

# When Driving with an International Driving Permit in Japan

**Be careful! You could be charged with driving without a license!**

Chiba Prefectural Police Headquarters

If you drive in Japan with an international driving permit without fulfilling the following requirements, you will be charged with “driving without a driver’s license” and face imprisonment not exceeding three years or a fine not exceeding 500,000 yen. The rule applies to Japanese citizens, too.

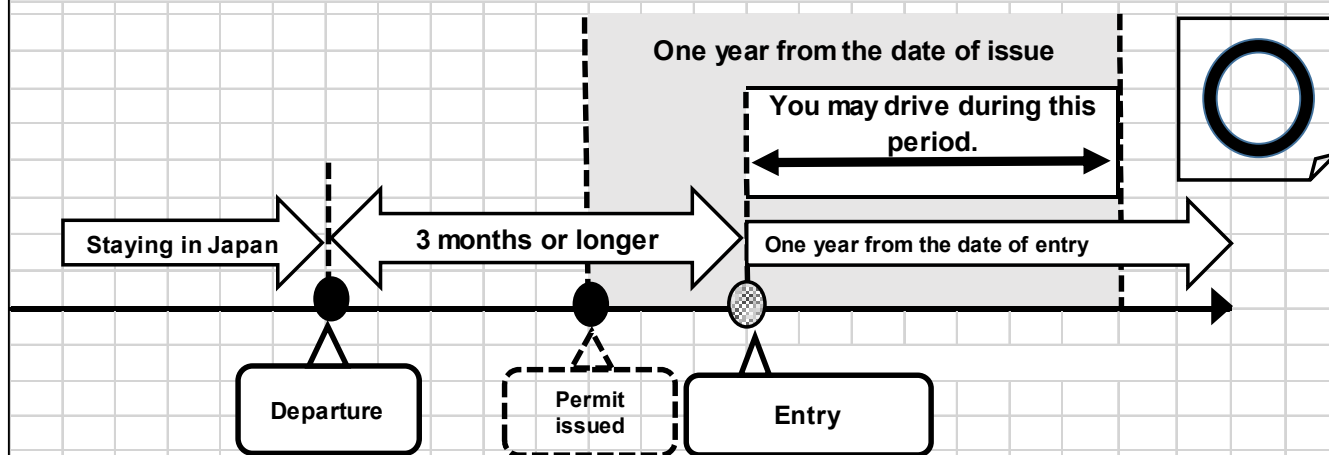
(1) You must have an international driving permit issued by a Contracting State to the Geneva Convention in the format as prescribed by its Annex 9 or Annex 10.

(2) You must have a valid permit, which expires in one year after the date of issue (you may drive for up to one year from the date of your entry into Japan as long as the permit is valid).

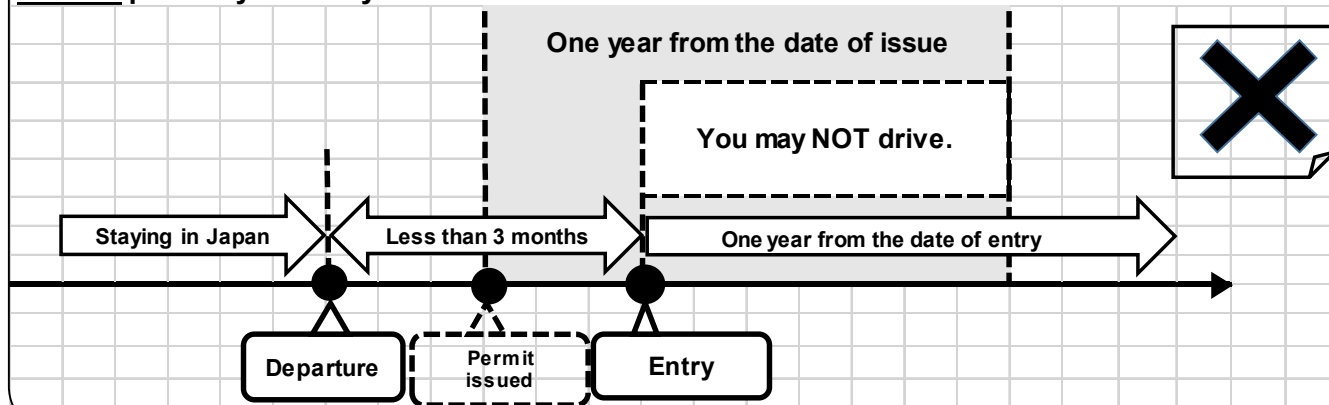
(3) You must have stayed overseas for three months or longer prior to your entry in case you have traveled overseas from Japan and obtained an international driving permit there. (See below.)

**Warning:** If you are a Japanese or non-Japanese mid- to long-term resident recorded in the Basic Resident Register, you may not drive in Japan with an international driving permit obtained while staying overseas for less than three months after leaving Japan with confirmation of departure or re-entry permission. This is because the date of entry after staying overseas for less than three months is not counted as the start date of the period during which the permit holder may drive. For more information, visit the website of Chiba Prefectural Police.

**You may drive with your permit issued while staying overseas for three months or longer prior to your entry.**



**You may NOT drive with your permit issued while staying overseas for less than three months prior to your entry.**



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