticity of Driver's Licences Presented for Exchange

9. Each Participant will complete an authentication process to verify that a Driver Licence presented by an applicant for exchange is an authentic Driver Licence issued by the other Participant.
10. To assist with authentication processes, each Participant commits to provide the other with timely notice of changes relating to the security features of Driver Licences issued by the Participant.
11. For purposes of investigative follow up relating to card authentication for fraud, the Participants shall exchange law enforcement contact information.

General

12. Questions regarding Driver Licence matters can be directed to:

Northern Ireland: Lynne Smyth
Driver Licensing, County Hall
Coleraine, County Hall
County Londonderry
Northern Ireland BT51 3TB
Phone: +0044 28703 25755
Facsimile: +0044 28703 41348
E-mail: Lynne.Smyth2@doeni.gov.uk

Alberta: Mitch Fuhr
Executive Director, Driver Programs
Traffic Safety Services
Room 109, Main Floor, Twin Atria Building
4999-98 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB CA T6B 2X3
Phone: (780) 427-8901
Facsimile: (780) 427-0833
E-mail: mitch.fuhr@gov.ab.ca

13. Each Participant will notify the other within thirty (30) days of any changes to the names or the contact information set out in paragraph 11.

14. All Driver Licences issued by either Participant will be in English.
15. This MOU is subject to all laws or regulations, as amended from time-to-time, effective in the respective jurisdictions of the Participants.
16. Each Participant will notify the other Participant within thirty (30) days of any change to the laws or regulations in their jurisdiction that will affect the operation and intent of this MOU.
17. The Participants will give all their notices pursuant to this MOU in writing by postal mail, courier or facsimile. Subject to change by either Participant with written notice, the Participants will address their notices as follows:

To Northern Ireland: Director of Driver Licensing
Department of the Environment
Coleraine, County Hall
County Londonderry
Northern Ireland BT51 3TB
Phone: +0044 28703 59903
Facsimile: +0044 28703 41348

To Alberta: Registrar of Motor Vehicle Services
Traffic Safety Services
Room 109, Main Floor, Twin Atria Building
4999-98 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB CA T6B 2X3
Phone: (780) 427-8901
Facsimile: (780) 427-0833

Notices will be deemed to have been effectively given on the date of delivery by postal mail, courier or facsimile.

18. This MOU may be amended or modified only by mutual written consent of both Participants.
19. The MOU will enter into force on the day of signature thereof. It shall remain continuously in effect until it is terminated. Either Participant may terminate this MOU for any reason by sending a letter to the other Participant. Termination shall become effective 30 days from the date shown on the termination letter.

Signed at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in duplicate

This 13 day of March in the year 2013

Ric McIver
FOR ALBERTA TRANSPORTATION

Honourable Ric McIver
Minister of Transportation
On behalf of the Government of
Alberta

Alex Attwood
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT

Honourable Alex Attwood
Minister of the Environment
On behalf of the Government of
Northern Ireland