



# Driving licences in Norway

Do you have a driving licence from your home country? As an EU/EEA citizen, you can use this driving licence. You can also choose to exchange your driving licence for a Norwegian driving licence. If you are from a country outside the EU or the EEA, you can use your driving licence in Norway for three months. You cannot exchange this driving licence for a Norwegian driving licence – you must follow the applicable rules in Norway for the country you received your driving licence from.

[www.vegvesen.no/forerkort/har-forerkort/forerkort-i-og-utenfor-norge](http://www.vegvesen.no/forerkort/har-forerkort/forerkort-i-og-utenfor-norge)

## Do you have driving licence from a EU/EEA country?

If you are from an EU/EEA country, you can use your driving licence in Norway as long as it is valid in your home country. For lighter classes of vehicles (passenger cars, motorcycles, etc.), this is usually 15 years. If you wish, you can exchange your driving licence for a Norwegian driving licence. You will then receive a Norwegian driving licence for the same driving classes as the driving licence from your home country.

If you have a driving licence for heavy vehicles (large delivery vans, lorries, buses, heavy goods vehicles, etc.), you can also exchange this for a Norwegian driving licence. Contact a Norwegian Public Roads Administration traffic station for information on what documentation you need and how long your Norwegian driving licence will be valid.

[www.vegvesen.no/forerkort/har-forerkort/forerkort-i-og-utenfor-norge/forerkort-fra-land-innenfor-eu-eos](http://www.vegvesen.no/forerkort/har-forerkort/forerkort-i-og-utenfor-norge/forerkort-fra-land-innenfor-eu-eos)

## Do you have a driving licence from a country outside the EU/EEA?

You can use a driving licence from all countries for up to three months, both for temporary stays and as a permanent resident in Norway. The driving licence must be valid, and you must comply with Norwegian age limits.

For driving licences from some nations, there is an additional requirement to obtain an International Driving licence. If you are in doubt whether your driving licence can be used in Norway without additional documentation, we recommend that you get an international driving licence issued in accordance with the Geneva or Vienna Convention (grey book with white pages) before arriving in Norway.

Driving licences from countries outside the EU/EEA countries cannot be exchanged for a Norwegian driving licence. Check with a traffic station to find out which rules apply for the country where you received your driving licence.

[www.vegvesen.no/forerkort/har-forerkort/forerkort-i-og-utenfor-norge/forerkort-fra-land-utenfor-eu-eos](http://www.vegvesen.no/forerkort/har-forerkort/forerkort-i-og-utenfor-norge/forerkort-fra-land-utenfor-eu-eos)

Information in English: [www.vegvesen.no/en/driving+licences/About+Driving+licences/foreign-driving-licences-in-norway](http://www.vegvesen.no/en/driving+licences/About+Driving+licences/foreign-driving-licences-in-norway)





# Do you want to remodel your car?

It may be tempting to remodel your car to make it a mobile workshop or otherwise suit your needs. You can do that – but be sure to follow the rules so that your car is not dangerous to drive or endanger others in traffic.

When remodelling a vehicle, you change the vehicle's technical specifications, appearance, etc. However, it's no longer the same as it was when it was registered for use in Norway.

## Get advice from us

If you are planning to remodel your vehicle/car, contact one of the National Road Administration's traffic stations. You will get advice there on what you can do and what requirements apply. Remodelling can lead to a change in a car's driving performance. As well, it can become dangerous to drive. There are strict rules for what you can do.

## Remodelling can be:

- changing the engine power (so called "chip tuning" or engine tuning)
- changing the vehicle class, e.g. from a delivery van to a passenger car.
- changing technical specifications, such as axle load, total weight or raising/lowering the suspension. - changing the type of fuel the vehicle uses, for example from petrol to natural gas, diesel or electric
- fitting the car with, for example, work equipment or living facilities. The weight here will determine if the car changes to another tax group.
- using rims or tyres with dimensions outside of the vehicle manufacturer's specifications



You can find a lot of information about a car's specifications from the vehicle registration card or the vehicle's instruction manual.

## Passing inspection

A remodelled vehicle/car must be re-approved at one of the National Road Administration's traffic stations. You can book an appointment for an inspection on the Norwegian Road Administration website.

[www.vegvesen.no/kjoretoy/Eie+og+vedlikeholde/Ombygging/bestill-kjoretoykontroll](http://www.vegvesen.no/kjoretoy/Eie+og+vedlikeholde/Ombygging/bestill-kjoretoykontroll)



# Alcohol and other intoxicating substances

Driving while or after consuming alcohol, strong medication or other intoxicating substances is against the law.

Driving while under the influence poses a high risk to both the driver, passengers, other road users and the environment. Therefore, Norway has strict laws and stiff penalties for this infraction.



## The legal blood alcohol limit is 0.02

Driving a car or other motor vehicle with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.02 % or higher is illegal. If you drink a glass of wine or a bottle of beer (0.33l), you are over the limit. If you have been drinking throughout the evening, you have a high risk of being over the legal limit the following morning.

## Other intoxicating substances:

Driving a car while under the influence of intoxicating substances other than alcohol, for example using stimulants or sedatives, is also against the law. They are:

- medication marked with a red triangle (perhaps something so mundane as cough syrup)
- narcotic substances

## DUI checkpoints:

The police are responsible for checking whether drivers are under the influence. The police will take away your driver's licence if tests show you have a BAC of 0.02 % or more, or if you are under the influence of other intoxicating substances or medication. You will then lose the right to drive a motor vehicle. In addition, you must pay a fine. The fines are substantial for these offences.

Driving under the influence (alcohol or other intoxicating substances) can lead to imprisonment.



# Is your vehicle safe?

In Norway, your car/vehicle must always be in a safe condition and have passed inspection. Your vehicle must have the required equipment for the driving conditions. All vehicles must be inspected periodically (periodic vehicle inspection/EU inspection) by an approved workshop that is certified to perform EU inspections. This inspection must be carried out in Norway.

It is the driver's responsibility that the vehicle meets applicable regulations (passed inspection), is safe to drive and has the necessary equipment.

You must make sure that these items are in working order at all times:

- seats belts for the driver and all passengers, and car seats if you have children in the car
- brakes
- tires
- lights: high beam, low beam, brake lights, indicators, parking lights, fog lights
- windshield (clear visibility), windshield wipers and windshield washer fluid



## Tyres:

- Tyres must have a tread depth of at least 3 mm for winter tyres and 1.6 mm for summer tyres.
- In winter you must use winter tyres. You can use studded tyres in Norway, but in larger cities you may have to pay a studded tyre fee.
- Vehicles over 3,500 kg must have chains available for at least three of the wheels.
- For vehicles over 7,500 kg, separate rules apply.

## Lights:

- The use of headlights is mandatory 24 hours a day while driving in Norway. Make sure that your tail lights light up in the dark.



# Get your car ready for winter

Your car should always be equipped for the driving conditions. Driving in winter in Norway requires more from your car's systems and equipment due to weather and road conditions.

## Winter tyres:

You must always drive with winter tyres that have more than 3 mm tread depth if there is a risk of slippery roads due to the cold and/or snow. Winter tyres are mandatory between November 1st and the Monday after Easter Day, and they must have at least 3mm tread depth. If you keep your tires clean, they will grip the road better.



## Studded tyres:

Driving with studded tyres is allowed in Norway. In some cities, you may have to pay a fee for driving with studded tyres.

## Snow chains:

Cars over 3.5 tonnes must always have snow chains for three of its wheels available in the car.

If you are driving over mountain passes or on other roads where it might be particularly slippery, it is advisable to have snow chains available in smaller cars as well.

For vehicles over 7,500 kg, separate rules apply.

## You must have clear visibility:

All car windows must be free of snow, ice and dirt. You must have clear visibility at all times. Windshield wipers that can adequately clean the windshield are mandatory.

Worn windshield wipers must be replaced.

Windshield wiper fluid is important for keeping your windshields clean.

## Lights:

Your car must have working front lights with both low and high beams. It must also have brake lights, indicators, parking lights and all these lights must be in working order.

All lights must be kept clean so that they be adequately seen.

## Reflective vests:

You must always have a reflective vest readily available in your car. If there is an accident on the roadway and you have to leave your vehicle, you must be wearing a reflective vest. The bonnet and the boot of the car must be free of ice and snow. If you are towing a trailer, the roof of this must also be free of snow and ice. You can be stopped and not allowed to continue if snow or ice on the roof or hood of your car is a risk to yourself or other road users.

## Smart to think about in winter:

Antifreeze: Check the freezing point of your antifreeze.

Battery: Winter can wear on a battery, especially if a car is used mainly for short trips. Be sure to charge your battery regularly – either by driving a longer trip or by using a battery charger.

Trailers must have a red, triangular reflector at the rear.



# Make sure you load a car safely

Loads in a car, on the roof or on a trailer must always be well secured. It must not be possible for the load to shift or fall off while driving. Swinging and braking characteristics of a car may change if the load is displaced while driving. Loads that fall off a car or trailer may damage your car and injure you, but also other road users as well.

## Loads in cars:

- Must be secured so that they do not move to the side during a swing.
- Must not be able to slide forward if you stop suddenly.
- There must be a barrier between the seats and the load in station wagons and delivery vans.
- Loads in station wagons must not be stacked higher than the front seat if the load is not secured with a net or the equivalent.
- Heavy objects must always be placed at the bottom of the cargo compartment.
- You must not have loose items in a car. In a sudden stop, these items can hit the driver or passengers and be experienced as projectiles.



## Loads on the roof:

- Must not fall off and damage other cars, injure other road users or pollute the environment.
- Must always be secured properly.
- Some cars are not allowed loads on the roof. Check the vehicle registration card – where it will state if the car can have a load on the roof, and if so, how much load it can tolerate.
- Loads on a car roof must be properly secured. Lashings must be able to stop the entire weight of the load from going forward and half the weight of the load from going sideways and backwards.

## Loads on trailers:

- Must not fall off and damage other cars, injure other road users or pollute the environment.
- You must cover loads on trailers and have high walls around the load.
- Loads on trailers must be properly secured. Lashings must be able to stop the entire weight of the load from going forward and half the weight of the load from going sideways and backwards.

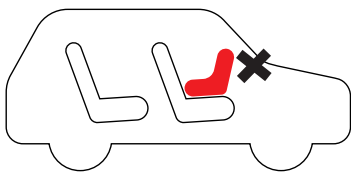


# Children must use the correct child safety equipment in a car

Children must be secured using an approved child car seat until they are at least 135 cm tall or weigh over 36 kilograms. Children must always use child safety equipment approved in Norway suitable for the child's weight.

## How best to secure your child in a car:

- Children should sit in a rear-facing car seat until they are at least 4 years old.
- If a child uses a forward-facing car seat (secured using the car's seat belt) or booster seat, the belt must lay over the shoulder and hips (not behind the back or under the arm and not over the stomach). Remember to tighten seat belts securely.
- Always follow the instruction manual and make sure the car seat is properly installed.
- Children under 140 cm must not sit in the front seat if the car has an airbag. A child may sit in the front seat if the airbag is disabled.
- It is a good idea take the your child with you when buying a car seat. You will then find the correct car seat for your child and the car, and you can get help installing the seat correctly.



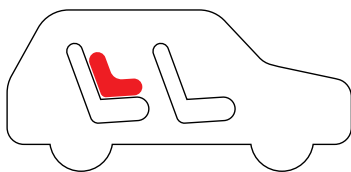
### Babies:

Babies should sit in a rear-facing baby car seat, which is properly secured in the car. The seat is secured using the car's seat belts. Babies should not be placed in a bassinet secured with netting. This poses a high risk of serious or fatal injury during a collision.



### Toddlers:

Toddlers, up to at least the age of four, are best secured in a rear-facing car seat (with the child's back towards the direction of travel). Children weighing more than 9 kg and able to sit on their own can use a car seat. These are available for both rearward and forward facing installation. There are also seats that can be installed both ways.



### Larger children:

Larger children should use a forward-facing car seat or booster seat until they are at least 135 cm tall. When a child grows out of a forward-facing car seat, a booster seat should be used until the child is over 150 cm tall or weighs over 36 kg. Children sitting in a forward-facing car seat or booster seat must be secured using the vehicle's three-point seat belt.

It is a good idea to take breaks when driving long trips with children in the car. Your child will then have more freedom of movement for a time. Toddlers and babies who seem comfortable or sleep can manage driving for a few hours. Your child's back will not be harmed by this. When your child grows older and can sit upright, you should take regular breaks.

You can read more about how child car safety here. The information is available in several languages: [www.vegvesen.no/\\_attachment/58689/binary/480417?fast\\_title=Brosjyre+-+sikring+av+barn+i+bil+.pdf](http://www.vegvesen.no/_attachment/58689/binary/480417?fast_title=Brosjyre+-+sikring+av+barn+i+bil+.pdf)



## Mobile phone use, etc.:

Typing and browsing on a mobile phone or similar device while driving a vehicle is prohibited by law, even if the device is in a holder. You can start and end a call if you have the mobile phone in a mounted holder or control it using a hands-free solution.

Holding and operating a mobile phone while operating a motor vehicle is against the law.

You must be aware of traffic at all times. You may be penalized pursuant to the Road Traffic Act § 3 for using a phone, GPS device, tablet or other device or are otherwise inattentive while operating a motor vehicle.

### **Be attentive while driving:**

Suffering from tiredness, exhaustion or an illness while driving a car may lead to the same outcome as drinking alcohol. As a driver, you are responsible for your physical and mental ability (fitness) to drive a car. Therefore, make sure you are well rested before you get behind the wheel.

Stop and sleep if you become tired.

Switch drivers if there are others in the car with a driving licence.







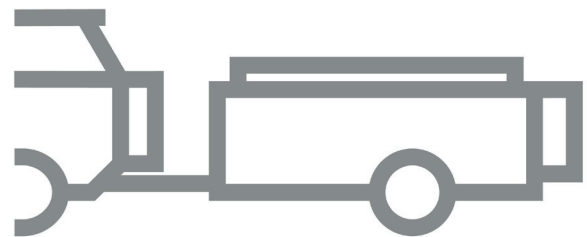
# Trailers

The highest permitted speed for a trailer with brakes, or a trailer without brakes with a total weight of less than 350 kg, is 80 km/h – regardless of the road speed limit.

The highest permitted speed for a trailer without brakes and a total weight greater than 350 kg is 60 km/h – regardless of the road speed limit.

You can drive with a trailer on a class B driving licence when the total weight for the car and trailer is less than 3,500 kg.

If the total weight for the car and trailer is over 3,500 kg (but less than 7,500 kg), a class BE driving licence is required. For heavier total weight, a heavy vehicle driving licence is required.





# Use a seat belt!

In Norway, all drivers and passengers in car and buses\* must use an approved seat belt. Seat belts are your primary defence against injury and death in moving vehicles.

Belts should be tightly stretched across the body and over the shoulder and hips (not over the stomach).

Tighten the seat belt after fastening the buckle.

You should not be wearing thick clothing, for example a winter jacket, under the seat belt.

The seat belt keeps you in your seat and protects you against injury and/or death in a collision.

Using a seat belt reduces the likelihood of being killed by 40-50% for the driver and front-seat passenger.

You are a risk to others if an accident occurs and you are not wearing a seat belt.

Rear-seat passengers not restrained by seat belts can injure the driver and the passenger in front of them.

You can receive a of NOK 1500 fine for not using a seat belt while riding in a car or bus.

## Seat belts facts:

- About four out of ten people killed in car accidents were not wearing a seat belt.
- If everyone used a seat belt in cars and buses, there would be 30-40 % fewer traffic fatalities each year.
- Crashing at 50 km/h without a seat belt corresponds to a drop from 10 metres.
- Crashing at 70 km/h without a seat belt corresponds to a drop from 19 metres.
- Crashing at 90 km/h without a seat belt corresponds to a drop from 32 metres.

\* In buses where seat belts are available

