

## Transcript - How to Get a Valid International Driving Permit Podcast

This is Carol Kando-Pineda. I'm an attorney at the Federal Trade Commission, the nation's consumer protection agency. One focus of my work is outreach to the military community, giving you tips and tools to avoid scams, watch your wallet, and protect yourself in the marketplace.

Well, this summer you may be visiting overseas. Nice vacation, little trip, and maybe you want to drive while you're there. It's a good idea to get an international driving permit to accompany your own U.S. state-issued driver's license. The most important thing to know about this is the IDP has to come from one of these two organizations: Either the American Automobile Association (AAA), or the American Automobile Touring Alliance (AATA). If you get an IDP that's sold to you or issued by any other organization, it's bogus and it could cause problems with local authorities when you're traveling overseas and if you are caught driving with one.

An IDP basically is just an official document that translates your official U.S. license into 10 foreign languages. The foreign countries don't recognize U.S. drivers' licenses, they will accept the IDP that's been issued on behalf of a U.S. driver so it makes it okay for you to drive there. It's not valid unless you present it with a valid, state-issued U.S. license.

What it looks like is, the official IDP is gray, multi-page booklet with "United States of America" printed at the top, and then it's got the seal of either the Triple A or AATA in the middle of the cover.

If somebody tries to sell you something that looks similar to this but you're not dealing with the Triple A or the AATA, be very, very careful. You want to know that you've got the official one that's issued from a sanctioned organization.

Both of these groups, Triple A and AATA, charge less than \$20 for an IDP. So, if you're asked to pay more, that's a big tip-off to a rip-off.

Now, to get an IDP, you need to be at least 18 years old and have a valid driver's license issued by a U.S. state or territory. And then you can buy the official IDP to go with your license.

So, if you want more information about that, contact your local Triple A office or the AATA. Triple A is usually in the white pages of your local telephone directory or visit [www.aaa.com](http://www.aaa.com).

To get in touch with the Automobile Alliance, call 1-650-294-7000, or visit [www.nationalautoclub.com](http://www.nationalautoclub.com).

So, if you think you've been ripped off by one of these travel scams, you can always file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint). And always, you can go to Military OneSource for help. This free 24-hour service is available to all active duty, Guard, and Reserve members (regardless of activation status) and their families. Consultants provide information and make referrals on a wide range of issues. Call 1-800-342-9647 or go to [www.MilitaryOneSource.com](http://www.MilitaryOneSource.com) to learn more.