

## Specific Characteristics Of Driver Training In Switzerland

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**Abstract:** *training of motor vehicle drivers in developed European countries is a long and laborious process consisting of several stages. Getting a driver's license in Switzerland is no exception. In addition, the Swiss driver's license is one of the most expensive documents. The article provides information on the specific features of the system of training drivers of motor vehicles in Switzerland.*

**Keywords:** *driver's license, traffic rules, tests, practical driving, canton, driver's candidate.*

### INTRODUCTION

Obtaining a driver's license in European countries with a high degree of car ownership is a long and fraught process. Candidates for driving have to go through several mandatory steps. Even in Switzerland, obtaining a driver's license is a very difficult and patient process. In addition, the Swiss driving license is the most expensive document in the world [1].

From April 15, 2023, Switzerland started issuing new driving licenses with a higher level of security. A new driver's license includes a number of advantages. Like current Swiss ID cards, it is made of polycarbonate. In addition, security elements are applied to its surface, colors and information display change depending on the viewing angle. There is also a QR code on the back of the ID, which when scanned provides the personal information shown on the front of the ID.

From January 2023, all driver's licenses will be produced at the central national printing office. In the past, driver's licenses were produced in more than 50 cantonal printing houses. Such centralized production allows the production of more complex identities while increasing security.

The credit card format license, which has been in place for almost 20 years, continues to operate without restrictions. From April 15, 2023, anyone who wants to get a new license can voluntarily exchange the old one at the driver and vehicle registration office in the canton of their place of residence. The fee for the new license is regulated by the canton, but will not change due to the new format [2].

As you know, you must be at least 18 years old to get a driver's license in Switzerland. You can drive with a driver's license obtained abroad for 12 months. After this 12-month period, the driver's license will need to be exchanged for a Swiss driver's license.

Allows residents of the European Economic Area (EU and Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein) to exchange their foreign driver's license for a Swiss license without an examination within 12 months of entering the territory of Switzerland, if citizens from non-EEA countries exchange their driver's licenses for Swiss licenses within 12 months after a month, they will have

to pass the practical driving test. Citizens of some non-EU countries must also pass a theoretical driving test in Switzerland [3].

If the driver's license is issued in a language not recognized by the Swiss government (English, French, German or Italian), an international driver's license with a translation of the driver's license will be required.

Certain categories of international diplomats and civil servants are exempt from the need to exchange their driver's license for a Swiss driver's license and can drive for an unlimited period on a foreign license.

First of all, candidates must undergo an eye examination by an ophthalmologist or in an optical salon equipped with special equipment. The goal is clear - to make sure that the novice driver's vision is good enough to get behind the wheel.

Otherwise, he will have to order glasses and wear them every time before driving the vehicle.

A candidate who wants to get a driver's license must complete a first aid course. These 10-hour courses are usually organized by the "Swiss Samaritan Union", but in some schools such courses are even included in the compulsory curriculum. As part of them, a candidate for a driver's license must learn how to perform artificial respiration, how to dress victims, how to call an ambulance and how to position an unconscious person on the ground so that they do not suffocate.

The next step is to take the "initial (familiarization) course" at a driving school. As part of it, for eight hours, the future driver is introduced to various dangers on the roads, and is taught to behave responsibly on the highway. Also, they discuss with the instructor and group students how to deal with the environment sparingly, often by showing very exciting movies and video images, how to act in the event of the most common accidents, accidents.

The last step is to pass a theoretical test on traffic rules.

In Switzerland, the Traffic Authority is the cantonal authority responsible for enforcing federal traffic regulations on public roads. In many cantons, local maritime navigation also falls under this authority, so the terms Road Traffic and Water Transport Administration or Transport Department are also used [4].

Driving tests in Switzerland are conducted by the Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the cantonal traffic authorities.

The exam consists of two parts - theoretical and practical. To pass the theoretical and practical parts of the exams, an application is made to the local traffic department.

Individuals from certain countries who are exchanging their foreign driver's license will only take a practical test.

In Switzerland, the theory test is the first part of the driving test. It is usually possible to order online by filling out the application form, choosing a date and paying the examination fee on the website of the cantonal traffic authority. Exams are held in exam centers in cantons. They last 45 minutes and consist of 50 multiple choice questions. To pass the exam, you need to score at least 135 points. Those who fail the test can retake the test an unlimited number of times. However, it will be necessary to make a payment each time.

Swiss theory tests are valid indefinitely. Tests are usually conducted in one of the national languages (French, German, Italian). However, in some cantons you may be asked to take the exam in English. If the exam is conducted in a language, you do not know, a certified translator can be hired.

After successfully passing this theory test, the new driver will be issued a “Learner's Driving Permit”, while he/she must be at least 18 years old. And finally, it is possible to participate in practical training only after receiving a student's certificate. This has its own logic: the driver candidate (learner) must have a clear legal status when he is on the highway.

“Learner's driver's license” is issued for a period of two years and allows its owner to drive a vehicle independently on any road, but on the condition that he is accompanied in the car by an adult who is at least 23 years old and has had a valid full (real) driver's license for at least 3 years. Such companions can be, for example, a loved one, a family member or a teacher (instructor) of a driving school.

Swiss law does not specify how many hours a driver must drive with a driving instructor to pass the practical driving test. In practice, most candidates attend at least a few hours of practical driving lessons with an instructor to learn the basics of driving. Female candidates attend an average of 29 hours of instructor-led classes and 20 hours of male candidates.

Once the candidate feels ready for the internship, he/she will again be enrolled for an exam administered by the office of the cantonal road transport and traffic department. The Swiss “Advisory Office for the Prevention of Accidents and Accidents” recommends that you drive at least 3,000 kilometers or spend at least 100 hours behind the wheel before taking the test. But even passing the practical driving test does not end the process of obtaining a driver's license in Switzerland.

After the candidate successfully passes the theory test and is confident about the acquired practical skills, it is possible to register for the practical driving test. This can be done by the candidate himself or by the instructor. For this, you can register for the practical test online through your local traffic department.

Anyone taking the test in Switzerland under the age of 20 must hold a provisional driving license for at least 12 months before taking the practical test. The test can be taken in any roadworthy vehicle that complies with the standard rules, for example with a Swiss license plate. To register for the practical exam, you will need to provide the following: a valid ID with a photo; student driver's license; information on the registration of the vehicle used during the examination.

Practical driving tests are conducted at a driving school under the supervision of qualified examiners. They carefully evaluate the candidate's driving skills, ability to drive in traffic conditions, following road signs, maneuvering and parking aspects. Such tests usually last up to an hour.

If you pass the tests, you will be able to get a temporary license stamp that allows you to drive without supervision in Switzerland. It is necessary to obtain a temporary driver's license within 10 working days [5].

If you fail the practical exam, you will have to wait a month to retake it. If you fail all three tests, you will have to pass the driving test before taking another practical test. If you fail

the aptitude test, your learner's driver's license will be revoked. If you pass the aptitude test and fail the practical test for the fourth time, you will need to undergo a psychological assessment of driving ability.

Driving lessons can be taken formally from a qualified instructor, at a driving school or informally from friends or family members who can drive. In order to take lessons informally, the accompanying person must be at least 23 years old and have completed a three-year probationary period. The number L should be stuck on the back of the car you are learning to drive. According to Swiss law, the candidate (student) is responsible for any violation of traffic rules, and the accompanying driver (instructor) is criminally liable if he violates his obligations.

Most of the candidates who want to get their driving license prefer to learn driving from a professional instructor. Lessons are usually 45-50 minutes long and there is no set minimum or maximum number of lessons before the exam. Instructors must have a federal certificate of continuing education for driving instructors.

Having successfully passed the exams (not everyone can pass the first time, many retake it), a new driver who has just started driving receives a temporary driver's license valid for three years.

A driver with a temporary driving license must try very hard to avoid serious violations on the road for three years and under no circumstances should he be caught driving under the influence of alcohol - otherwise his temporary license may be extended for another year. If the violation is repeated, the temporary license will be completely revoked and it will be necessary to go through the whole procedure again to get a driver's license. In this case, the so-called "idiot's test" and officially – "medical-psychological examination" is passed.

### **Conclusion**

A driver with sufficient experience must re-learn and improve his qualifications no later than three years later, that is, he must pass a two-day mandatory course on theory and practice. During these courses, the driver receives additional knowledge and tests his practical skills. There is no exam at the end of the course, but you still have to try to do your best. The certificate of completion of this course must be submitted to the Cantonal Road Transport and Road Administration, after which the driver will be issued a permanent driver's license with an unlimited period of validity [6].

In Switzerland, such a complex and multi-stage training system for motor vehicle drivers serves to drive safely on the roads and prevent traffic accidents.

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