

Process for getting a drivers license for newcomers from Syria

1. People coming without a Syrian license

If they do not have their Syrian license with them and cannot get it they will need to begin the process from scratch doing the G1 written test and vision test and spend a year with a G licensed driver in the front seat with him/her for a year. He/she then takes the G2 road test. If this is passed they can drive without the G licensed passenger next to them. There is a year wait as a G2 driver prior to doing the G test. During this time they cannot drive on 400 highways

2. People coming to Canada with their Syrian license

These folks have an advantage because they get some recognition for their driving experience. First they must get the license translated by an official Ministry of Transportation translator. The following translator did a good job and was prompt. A scanned copy of the license can be emailed to him. The official translated version as well as a certificate identifying the translator as a ministry approved needs to be mailed back. The license must show the date of issue and the date of expiry.

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Other translators can be found via:

<http://www.atio.on.ca/>

Having the translated license and the ability of proving one year of driving is an advantage as the individual does not need to go through one year of accompanied driving. They do need to do the G1 written and road test. The written test is multiple choice and there is now an arabic version but does not match the Arabic dialect of all Arabic speakers so check ahead. The individual can have a translator with them to write the test but the translator must be ministry recognized. There is an Arabic version sample test that can be accessed on line.

G1 sample written test- Arabic version

<http://www.apnatoronto.com/ontario-g1-test-arabic/>

Ontario does not have an Arabic version of the Drivers handbook. PEI does and most of it is comparable to the Ontario one.

PEI Driver handbook- Arabic version

<http://www.peienc.com/sitefiles/File/booklets/Drivers-Handbook/DriversHandbook-AR-29-06-2009.pdf>

Once the written test is passed they can practice driving accompanied by a G licensed driver. The individual cannot have a translator along for the road test so it is important that they know the meaning of all road signs and signals as well as understand verbal prompts like turn right, turn left, stop, turn here, park, parallel park etc. They can do the road test as soon as they feel ready.

Once the road test is passed, they can drive anywhere with anyone except on 400 highways. They must wait for a year prior to taking the G driving test which gives them unrestricted driving privileges.