



Automobile Club d'Italia



DRIVING IN ITALY: INFORMATION FOR VISITING MOTORISTS

FINES FOR VISITING MOTORISTS

When driving in Italy, foreign driving license or international driving permit* holders must obey all Italian Highway Code rules. In case of infringement the same penalties as for the Italian drivers are enforced, regardless of whether or not a point system is adopted for driving license in their home country (Article 135 paragraph 4 of the Italian Highway Code).

Foreign drivers, caught by a traffic officer while committing a driving offence with a foreign or EE registered vehicle, are entitled to pay a 30% - reduced fine. The traffic officer will issue a receipt. In case the fine is not fully paid on the spot, a deposit must be paid to the traffic officer (half amount of the maximum fine requested by the Italian Highway Code for the infringement or minimum fine amount for vehicles registered in EU countries being members of the EEA). The traffic officer will give the offender a written report stating the amount paid. In case the deposit is not fully paid, the vehicle is seized for up to 60 days, until full payment of the fine, and storage fees are charged to the offender.

Italian authorities record all infringements committed by foreign motorists. The punishment for foreign drivers having built up 20 penalty points in 1-year time is a 2-year driving ban in Italy. In case they have built up 20 penalty points in 2-year time the punishment is a 1-year driving ban in Italy. In case they have built up 20 penalty points in a period from 2 to 3 years the punishment is a 6-month driving ban in Italy.

Main driving sanctions

For your information, please note the main sanctions under the Italian Highway Code for traffic violations:

- seat belts are compulsory for the driver and for all passengers on all vehicles, including quadricycles and micro cars. The driver, or the adult accompanying the minor, is responsible for compliance regarding the appropriate restraint system / child seat / seat belts. In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 172 paragraph 10 of the Italian Highway Code apply
- speed limits: in case of non-compliance, the sanctions** provided for in Article 172 paragraph 7 of the Italian Highway Code apply
- restricted Traffic Areas ("Zone a Traffico Limitato"): In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 7 paragraph 14 of the Italian Highway Code apply
- drink-driving. The sanctions*** provided for in Article 186 paragraph 2 of the Italian Highway Code apply, depending on the blood alcohol level (driving ban or revocation of driving



license). Drivers can also face up to one year in prison

- driving under the influence of drugs or psychotropic substances. The sanctions provided for in Article 187 paragraph 1 et seq. of the Italian Highway Code apply, including driving ban or revocation of driving license****. Drivers can also face up to one year in prison
- in case of accidents resulting in damage of someone else's property, the offender must stop. In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 189 paragraph 5 of the Italian Highway Code apply
- in case of accidents resulting in someone else's personal injury, the offender must stop. In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 189 paragraph 6 of the Italian Highway Code apply
- whoever fails to provide assistance to injured people is subject to the sanctions provided for in Article 189 paragraph 7 of the Italian Highway Code
- in case of accidents involving animals (pets, livestock or protected animals), the road user having caused the accident must stop and ensure prompt rescue. The sanctions provided for in Article 189, Paragraph 9-bis, of the Italian Highway Code apply
- any other persons involved in an accident that has caused harm to one or more animals, must ensure prompt rescue; in case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 189 paragraph 9-bis of the Highway Code apply.

* International Driving Permits can be of the two following types:

- "Geneva Convention – 1949", valid for 1 year
- "Vienna Convention – 1968", valid for 3 years

Both types are valid provided that the associated national driving licenses are also valid.

While some countries accept both types, others accept only one of the two. Italy accepts both types.

**

- Anyone who exceeds the maximum speed limits by no more than 10 kilometres per hour is subject to the fines provided for in Article 142, Paragraph 7, of the Italian Highway Code:
- whoever exceeds the maximum speed limits by more than 10 km/h and by no more than 40 km/h is subject to the fines provided for in Article 142, Paragraph 8, of the Italian Highway Code
- whoever exceeds the maximum speed limits by more than 40 km/h and by no more than 60 km/h is subject to the fines provided for in Article 142, Paragraph 9, of the Italian Highway Code. The breach is followed by the accessory administrative sanction of driving ban from 1 to 3 months. Anyone who commits a further breach of Paragraph 9 within a period of two years is subject to driving ban from 8 to 18 months
- whoever exceeds the maximum speed limit by more than 60 km/h is subject to the fines provided for in Article 142, paragraph 9-bis, of the Italian Highway Code. The breach is followed by the accessory administrative sanction of driving ban from 6 to 12 months. Anyone who commits a further breach of Paragraph 9-bis within a period of two years shall have their driving licence revoked
- the administrative fines provided for in Article 142 are increased by one-third when the breach is committed between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. (Article 195 of the Italian Highway Code)
- if speed limit violations are committed using particular types of vehicles, the fines and accessory sanctions, if any, are doubled



- novice drivers (within the first 3 years from gaining their driving licence) cannot exceed 100 Km/h. Offenders are subject to the fines provided for by Article 117, Paragraph 5, of the Italian Highway Code. The breach is followed by the accessory administrative sanction of driving ban from 2 to 8 months.

*** Drink-driving: Sanctions provided for in Article 186, Paragraph 2, subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c), of the Italian Highway Code apply respectively when:

- a blood alcohol level higher than 0.5 and not exceeding 0.8 grams per litre (g/l) has been ascertained. The accessory administrative sanction of driving ban from three to six months also applies
- a blood alcohol level higher than 0.8 and not exceeding 1.5 g/l has been ascertained. Imprisonment up to six months and the accessory administrative sanction of driving ban from six months to one year also apply
- a blood alcohol level higher than 1.5 g/l has been ascertained. Imprisonment from six months to one year and driving ban from one to two years also apply. If the vehicle belongs to a person not involved in the offence, the duration of the driving ban is doubled. The driving licence is always revoked in case of recurrence of the offence within two years. At the request of the parties, the confiscation of the vehicle with which the offence was committed is always ordered, unless the vehicle belongs to a person not involved in the offence.

If the drink-driving driver causes a road accident, the sanctions are doubled and the vehicle is placed under administrative hold (*fermo amministrativo*) for 180 days, unless the vehicle belongs to a person not involved in the offence. If the driver who causes a road accident is found to have a blood alcohol level higher than 1.5 g/l, the driving licence is revoked, with certain exceptions.

**** If the vehicle belongs to a person not involved in the offence, the duration of the driving ban is doubled. Sanctions increase and become more severe for novice drivers, young people up to 21 years of age and professional drivers. The licence is always revoked in the case of professional drivers or in case of recurrence of the offence within three years for other drivers. At the request of the parties, the confiscation of the vehicle with which the offence was committed is always ordered, unless the vehicle belongs to a person not involved in the offence.

If a driver in a psycho-physically altered state, after taking drugs or psychotropic substances, causes a road accident, the sanctions are doubled and, with a few exceptions, the licence is revoked.