

New high-security design for the Swiss driver's license

In Switzerland, around 6.4 million citizens hold a driver's license and about 600,000 driver's licenses in credit card format (CCF) are produced every year. As of April 15, 2023, anyone who orders a driver's license from the driver and vehicle licensing offices in their canton of residence, will receive the latest generation of driver's licenses in credit card format in the post a few days later. The data on the new CCF remains unchanged. However, the new design complies with the highest international and European standards for identity card security.

The most striking security features of the new driver's license:

- The material of the new driver's license is polycarbonate (like the identity card). The personalized data is applied to the card by means of a laser engraving process.
- When you run your fingers over the license, you can feel how some security elements stand out from the smooth surface.
- Depending on the viewing angle, a tilt image on the front of the license shows either the issuing authority or the ID card holder's date of birth.
- The back of the driver's license shows a different color gradient of the crosses depending on the viewing angle. There is a QR code lasered onto the back of the license, which can be read with a smartphone. It contains certain personal data that can also be seen on the front of the card.



Specimen of the new driver's license from 15.04.2023 (front and back). © by the asa.

Since January 2023, all driver's licenses have been produced in a central printing center using state-of-the-art technology. Prior to this, more than 50 printing stations in the cantonal driver and vehicle licensing offices were used for this purpose. The new, centralized production process also helps to increase security.

What will happen to the existing driver's licenses?

The previous credit card format (CCF) driver's license has been in use for 20 years and continues to be valid without restriction. As was previously required, if new or additional data (e.g., eyesight restrictions or a newly acquired category) are entered on the CCF, a new driver's license must be issued. As of April 15, 2023, anyone who voluntarily wants a new driver's license can have their old license exchanged at the driver and vehicle licensing offices in their canton of residence. The fees for the new driver's license are regulated by the canton but will not be changed because of the new license.

Anyone who still has a blue, paper driver's license will soon have to have it replaced with the new CCF license. From 2024, the blue driver's license will no longer be valid. The Federal Roads Office FEDRO and the cantonal driver and vehicle licensing offices will provide information about replacing licenses and deadlines in the coming weeks.

Additional information:

The website www.fuehrerausweise.ch shows some of the security features of the new CCF in an explanatory video. Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) can also be found there. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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