



Automobile Club d'Italia



DRIVING IN ITALY: INFORMATION FOR VISITING MOTORISTS

COMPULSORY DOCUMENTS AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT TO BE CARRIED ON BOARD

Drivers of foreign-registered vehicles having fulfilled customs obligations (if applicable) are allowed to drive in Italy for a maximum of one year.

When driving in Italy, you need to have the following documents with you:

EU countries:

- Vehicle registration certificate
- driving licence issued by an EU/EFTA country entitling to drive the corresponding vehicle type
- third party liability insurance policy bought in an EU country.

Non-EU countries:

- Vehicle registration certificate
- national driving licence issued by a non-EU country
- international driving permit* or a certified translation (*traduzione giurata*)** into Italian of the national driving licence
- third party liability insurance policy bought in an EU country. Residents of non-EU countries should contact their insurance company prior to departure and check whether they need a green card (international insurance certificate)*** or a short-term insurance****
- all non-EU registered vehicles, when travelling in Italy, must display a sticker bearing their country code.

Warning triangle

It is mandatory to always carry a warning triangle in the vehicle to signal the emergency stop. The warning triangle should be firmly placed at a distance of at least 50 metres behind the stationary vehicle, if the road allows such a distance. Otherwise, it should be placed in the most visible position.

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 162, paragraph 5 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

High visibility vests or braces

High visibility vests or braces must be worn when stepping out of the vehicle – in case of an accident, a breakdown or for any other reason - outside built-up areas at night and even in the daytime in case of poor visibility. This also applies in lay-bys and emergency lanes. High visibility items must always be kept in the vehicle's driver and passenger compartments.*****



In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 162, paragraph 5 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

Seat belts

Seat belts are compulsory for the driver and all passengers of vehicles, including light quadricycles and minicars.

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 172, paragraph 10 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

Main driving rules

In Italy, driving is on the right.

Drivers must keep the rightmost free lane of the carriageway. Left-hand lanes are reserved for overtaking.

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 143, paragraph 13 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

Driving on the emergency lane is forbidden, since this is reserved for rescue and emergency vehicles and for emergency stops.

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 176, paragraph 20 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

A safe distance must be maintained to avoid a collision with the vehicle in front in the event of a stop.

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 149, paragraph 4 of the Italian 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 licences are also valid.

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

**A certified translation (*traduzione giurata*) is a full translation into Italian of the foreign driving licence. It can be made by:

- a representative of the Embassy/Consulate of the State having issued the national driving licence, or by
- an official translator/interpreter who must certify before a Court clerk that the translation is a true copy of the original.

***A Green Card (*Carta Verde*) is an international motor insurance certificate allowing a vehicle to enter and travel in a foreign country and proving its compliance with the insurance obligation for third-party motor liability (TPL).

The Green Card is released under the responsibility of the National Insurance Bureau of the country where the vehicle was registered. It is issued by a motor insurer together with the policy or upon request. To get your green card, you need to contact your motor liability insurer.

****A short-term border insurance is a temporary third party liability cover. It can be issued only for vehicles registered in foreign countries not belonging to the European Economic Area and which are temporarily being driven in Italy.



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****It is advisable to store the high-visibility vest or braces in the passenger compartment (and not in the boot) to put it/them on before getting out of the car without committing an offence. High visibility vests/braces must have specific technical features established by law. It is important to check that the garments bear the CE along with the international standard UNI EN 471 marks.