



CITIZENS' RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

A monthly update for UK nationals resident in Belgium
under the Withdrawal Agreement

In this month's edition, we are looking at **driving licences** and **pet travel**.

[You can find previous editions here.](#)

◆ NEWS UPDATE ◆

M CARD APPLICATION PROCESS

In our recent meeting with the Office for Foreigners, we **shared your experiences** of the new M card residency application process. They will be getting in touch with individual Communes/Gemeenten on the basis of your feedback!

NATIONALITY

The Embassy has had assurances from the Belgian Justice Minister Vincent van Quickenborne that British nationals under the protection of the Withdrawal Agreement will be afforded the same status as other resident foreign nationals with regard to access to Belgian nationality.

You should not delay your M card application. We expect the M card to be swiftly integrated into the list of residence documents in the relevant decree so that it can be considered as proof of legal residency in the framework of applications for Belgian nationality.

Our understanding from discussions with the Office for Foreigners is that, for the purposes of applying for nationality, you continue to accumulate time spent in Belgium with your new M card so you do **not** lose any time accrued on your previous residency card (E/E+/F/F+).

Driving licences for UK nationals resident in Belgium

If you have been resident in Belgium for longer than 185 days and still have a UK driving licence, **you must exchange it for a Belgian driving licence.**

You can exchange it at your local Commune/Gemeente.

You do **not** need to re-sit your theoretical or practical tests. [More details can be found on the Belgian Mobility Ministry's website here.](#)

You can use your Belgian driving licence in the UK for short visits, or exchange it for a UK licence without taking a test if you return to live there permanently.

Do I need additional documentation to drive around the EU?

If you have a Belgian driving licence

You do not need additional documentation, such as an International Driving Permit, to drive when visiting other EU countries.

If you still have a UK driving licence because you've been resident in Belgium for less than 185 days

This will depend where you are going. Always check official guidance of the EU country where you are visiting on whether any additional documentation is required. [You can also check the country page on our FCDO Travel Advice under "Road Travel".](#)

Driving licences for UK visitors to Belgium

Visitors from the UK are able to drive in Belgium with a UK driving licence if they are here for a temporary stay, such as a holiday or a business trip. They do not need additional documentation such as an International Driving Permit.

When driving in Belgium, make sure to carry:

- your valid driving licence
- your car papers
- your insurance papers
- your MOT or "contrôle technique" certificate
- your passport/ID and those of your passengers

[You can find more details on our FCDO Belgium Travel Advice.](#)

Pet travel from Great Britain to the EU

A pet passport issued by Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) is **no longer valid** for travel to the EU or Northern Ireland.

When travelling to an EU country or Northern Ireland from Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), your pet now needs:

- a [microchip](#)
- a valid [rabies vaccination](#)
- an [animal health certificate](#)
- [tapeworm treatment for dogs](#) if you're travelling directly to Finland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Norway or Malta

These requirements also apply to assistance dogs.

Check the rules of the country you're travelling to for any additional restrictions or requirements before you travel. [You can find additional guidance on international pet travel from the UK here.](#)

Pet travel within the EU or from the EU to Great Britain

For pet travel within the EU, if your pet has an EU-issued pet passport, existing rules continue to apply. [More details on the European Commission website here.](#)

Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) accepts pet passports issued by an EU Member State. For travel to Great Britain, your pet will also need to:

- have been [microchipped](#)
- have been [vaccinated against rabies](#)
- arrive in Great Britain within 5 days of your arrival

[You can find more details on bringing your pet to Great Britain here.](#)

If your pet has a GB-issued pet passport, and you are resident in Belgium, you will need to follow the rules in the section above ("Pet travel from Great Britain to the EU").

May Facebook Q&A - we only received two questions!

The process of **moving** to a new Commune/Gemeente should not change because you have an M card. Check which formalities you need to complete with your new Commune/Gemeente before you move!

[Click here to see all the questions received at this month's Facebook Q&A](#)
(no Facebook account needed).

Upcoming Embassy Events

2 June from 18:00 to 20:00

Q&A Session on [British Embassy Brussels Facebook Page](#)

Week 14 June, date TBC from 18:00 to 19:30

Online Outreach Event on Microsoft Teams

We will share a link to register for the event via email and on our social media channels.

Week 24 June, date TBC

We will launch a new **survey** for you to share your M card experiences. We will include the link in our next newsletter and on our social media channels.

Tell a Friend

If you know any UK nationals living in Belgium who would benefit from receiving these newsletters, please do not hesitate to spread the word! They can sign up to receive the newsletter by [sending a blank email using this link.](#)

Stay in Touch



Find the latest information on our [Living in Belgium guide](#)

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If you have any questions not answered by the online information, you can send us your queries via our [webform](#).

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