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Invalidation of driving licence (withdrawal of all points)

Verified 16 mai 2022 - Legal and Administrative Information Directorate (Prime Minister)

The removing all points driver's licence (balance at zero) triggered invalidation your permit? This means you have driving prohibition. We inform you procedures for obtaining a new licence .

👉 **FYI** : the **withdrawal of driving licence** is triggered offences serious. **Three procedures** result **withdrawal of licence** : invalidation, suspension, **administrative** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F14836?lang=en>) or **judicial** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F21761?lang=en>), **judicial annulment** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F21774?lang=en>). However, while the suspension results in **interim withdrawal** of the permit **reissue permit** (code and conduct or only code) following an invalidation or cancellation.

You've had a licence for less than 3 years

Step-by-step approach

1.

Return your driver's licence

You receive a recommended letter with **AR ()** (*letter 48S*).

This letter informs you that **your points balance is zero** and **your driver's licence has lost its validity** .

You **driving prohibition**.

You **render** your licence invalidated to your prefecture in **10 days** upon receipt of the letter.

Contact your prefecture to find out how your licence is being returned.

General case

Who shall I contact

Specify your city or postcode The choice of a municipality in the suggestion list will automatically trigger an update of the content

▸ **Prefecture** [↗ \(http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Le-ministere/Prefectures\)](http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Le-ministere/Prefectures)

In Paris

Who shall I contact

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▸ **Paris Police Prefecture - Office of Driving Licences** [↗ \(https://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/poi/bureau-des-permis-de-conduire\)](https://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/poi/bureau-des-permis-de-conduire)

If you refuse to surrender your licence or **if you are driving while your licence is invalidated** , you risk 2 years imprisonment and €4,500 fine.

You may also additional penalties following:

- Suspension of the licence for a period of up to 3 years (possible accommodation outside the professional activity)
- Penalty work of general interest (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1407?lang=en>)
- Penalty fine days
- Prohibition on driving certain vehicles, including vehicles without a licence, for a period not exceeding 5 years
- Obligation to perform, at your own expense, a road safety awareness training (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F14208?lang=en>)
- Confiscation of your vehicle (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F21887?lang=en>)
- Obligation to driving with an anti-start ethylotest (EAD) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2671?lang=en>) for up to 5 years.

✓ How do I challenge the invalidation of the licence?

Recommended letter (*lettre 485*) tells you how to appeal.

You can administrative appeal (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2474?lang=en>) the Ministry of the Interior and/or appeal to the administrative judge (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2026?lang=en>).

Recourse to the Ministry of the Interior can be made online or by mail.

Online

 Make an online appeal regarding the driving licence

Ministry of the Interior

Accessible without the need to create an account.

Go to
online service 
(<https://recours.permisdeconduire.gouv.fr/>)

By mail

Who shall I contact

- Ministry of the Interior - National Office of Driving Rights

By mail

Ministry of the Interior
National Office of Driving Rights
Beauvau Square
75800 Paris Cedex 08

2.

Inform your car insurance

You inform your insurance when driving licences are withdrawn (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F17611?lang=en>).

You must inform him by registered letter with AR () within **15 days** from notification withdrawal of driving licences.

3.

Meet driving ban

Invalidation result **driving prohibition** a vehicle whose driving requires a licence.

You have to wait **6 months** to reissue the permit, or **1 Year** if you have already lost your zero balance licence in the last 5 years.

6 months or 1 year start **from the date of delivery of your licence to the prefect** .

4.

Take a psychotechnical test

To be able to continue at the end of the driving prohibition period, you must pass a **psychotechnical examination**.

You can take the test without waiting for the end of the driving prohibition period.

You **make an appointment to psychologist reported to the prefect.**

The examination lasts **minimum 40 minutes.**

It includes **individual maintenance** and one or more **psychotechnical tests.**

The average cost of the psychotechnical examination is €100 about.

The list of registered psychologists is available on prefectural websites.

General case

Who shall I contact

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In Paris

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Please note : check the notification invalidation if you need to pass medical exams.

5.

Take a medical check

To be able to continue at the end of the driving prohibition period, you must pass a **medical visit** called **medical check.**

You can pass the medical without waiting for the end of the driving prohibition period.

1. Make an appointment

Répondez aux questions successives et les réponses s'afficheront automatiquement

If you have committed an alcohol or narcotics offence

You must make an appointment with the medical board on the website of your prefecture.

It can also be the commission of the department where you committed the offence, by the prefect's decision.

Who shall I contact

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- [Subprefecture](http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Le-ministere/Prefectures)  (<http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Le-ministere/Prefectures>)
- [Paris Police Prefecture - Office of Driving Licences](https://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/poi/bureau-des-permis-de-conduire)  (<https://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/poi/bureau-des-permis-de-conduire>)

Other offence

You must contact a city doctor approved by the prefect of your department.

This doctor should not be your attending physician.

You can consult the list of accredited doctors on the websites of the prefectures.

The list of accredited doctors is also available in prefectures, sub-prefectures and in the town halls of certain communes.

► **FYI** : you can take the medical check with a licenced physician in a department other than your home. In this case, it is prudent to include in your file an explanation of the use of a doctor other than that of your department of residence.

2. Prepare documents to be provided

Prepare the following documents for the medical check-up:

- [Cerfa form 14880 \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R14006?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R14006?lang=en), pre-filled
- ID
- Licence invalidation decision and letter of notification decision
- Medical examination results if requested in the notification letter
- Outcome of the psychotechnical examination

3. Pass the medical examination

The medical check is on your **fitness cognitive and sensory driving**.

You must present yourself with **results of medical examinations requested** in notification invalidation.

Of **additional reviews** and **advice from qualified health professionals** can be requested.

A licenced physician may also request that you **reviewed by the departmental medical commission** .

You must then make an appointment at your prefecture's website.

Who shall I contact

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- [Prefecture](http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Le-ministere/Prefectures)  (<http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Le-ministere/Prefectures>)

General case

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4. Pay for medical examination

The price of a medical visit is:

- Before a licenced physician: €36
- Before the medical committee: €50

Health insurance does not cover the cost of the check or any additional tests.

However, medical check-ups are free of charge for a disabled person with a recognised disability rate of 50% or more.

5. Receive the result of the check

If the opinion is favourable

The medical opinion is given to you.

The medical opinion has a validity of **2 years**.

This document should be attached to your application for the driving licence examination.

If the opinion is unfavourable

A decision of unfitness for driving is yours notified.

The letter specifies the remedies and time limits for appeal.

6.

Ironing the driving licence

If you have your licence **less than 3 years**, you **ironing code and conduct** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N530?lang=en>).

You can take the tests during the driving ban.

If you had more than one category of licence, you must repeat the practical tests for each category.

The date chosen to calculate the 3-year period is the date of obtaining the 1^{re} category.

👉 **FYI** : if you pass the licence, you get a **trial permit** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2390?lang=en>). You then have 6 points for a period of 3 years *probative*.

7.

Appeal against unfavourable decision

The letter notifying the decision of the prefect following the medical check indicates how to appeal.

You can **appeal to the administrative judge** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2026?lang=en>).

You can also refer the matter to the Medical Appeals Board.

Your appeal does not prevent the Prefect's decision from applying.

The committee shall examine you, consult the authorised doctor if necessary and forward its opinion to the Prefect.

If the Prefect makes a negative decision again, you can request a new medical check within 6 months of this decision or make a **appeal to administrative judge** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2026?lang=en>).

General case

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You have been licenced for 3 years or more

Step-by-step approach

1.

Return your driver's licence

You receive a recommended letter with [AR \(\)](#) (*letter 48S*).

This letter informs you that **your points balance is zero** and **your driver's licence has lost its validity** .

You're not allowed to drive anymore.

You **render** your licence invalidated to your prefecture in **10 days** upon receipt of the letter.

Contact your prefecture to find out how your licence is being returned.

General case

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If you refuse to surrender your licence or **if you are driving while your licence is invalidated** , you risk 2 years imprisonment and €4,500 fine.

You may also additional penalties following:

- ▶ Suspension of the licence for a period of up to 3 years (possible accommodation outside the professional activity)
- ▶ Penalty **work of general interest** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1407?lang=en>)
- ▶ Penalty fine days
- ▶ Prohibition on driving certain vehicles, including vehicles without a licence, for a period not exceeding 5 years
- ▶ Obligation to perform, at your own expense, a **road safety awareness training** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F14208?lang=en>)
- ▶ **Confiscation of your vehicle** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F21887?lang=en>)
- ▶ Obligation to **driving with an anti-start ethylotest (EAD)** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2671?lang=en>) for up to 5 years.

✓ How do I challenge the invalidation of the licence?

Recommended letter (*letter 48S*) tells you how to appeal.

You can **administrative appeal** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2474?lang=en>) the Ministry of the Interior and/or **appeal to the administrative judge** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2026?lang=en>).

Recourse to the Ministry of the Interior can be made online or by mail.

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 Make an online appeal regarding the driving licence

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By mail

Who shall I contact

- Ministry of the Interior - National Office of Driving Rights

By mail

Ministry of the Interior

National Office of Driving Rights

Beauvau Square

75800 Paris Cedex 08

2.

Inform your car insurance

You inform your insurance when driving licences are withdrawn (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F17611?lang=en>).

You must inform him by registered letter with AR () within **15 days** from notification withdrawal of driving licences.

3.

Meet driving ban

Invalidation result **driving prohibition** a vehicle whose driving requires a licence.

You have to wait **6 months** to reissue the permit, or **1 Year** if you have already lost your zero balance licence in the last 5 years.

6 months or 1 year start **from the date of delivery of your licence to the prefect** .

4.

Take a psychotechnical test

If you wish to drive at the end of the driving prohibition period, you must pass a **psychotechnical examination**.

You can take the test without waiting for the end of the driving prohibition period.

You **make an appointment to psychologist reported to the prefect** .

The examination lasts **minimum 40 minutes** .

It includes **individual maintenance** and one or more **psychotechnical tests** .

The average cost of the psychotechnical examination is €100 about.

The list of registered psychologists is available on prefectural websites.

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 **Please note** : check the invalidation notification letter for additional medical examinations.

5.

Take a medical check

If you wish to drive at the end of the driving prohibition period, you must pass a **medical visit** called **medical check**.

You can pass the medical without waiting for the end of the driving prohibition period.

1. Make an appointment

Répondez aux questions successives et les réponses s'afficheront automatiquement

If you have committed an alcohol or narcotics offence

You must make an appointment with the medical board on the website of your prefecture.

It can also be the commission of the department where you committed the offence, by the prefect's decision.

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- [Subprefecture](http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Le-ministere/Prefectures)  (<http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Le-ministere/Prefectures>)
- [Paris Police Prefecture - Office of Driving Licences](https://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/poi/bureau-des-permis-de-conduire)  (<https://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/poi/bureau-des-permis-de-conduire>)

Other offence

You must contact a city doctor approved by the prefect of your department.

This doctor should not be your attending physician.

You can consult the list of accredited doctors on the websites of the prefectures.

The list of accredited doctors is also available in prefectures, sub-prefectures and in the town halls of certain communes.

 **FYI** : you can take the medical check with a licenced physician in a department other than your home. In this case, it is prudent to include in your file an explanation of the use of a doctor other than that of your department of residence.

2. Prepare documents to provide

On the day of the check, prepare the following documents:

- [Cerfa form 14880](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R14006?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R14006?lang=en>), pre-filled
- ID
- Licence invalidation decision and letter of notification decision

- Results of biological examinations if requested in the notification letter
- Outcome of the psychotechnical examination

3. Pass the medical examination

The medical check is on your **fitness cognitive and sensory driving**.

You must present yourself with **results of medical examinations requested** in notification invalidation.

Of **additional reviews** and **advice from qualified health professionals** can be requested.

A licenced physician may also request that you **reviewed by the departmental medical commission** .

You must then make an appointment at your prefecture's website.

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- [Prefecture](http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Le-ministere/Prefectures)  (<http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Le-ministere/Prefectures>)

4. Pay for medical examination

The price of a medical visit is:

- Before a licenced physician: €36
- Before the medical committee: €50

Health insurance does not cover the cost of the check or any additional tests.

However, medical check-ups are free of charge for a disabled person with a recognised disability rate of 50% or more.

5. Receive the result of the check

If the opinion is favourable

The medical opinion is given to you.

The medical opinion has a validity of **2 years**.

This document should be attached to your application for the driving licence examination.

If the opinion is unfavourable

A decision of unfitness for driving is yours notified.

The letter specifies the remedies and time limits for appeal.

6.

Retry Code

If you got your licence **for 3 years or more** only [theoretical test \(code\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F33694?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F33694?lang=en>) provided that **2** following:

- Duration invalidation of your licence **less than 1 year**.
In general, the invalidation time is **6 months**.
- You sign up for the code test **9 months** upon delivery of your licence to the prefecture.

You can take the test during the driving prohibition period.

👉 **FYI** : if you pass the code, you get a [trial permit](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2390?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2390?lang=en>) : you have 6 points during a 3-year probationary period. You get back the licence categories you had before invalidation. However, if you had the A permit, you only get the A2 permit.

7.

Appeal against unfavourable decision

The letter notifier the decision of the prefect following the medical check indicates how to appeal.

You can [appeal to the administrative judge](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2026?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2026?lang=en>).

You can also refer the matter to the Medical Appeals Board.

Your appeal does not prevent the Prefect's decision from applying.

The committee shall examine you, consult the authorised doctor if necessary and forward its opinion to the Prefect.

If the Prefect makes a negative decision again, you can request a new medical check within 6 months of this decision or make a [appeal to administrative judge \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2026?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2026?lang=en).

General case

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Statute and miscellaneous references

- [Route Code: Articles L223-1 to L223-9](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006074228/LEGISCTA000006159515) [↗](#) (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006074228/LEGISCTA000006159515)
Licence invalidation (section L223-5)
- [Route Code: items R221-4 to R221-8](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006074228/LEGISCTA0000032465124) [↗](#) (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006074228/LEGISCTA0000032465124)
Issuance of driving licence
- [Route Code: items R221-9 to R221-13](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006074228/LEGISCTA0000032465126) [↗](#) (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006074228/LEGISCTA0000032465126)
Medical Examination of Fitness to Drive (R211-13)
- [Route Code: items R223-1 to R223-4-1](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006074228/LEGISCTA000006177146) [↗](#) (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006074228/LEGISCTA000006177146)
Notification of the invalidation of the permit (Article R223-3)
- [Route Code: items R224-20 to R224-24](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006074228/LEGISCTA000006177149) [↗](#) (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006074228/LEGISCTA000006177149)
Licence invalidation: conditions for obtaining a new permit (sections R224-20 and R224-21)
- [Route Code: items R226-1 to R226-4](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006074228/LEGISCTA0000026203154) [↗](#) (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006074228/LEGISCTA0000026203154)
Organisation of the medical check of driving ability
- [Order of 26 August 2016 concerning the psychotechnical examination provided for in the context of the medical examination of fitness for driving](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000033096953/) [↗](#)
(<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000033096953/>)
- [Order of 1 February 2016 fixing the amount of the fees of doctors accredited for the medical check on driving ability](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000032079373&dateTexte=&categorieLien=id) [↗](#)
(<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000032079373&dateTexte=&categorieLien=id>)
- [Order of 31 July 2012 concerning the organisation of the medical check on fitness for driving](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000026310765/) [↗](#)
(<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000026310765/>)
- [Order of 20 April 2012 fixing the conditions of establishment, issue and validity of the driving licence](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000025803494/) [↗](#)
(<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000025803494/>)
Driver's licence examination certificate (Section 4)
- [Circular of 25 July 2013 on the organisation of the medical check on the driving ability of drivers and applicants for a driving licence](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/download/pdf/circ?id=37350) [↗](#)
(<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/download/pdf/circ?id=37350>)
- [Circular of 3 August 2012 on the organisation of the medical check on drivers' driving ability](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/download/pdf/circ?id=35829) [↗](#) (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/download/pdf/circ?id=35829>)
- [Circular of 11 March 2004 on the general rules governing point driving licences and probationary licences \(PDF - 156.8 KB\)](http://circulaire.legifrance.gouv.fr/pdf/2013/05/cir_36943.pdf) [↗](#)
(http://circulaire.legifrance.gouv.fr/pdf/2013/05/cir_36943.pdf)

Online services and forms

- [Driver's Licence - Medical](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R14006?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R14006?lang=en>)
Form
- [Online application for a driving licence upon expiry](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R49276?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R49276?lang=en>)
Online service

