

HIRING CARS ABROAD

If you are going abroad and you plan on driving, be warned that you will need to take a special code with you if you want to hire a car.

The paper counterpart of British driving licences, which records endorsements and fines, is now computerised. So if you want to hire a car abroad, you will officially need a code to show convictions for offences like speeding.

■ Important Information

To get a code, you just need to log on to the DVLA website beforehand and present this to the rental supplier at the time of booking. (To get a code go to www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence and follow the procedures).

The code is valid for 21 days, so you must request this close to the time you need to make your booking.

For those who do not have Internet access, a phone number will also be made available for the rental supplier to use, but this is a premium rate number that charges £3 per minute.

It is possible to download a PDF of your driving record from the DVLA website and it is recommended that you do this, but it is currently unclear as to whether rental suppliers will accept this as an alternative to the code.

The DVLA recommends destroying paper counterparts.

The old-style paper licences, issued before the photo card was introduced in 1998, will remain valid.

To view a record of your convictions, you can log on to the

[View My Driving licence](#)

page of the government website. You will need your driving licence number, national insurance number and postcode.

Note: The changes do not apply to driving licences issued by the DVLA in Northern Ireland.

Note: If you have already booked a rental, you will need to produce your code when collecting the vehicle.



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