

Gouvernement du Québec

**O.C. 297-96, 6 March 1996**

Highway Safety Code  
(R.S.Q., c. C-24.2)

**Driver's licences**

**— Exchange of letter with the Government of Japan**

Reciprocal Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the Gouvernement du Québec and the Government of Japan concerning driver's licences and Regulation respecting the implementation of the Agreement

WHEREAS in a letter dated 17 March 1993, the Government of Japan specified that any person holding a Québec driver's licence and staying in Japan may obtain a "regular" driver's licence, provided he passes an eye test and pays the fees prescribed by regulation;

WHEREAS under section 91 of the Highway Safety Code (R.S.Q., c. C-24.2), a person holding a valid driver's licence issued outside Canada may, if he settles in Québec, exchange that licence for a driver's licence issued by the Société d'assurance automobile du Québec provided he passes the proficiency examination and pays the duties and fee fixed by regulation;

WHEREAS the Government of Japan would like to see reciprocity applied by the Gouvernement du Québec in respect of Japanese nationals who hold Japanese driver's licences;

WHEREAS it is expedient to allow that the Japanese driver's licences required to drive a passenger vehicle and recognized as valid by the Consulate General or the Embassy of Japan be exchanged for Québec driver's licences for a passenger vehicle (Class 5), on the condition that the licence holder applies therefor within 90 days of his settlement in Québec and that he pays the prescribed duties and the insurance contribution;

WHEREAS under section 629 of the Highway Safety Code, the Minister of Transport may, according to law, enter into an agreement with any government, department, or body respecting any matter referred to in the Code;

WHEREAS under the same section, an agreement may exempt any person from the application of part of the Code and the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec shall be responsible for the implementation of such an agreement;

WHEREAS under section 631 of the Code, the Government may, by regulation, adopt the necessary measures to give effect to an agreement under section 629 of the Code;

WHEREAS the letter of the Government of Japan, dated 17 March 1993, and the reply of the Gouvernement du Québec constitute an international agreement within the meaning of section 19 of the Act respecting the Ministère des Affaires internationales, de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles (R.S.Q., c. M-21.1);

WHEREAS under section 20 of the same Act, international agreements must be approved by the Government and signed by the Minister of International Relations in order to be valid;

WHEREAS under section 22 of that Act, the Government may authorize the Minister to be the sole signatory to an international agreement which the law empowers another person to sign and, in such a case, the signature of the Minister has the same effect as the signature of the empowered person;

IT IS ORDERED, therefore, on the recommendation of the Minister of Transport and of the Minister of International Relations:

THAT the Reciprocal Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the Gouvernement du Québec and the Government of Japan concerning driver's licences, the text of which will substantially comply with the text attached to the Regulation mentioned below, be approved;

THAT the Minister of International Relations be authorized to sign the reply letter of the Government alone;

THAT the Regulation respecting a Reciprocal Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the Gouvernement du Québec and the Government of Japan concerning driver's licences, attached to this Order in Council, be made.

MICHEL CARPENTIER,  
*Clerk of the Conseil exécutif*

---

**Regulation respecting a Reciprocal Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the Gouvernement du Québec and the Government of Japan concerning the exchange of driver's licences**

Highway Safety Code  
(R.S.Q., c. C-24.2, s. 631)

**1.** The application of the Highway Safety Code (R.S.Q., c. C-24.2) to a person holding a driver's licence issued by the Government of Japan is subject to the provisions in the Reciprocal Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the Gouvernement du Québec and the Government of Japan concerning the exchange of driver's licences, the text of which is attached hereto.

**2.** This Regulation comes into force on 1 April 1996.

Gouvernement du Québec

LE MINISTRE DES  
RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

Québec, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1996

Dear Consulate General:

I am honoured to quote the letter of the Consulate General of Japan in Montréal, dated 17 March 1993, pertaining to the obtention of a Québec driver's licence.

The letter of your Consulate General read as follows:

“Dear Deputy Minister:

Because of the considerable number of Japanese staying in Québec, we have looked into the difficulty for them to obtain a Québec driver's licence.

As you may well know, any person holding a Québec driver's licence and staying in Japan may obtain a “regular” Japanese driver's licence, provided that he passes an eye test and pays the fees prescribed by regulation.

We would like to see reciprocity applied by the Gouvernement du Québec in respect of Japanese nationals holding Japanese driver's licences. Presently, a Japanese residing in Québec must pass a written examination, a road test and an eye test in order to obtain a Québec driver's licence.

That situation causes a lot of inconvenience to Japanese residing here with their family, whose adaptation to Québec should be made as easy as possible.

The Consulate General of Japan in Montréal would be very grateful if the Gouvernement du Québec took the measures required to simplify the procedures for obtaining a driver's licence.

Mr. Blouin, I would be extremely grateful if you would take action with the competent authorities of the Gouvernement du Québec.

Yours truly,

SHUNICHI SATOH  
*Consulate General of Japan*”

I am also honoured to provide you with the following answers to the requests made in the said letter.

The Ministère des Relations internationales has taken note of the fact that any person holding a Québec driver's licence and staying in Japan may obtain a Japanese driver's licence, provided he passes an eye test and pays the fees prescribed by regulation.

The Gouvernement du Québec accepts that reciprocity be applied in respect of Japanese nationals holding Japanese driver's licences and residing in Québec, in accordance with the following terms and conditions.

The Japanese driver's licences recognized as valid by the Consulate General or the Embassy of Japan and authorizing to drive a passenger vehicle will be considered valid in Québec and it will be possible to exchange them for a Québec driver's licence for passenger vehicles (Class 5) without undergoing a road test or a theoretical examination, provided that the person applies therefor within 90 days of his settlement in Québec and that he pays the prescribed duties and insurance premium.

In the case of an international driver's licence issued in Japan, non-resident Japanese nationals who hold one may drive in Québec road vehicles in the category for which such permit was issued, for the period of validity of the permit.

The terms and conditions for exchanging a Japanese driver's licence for a Québec driver's licence will come into force on 1 April 1996.

Yours sincerely,

SYLVAIN SIMARD,  
*Minister*

Mr. Yuji Kurokawa, Consulate General  
Consulate General of Japan  
600, rue de la Gauchetière Ouest  
Bureau 2120  
Montréal (Québec)  
H3B 4L8