



Borderwise:

Motoring

Driving in the South

The rules about driving in the Republic of Ireland (ROI) are similar to those in Northern Ireland (NI). You may get a copy of Rules of the Road from local Motor Tax Offices. The road signs and speed limits are in kilometres, not miles.



What type of licence do you need to drive in the south?

You must have a current driving licence or a provisional driving licence for the type of vehicle you are driving. A driving licence issued by any other EU member state is valid in the South. If you have such a licence, it is not necessary to get an Irish licence but you may get one if you wish without a further driving test. Applications for driving tests and driving licences should be made to the Motor Taxation Office of your local County or City Council. Details can be found at:

www.transport.ie



National Car Tests (NCT)

Passenger cars over four years must have a valid NCT certificate and show the NCT disc on the wind-screen. The NCT is due on the anniversary date of the first registration in the country of origin once it is over four years. Therefore, cars initially registered in Northern Ireland will still require a NCT regardless of whether it has previously received an MOT. Further information can be found: www.ncts.ie

Driving Tests

If you do not hold a driving licence from the UK or EU you will need to apply to take a ROI driving test. In order to take a test, you must be normally resident in Ireland and have an Irish correspondence address. Normal residence is taken to be the place where the person usually lives, that is for at least 185 days in each calendar year. For further information contact: Driver Testing Section Tel: +353 96 78289

Registering a vehicle

If you work in ROI but continue to live in NI you do not need to register your vehicle unless you take up residency there. However, if you bring a vehicle into Ireland from abroad to live, you must register it and pay Vehicle Registration Tax (VRT) by the end of the next working day following its arrival. A completed declaration form together with the vehicle should be presented at any of the 23 Vehicle Registration Offices (VRO). Further information: www.revenue.ie

Vehicle Registration Tax (VRT)

Vehicle Registration Tax is chargeable on registration of a motor vehicle. All motor vehicles in ROI, other than those brought in temporarily by visitors, must be registered with the Revenue Commissioners. A vehicle must be registered before it can be licensed for road tax purposes.

Going
South

Tax Relief on Transfer of Residence

If you move to ROI permanently you must register your car however you may be able to do this without incurring VRT. In order to qualify for relief from VRT, you must have been resident in NI (or anywhere else in the EU) before you transfer your residence to ROI.

Road Tax and Insurance

Road tax is paid annually to your local Motor Taxation Office. All vehicles must be taxed before the vehicle is taken on the road. Over 70's are exempt from paying road tax, as are those with primary medical certificates. All drivers must have insurance covering them to drive a vehicle on a public road. You need to display an up-to-date insurance disc. It is an offence not to have the disc on display.

Penalty Points and Disqualification

You may get an on the spot fine or penalty points for a range of motoring offences including breaking a speed limit or failure to wear seat belts. When a person accumulates a total of 12 points or more on their licence, they will be disqualified from driving for a period of six months. The person will then be required to hand in their driving licence to the licensing authority which granted it. From April 2008 it is expected disqualification in one jurisdiction will also be effective in another. Therefore, a driving disqualification from Northern Ireland will also be recognised in the Republic of Ireland.

Help for People with Disabilities

Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers Scheme

There is a range of tax reliefs available to certain people with disabilities for the buying and use of vehicles either as drivers or passengers. These include:

- Exemption or refund of vehicle registration tax (VRT), repayment of value-added tax (VAT) on the purchase of a vehicle and repayment of VAT on the cost of adapting a vehicle, up to a maximum of €9,525 for a disabled driver and €15,875 for a disabled passenger
- Repayment of excise duty on fuel used up to a maximum of 2,728 liters (600 gallons) a year
- Exemption from annual motor tax

Disabled Person's Parking Card

This card is available to people with disabilities, either as drivers or passengers and to registered blind people. The card entitles the holder to park in public car parking spaces free of charge. People who have a Primary Medical Certificate automatically qualify but must apply. Further Information: <http://www.ddai.ie>

Contact Details

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