

EU expats must renew their driving licences

Expats who've been legally resident in Spain for two years or more must renew their driving licence to meet new regulations or face a €200 fine.

The new measure requires that people from 28 EU member states renew any driving licence they hold which is valid for 15 years or more in the case of car and motorcycle drivers [Group One] and five years or longer in the case of drivers of transport and larger vehicles [Group Two].

The new rule came into effect on Monday 19th January and applies to all EU expats who have been legally living in Spain for more than two years, and will apply to newer residents two years after the date they legally become resident in Spain.

The licence changes aim to eliminate the more than 110 types of licences and provide a standard licence for all citizens.

Residents can renew their driving licence by contacting the nearest traffic authority, calling 060 or via the DGT traffic authority website www.dgt.es.

For the initial appointment you need the following:

- Proof of identity
- Proof of residence
- Original driving licence and a copy
- A recent photograph
- Official form

The fee for the new licence is €23.50.

Drivers are reminded that speed limits on many Spanish roads are to be reduced this spring. The speed limit on motorways will remain at 120 km/h but roads with a current limit of 100 km/h will drop to 90km/h and those currently at 90 km/h will drop to either 70 or 50km/h.

Motorists in Spain are also reminded that the fine for breaking the speed limit starts at €100 for speeds of up to 150km/h. The fine for drinking under the influence of alcohol or drugs is €1,000. The Spanish alcohol limit is 0.5 milligrams per ml of blood, i.e. stricter than the UK which has a limit of 0.8.

For more info:

- <http://www.drive-alive.co.uk/driving/driving-in-spain.htm>
- <http://spanishnewstoday.com/new-speed-limits-for-spanish-roads-will-apply-after-the-summer-20045-a.html#.VMf2DIGkqrU>
- <http://www.find-cheap-car-hire.co.uk/news-car-rental/speeding-fines-in-spain-new-fines-penalties-for-speeding-on-spanish-roads-in-2014-rules/>