

## **UNCLASSIFIED**

### **Experienced Driver Recognition**

The Czech Republic has successfully obtained Experienced Driver Recognition status by Austroads. Effective immediately, with the exception of Queensland, drivers 25 years and older with a valid Czech licence, and who meet the relevant evidence of identity requirements of the State or Territory in which they reside (including proof of address), will be able to exchange their licence for an Australian-issued licence without further theory or practical testing. Queensland requires legislative amendments to enable licence recognition. These amendments are scheduled to be addressed in mid-2013. Experienced Driver Recognition status applies only to car (Class C) and motorcycle (Class R) licences.

Please note that the relevant fees to issue a driver's licence apply (these vary between jurisdictions).

An Experienced Driver who is entering Australia on a permanent visa or is a permanent resident may drive on their current overseas licence for a maximum of three months after arriving in Australia before obtaining an Australian-issued driver's licence in the jurisdiction in which the person is residing.

A person who holds a driver's licence and is under 25 years of age will be required to undertake theory and practical driving tests. If a person passes the tests set by the Australian jurisdiction, their Czech licence will be converted, based on years of driving experience and age, to the class of licence they would have been on had they commenced driving in that jurisdiction.

Austroads was unable to grant full recognition because licences from the Czech Republic do not meet our Graduated Licensing Scheme standards. For example, Czech learner and provisional licence terms are shorter than Australian terms and there are no specific conditions or restrictions applying to novice car drivers. For example, Australia requires a minimum of 30 hours of supervised driving or a minimum period of tenure of three months as a learner driver.

### **Visiting Drivers**

Overseas drivers visiting Australia, who do not hold a permanent visa, will be regarded as 'visiting drivers' and may use their valid overseas licence to drive. If the licence is not in English, the driver must have in addition either an International driving permit OR a certified English translation of the licence.

Most Australian states and territories (the exception being the Northern Territory) allow visiting drivers to drive indefinitely on their overseas licence as long as it is current. It is only when there is a change in visa/citizenship status or the overseas licence expires that an overseas driver is required to take out an Australian-issued driver's licence. In the Northern Territory, a person is required to obtain a Northern

**UNCLASSIFIED**

## **UNCLASSIFIED**

Territory issued driver's licence after three months, or apply to be granted an exemption from holding a local licence, if they wish to continue to drive.

It is important to remember that a person may only drive vehicles which their overseas licence authorises them to drive. They must also drive in accordance with any conditions on their overseas licence.

Please be aware that a person who is driving in Australia must carry his or her overseas licence at all times (including International driving permit or certified translation as appropriate).

Further information for drivers is available on the Austroad's website:  
<http://www.austroads.com.au/driver-licences/overseas-driver-licences>

**UNCLASSIFIED**