

Driving in the EU

The following should be considered by UK drivers planning to take their vehicle into Europe.

UK law still applies to a UK-registered vehicle if you take it abroad for less than 12 months. That means you need to make sure:

- your vehicle is taxed in the UK while it's abroad
- you have a current MOT
- the vehicle is insured
- you'll also need to make sure you meet any international or national conditions for licensing and taxation
- breakdown cover

Driving licences and international driving permits

You will still need to carry your UK driving licence with you.

You do not need an international driving permit (IDP) to visit and drive in the EU, Switzerland, Iceland or Liechtenstein.

You might need an IDP to drive in some EU countries and Norway from 1 January 2021 if you have:

- a paper driving licence
- a licence issued in Gibraltar, Guernsey, Jersey or the Isle of Man.

You will not need an IDP to drive when visiting Ireland if you have a UK driving licence.

You can get an IDP over the counter at the Post Office. An IDP costs £5.50 and drivers must:

- be a Great Britain or Northern Ireland resident
- have a full UK driving licence
- be 18 or over.

To check if you need an IDP visit <https://www.gov.uk/driving-abroad/international-driving-permit>

Insurance for your vehicle, caravan or trailer

All UK vehicle insurance provides the minimum third party cover to drive in:

- the EU (including Ireland)
- Andorra
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Iceland
- Liechtenstein
- Norway
- Serbia
- Switzerland

Check with your insurer if your policy has extra cover for things like theft or damage to your vehicle abroad.

You will now need to carry a green card to prove you have the minimum insurance cover required by the country you're driving in.

You will need to carry multiple green cards if:

- you have fleet or multi-car insurance – you'll need a green card for each vehicle your vehicle is towing
- a trailer or caravan – you'll need one for the towing vehicle and one for the trailer or caravan (you need separate trailer insurance in some countries)
- you have 2 policies covering the duration of your trip, for example, if your policy renews during the journey.

You must carry a physical copy of your green card when driving abroad. Electronic versions of green cards are not acceptable.

If you need a physical copy of your green card(s), contact your vehicle insurance provider at least 6 weeks before you travel. Your insurer may tell you how to download a green card to print yourself.

You will need to show a green card:

- if you are involved in an accident
- you may need to show a green card at police checks
- at the border when entering the EU/EEA, or moving between EU/EEA countries. This will depend on the border authorities of each country.

Vehicle registration documents

If you're taking your vehicle to the EU for less than 12 months, you should carry one of the following documents with you:

- your vehicle log book (V5C), if you have one
- an authority to travel document known as a VE103b to show you're allowed to use your hired or leased vehicle abroad.

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Requesting a VE103b from Venson

If your vehicle is leased from us we hold the V5 which means you will need to complete an authority to travel form or VE103b. To get hold of a form please contact your dedicated Venson account management team on your driver hotline number or download it from our website, visit www.venson.com click on Driver Services and look for Travelling the UK and Abroad. Your completed VE103b request form must be uploaded to us a minimum of 14 days in advance of your journey. There is a small administration fee payable for this document.

Note: Trailer registration - you will still need to register some commercial and non-commercial trailers before towing them to or through most EU and EEA countries. For further information visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trailer-registration>

UK stickers and number plates

From 28 September 2021, you need a UK sticker instead of a GB sticker.

If your number plate includes the UK identifier with the Union flag (also known as the Union Jack), you do not need a UK sticker.

However, you will need to display a UK sticker clearly on the rear of your vehicle if your number plate has any of the following:

- a GB identifier with the Union flag
- a Euro symbol
- a national flag of England, Scotland or Wales
- numbers and letters only – no flag or identifier
- If you're in Spain, Cyprus or Malta, you must display a UK sticker no matter what is on your number plate.

You do not need a UK sticker or number plate to drive in Ireland.

Check the overseas driving rules

Make sure you follow overseas driving rules, including local speed limits and drink driving laws. You may be breaking the law and get a fine if you do not.

Depending on the country you're visiting you may need:

- extra equipment - for example, you need a reflective jacket and a warning triangle in many countries
- emission stickers (permits) in some European cities; you may need to buy these weeks before you plan to travel
- headlight converter stickers
- a UK sticker.

What to do if you're involved in a road accident

If you're involved in a road accident in an EU country you should in the first instance contact your insurance provider.

From 1 January 2022, any legal proceedings against either the responsible driver or the insurance provider of the vehicle will need to be brought in the EU or EEA country where the accident happened. You might have to make your claim in the local language.

You will not get compensation in some countries if the accident is caused by an uninsured driver or if the driver cannot be traced.

Get legal advice if you need more information about an insurance incident.

Broken down in Europe?

Initially call your Venson Driver Hotline number (please be advised to use the UK international dialing code (0044) before your Venson Driver Hotline number.

If you're having difficulty accessing your Venson Driver Hotline number on your network, please use the following alternatives for the AA:

French landlines:
0825 098 876 or 0472 171 200

UK mobiles or other EU countries:
00 3382 509 8876 or 00 3347 217 1200

Source: <https://www.theaa.com>

Driving your car in Europe?

In many countries in Europe it's a legal requirement to carry a safety pack in the boot of the vehicle. But it's not just about being lawful it's also about being safe. A roadside emergency can happen at any time and being prepared with the right equipment will not only increase your safety, it will reduce stress and help to get you back on the road faster.

The contents of a European safety pack vary depending on the destination country, so we've made it easy to purchase what you need, simply look for your destination below. Each safety pack contains high quality items stored in a functional, durable bag for easy stowage in the boot. To order yours just call your dedicated Venson account management team on your driver hotline number.

Venson European Safety Pack - Area 1 **£32.60** Qty _____

• France • Denmark • Germany • Poland • Portugal

Containing: warning triangle, beam deflectors, UK sticker, high visibility vest*, NF approved breathalyser (2 pack).

Venson European Safety Pack - Area 2 **£56.96** Qty _____

• Austria • Belgium

Containing: fire extinguisher, first aid kit, bulb kit, warning triangle, beam deflectors, UK sticker, high visibility vest*, NF approved breathalyser (2 pack).

Venson European Safety Pack - Area 3 **£64.19** Qty _____

• Spain • Italy

Containing: fire extinguisher, first aid kit, bulb kit, 2 warning triangles, beam deflectors, UK sticker, 2 high visibility vests*, NF approved breathalyser (2 pack).

Hi-Vis Vest **£4.00** Qty _____

* You will need to order additional high visibility vests depending on the number of passengers in your vehicle.

NB: Delivery charged at £7.50 per pack. All pricing excludes VAT. E & OE excepted.

Pricing valid from 1 June 2022 to 31 December 2022.