

AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OFFICE OF MOTOR VEHICLE  
DRIVER EDUCATION



## INTRODUCTION

**Driving a motor vehicle is an important responsibility a privilege not a right. A privilege granted only to people who accept their responsibility as drivers by:**

- Learning and obeying the traffic laws and rules
- Showing good driving skills and habits
- Staying physically and mentally alert while driving

### **To obtain your American Samoa Driver's License**

- Submit a completed application
- Pass a written test
- Pass a driving test
- After passing the written and road test you will submit your application and proper documents and pay your fee to obtain your American Samoa Driver's License or Learner's Permit.
- *When renewing your driver's license, you must get a clearance from the American Samoa District Court.*
- If you **fail** any of the tests you may re-take only the test that you failed after a few days of studying or practicing.

### **Who must have a American Samoa Driver's License**

- When operating a motor vehicle on any public roadway in American Samoa the operator **must always have possession** of a valid Driver's License, Limited Term Driver's License, or Learner's Permit (Driving Privilege Card).

- Any person who operates a motor vehicle on the public roads of American Samoa
- Operators of Taxis, large trucks and equipment, and Aiga Buses must have special endorsements including their American Samoa Driver's License.

### **Who does not need a American Samoa Driver's License**

- Non-residence on active duty in the armed forces and their dependents with a valid off-island driver's license
- Visitors to American Samoa with a valid driver's license but for a period not more than 30 days

### **LICENSE CLASSIFICATION**

- **Limited Term Driver's License** – A Probational Driver's License (2 years) Driver's issued ASG Immigration Identification Cards has to complete the two-year validation but needs to re-new when their Immigration ID Card expires.
- **Private** – Driver's License (5 years for U.S. Citizens and U.S. Nationals), Driver's holding a ASG Immigration ID are required to renew when their Immigration ID is renewed.
- **Learner's Permit** – Driving privilege card. Renewed every 6 months until the age of 18

### **DRIVER LICENSE ENDORSEMENTS**

- **Class A** – Cars or pickup trucks towing trailers up to 5,000 pounds, single trucks up to 10,000 pounds in weight and buses carrying 10 or more passengers
- **Class B** – Tractor trailer over 10,000 pounds, trailers more than 5,000 pounds
- **Class M** - Motorcycles

### **DRIVER PERMITS**

- **Commercial Permit** – Operators of Class A and Class B who charge fares for rides and operate large trucks and vehicles for commercial use.
- **School Bus (Commercial Permit)**  
Be 21 years old  
Good Character  
Pass approved certification course  
Recommended by Director of DOE
- **Official Permit** (Government driving permit or business driving permit)
- **Learner's Permit** (Driving privilege card)

**Except for a Learner's Permit all permits are not Driver's License**

### **YOUR DRIVING LICENSE TESTS**

- Written Test
- Vision Test
- Driving Test

## DOCUMENTS NEEDED WHEN ISSUED A NEW DRIVER'S LICENSE

- Valid Passport or Birth Certificate
- Valid Photo ID
- Social Security Card
- ASG Immigration ID card if not a U.S. Citizen or U.S. National
- American Samoa Traffic History Court Clearance

## LICENSE RENEWALS (Documents needed)

- Present or expired American Samoa Driver's License or Driving privilege card
- ASG Immigration ID card if not a U.S. Citizen or U.S. National
- American Samoa Traffic History Court Clearance

**Recommended to re-new before your driver's license expires**

## REQUIRED MOTOR VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

Headlights	Stop Lights	Gas Cap
Emission Control Device	License Plate Light	Taillights
Rear View Mirrors	Fender of Mudguards	Bumpers
Windshield Wipers	Muffler	
Windshield	Brakes (Foot Brake and Emergency Brake)	
Horn	Tires	

## RULES OF THE ROAD

- Drive to the Right
- Stay far to the right except when:
- Prepare to make a left turn
- On a road that has more than two clearly marked lanes
- Entering the left lane to pass a stopped or slow-moving vehicle, pedestrian, animal, or obstruction
- Upon a road restricted to one-way traffic

**Your responsibility to move safely to the left lane. You cannot enter the left lane of opposing traffic under the following conditions:**

- When approaching the top of a hill
- When approaching a curve
- Within 100 feet of a bridge
- In and near intersection
- When pavement markings or signs warn against it

## SEATBELT

- Keep you from being thrown from the vehicle during an accident
- Keep little accidents from becoming big ones

- Keep you and passenger from hitting the dash and windows
- Keeps you safe during sudden stops or sharp turns

### **Getting Ready to Drive**

#### **Five safety checks:**

- Adjust your seat properly.
- Adjust our mirrors.
- Fasten seatbelts around all occupants.
- Lock all doors.
- Set the parking brake and shift to neutral or park

#### **When you are ready to enter traffic use “SMOG”.**

- S – Signal
- M – Mirrors
- O – Over (look over shoulder)
- G – Go

**You are responsible for safely getting to the proper lane from your parked position without interfering with other traffic. You may be given a ticket by the police if you:**

- Fail to signal
- Obstruct traffic
- Cause an accident
- Fail to yield to oncoming traffic

### **SIGNALS**

**Communication with other drivers your intentions is important:**

- Lane position
- Vehicle speed
- Turn signal & flashing lights

### **TURNS**

**Many accidents occur because of incorrect turns**

- You must signal at 100 feet before your turn
- Get in proper lane and slow down
- Never shift your gear while you are turning (Standard gear shift)

### **RIGHT TURNS**

- Move to the right
- Signal 100 feet and slow down before you reach the corner
- Look both ways before making the turn
- Keep as close as possible to the right when making the turn

## **LEFT TURNS**

- Move closer to the left
- Signal 100 feet and slow down before you reach your turn
- Look both ways before making the turn
- Enter the street just to the right of center
- After completing your turn gradually move over to the right

## **U – TURNS (turning around)**

**Should be made only when traffic is very light**

- Move to the extreme right of the lane and come to full stop
- Check traffic front, rear & blind spot (vehicle passing)
- Signal left turn
- Check rear again as you move forward
- Turn steering wheel quickly to the left
- Straighten your steering wheel as you complete your turn

## **THREE POINT TURN (Turning around)**

**Should be made only when traffic is very light**

- Pull to the extreme right and stop
- Check rear, front, and side for traffic
- Signal for a left turn
- Check traffic again as you turn left
- Stop when you reach curb and shift to reverse (R)
- Check traffic again as you begin to back up
- Turn steering wheel to the extreme right as you back up
- Stop before you get to the curb or edge of pavement and shift to drive (D)
- Turn steering to the left and check traffic if clear pull forward into your lane

## **RIGHT-OF-WAY**

Means “who shall give way” or “who shall wait”

## **RIGHT-OF-WAY AT INTERSECTIONS**

- If there are no traffic signs you must yield to any approaching traffic and proceed when it is safe
- Always yield to the right
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## **RIGHT-OF-WAY RULES TO KNOW**

- Unpaved roads intersecting with a paved road
- Turning left
- Private roads and driveways
- “T” Intersections

- Give the Right-of-way to emergency vehicles

### **PEDESTRIAN right-of-way**

- Warn early – tap horn
- Crosswalks – marked and unmarked @intersections
- Turns
- Stop signs
- Entering the street
- Blind persons

### **WATCH OUT FOR BICYCLES**

- Don't crowd a bicycle
- Hard to see
- During turns make sure they know your intentions

### **FOLLOWING OTHER VEHICLES**

- Allow enough space to stop safely in case of a sudden stop of the vehicle in front.
- Faster you go the more space you need
- One car length (19 feet) for each 10 mph you are traveling
- Two second rule

### **FACTORS AFFECTING BRAKING DISTANCE**

- Weight of vehicle
- Condition of brakes
- Condition of tires
- Type of road surface
- Wet roads
- Slope of Road

### **PASSING**

1. Only at passing zones (exceptions)
2. Is it necessary?
3. Stay back maintain your speed
4. Check traffic ahead (10 seconds)
5. Check behind (rear view mirrors)
6. Signal left
7. Move left gradually
8. Speed up to overtake other vehicle
9. Tap horn (optional)
10. Signal right
11. Move right back in lane
12. Turn off signal
13. Resume speed

## WHEN NOT TO PASS ANOTHER CAR OR VEHICLE

1. Curves
2. Hills
3. Crosswalks
4. Intersections

## PASSING ON THE RIGHT

### Do not leave pavement or travel portion of road

1. Vehicle ahead is making a left turn
2. One-way street and no signs forbidding passing
3. Road with two or more lanes and no signs forbidding passing

## SCHOOL BUSES

- Yellow bus with the sign "SCHOOL BUS"
- Flashing lights
- Be aware of school children

## OTHER BUSES (Aiga Buses)

- No legal duty to stop for Aiga Buses
- Need to exercise the same care for passengers of Aiga Buses
- Be careful when approaching any Aiga Bus from the rear

## PARKING

- Parallel Parking
- Angle Parking
- Straight in Parking

## Common Scrape Points

- Gouging or scraping of parked cars
- Being hit by oncoming traffic

### Avoid accidents when backing from parking

## Unlawful Parking

- Any place where official signs prohibit parking
- Sidewalk or crosswalks
- In front of a public or private driveway
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
- Within an intersection
- Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection
- Within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station or 75 feet on the side of the road opposite the entrance
- Along or opposite any ditch or road repair when parking would obstruct traffic
- On any bridge or other elevated structure upon a road. Police are authorized to have vehicles towed away. The owner is then responsible for paying towing and storage fees.

## **Parking on Hills**

### Downhill curb

- If engine is facing downhill use your parking brakes and face your tires towards the curb. Make sure the tire is touch or resting on the curb

### Uphill curb

- If engine is facing uphill use your parking brakes and face your front tires away from the curb. Make sure the tire is touch or resting on the curb

## **Obstructing Traffic**

- **NEVER** stop, park, load, or unload passengers on the road at any place where it is likely to obstruct traffic or create a dangerous condition
- If you are preventing two or more vehicle from driving the posted speed, you may be given a ticket for obstructing traffic
- When you notice a line of cars behind you, either speed up or pull over and allow them to pass

## **DRIVING ON MOUNTAIN ROADS**

- Remain on the right
- Tap horn at blind curves and top of the hills
- Allow more space between you and the vehicle in the front
- When going downhill do not over use your brakes, shift to a lower gear to help vehicle slow down
- When travelling on narrow roads it is best for the vehicle going downhill to back up

## **DRIVING ON COASTAL ROADS**

- Slow down on curves
- Remain in your lane
- Beware of large vehicles be alert to move to the extreme right

## **LOADS ON VEHICLES**

- Secure your loads
- Cover loose loads
- Passengers in the front seat (no more than 3 adults in the front seat)
- Oversized loads (not more than 6 inches to the left or right and 4 feet to the rear)

## **SPECIAL DRIVING SITUATIONS**

### **DRIVING IN BAD WEATHER**

1. Reduce speed
2. Double following distance
3. Be careful at road curves
4. Avoid sharp turns or sudden stops
5. Use window defrosters
6. Approach puddles and flooded roads at slow speeds
7. Never attempt to cross deep water higher than the bottom of your car door



8. Avoid steep mountain roads made of dirt or gravel
9. Keep your car in top condition

### EMERGENCY DRIVING SITUATIONS

**Most important element to an Emergency is: IMPORTANT DO NOT PANIC !!!!**

1. **Blow outs** – Hold steering wheel straight, apply brakes softly and ease car off the road
2. **Brake Failure** – Shift gear to lower gear to slow and ease off the road then apply emergency brake or hand brake
3. **Gas pedal sticks or stuck** – Shift gear to neutral (N) and softly apply brakes
4. **Car underwater** – Allow compartment to fill with water then open door or break window
5. **Running off the pavement** – Apply brakes softly and gradually ease car back on road
6. **Skids** – Lightly apply on the brakes and turn car opposite direction of the skid
7. **Car Approaching in your lane** – Veer opposite direction and stop
8. **Loss of a wheel** – Hold steering wheel straight and stop car
9. **Steering failure** – Stop vehicle apply brakes
10. **Fire** – Stop car and exit
11. **Driving into fog or smoke** – Slow car down if at night **DO NOT USE HIGH BEAM**
12. **Headlight failure** – Slow car and stop use hazard lights
13. **Hood flips up** – Slow car and look out through side door window
14. **Carbon Monoxide Poisoning** – Stop and turn off car engine, roll down windows and exit

### NIGHT DRIVING

#### High and Low Beams

- Dim lights when there is approaching traffic (500 feet)
- Dim lights when following a vehicle (300 feet)
- Dim lights when driving in Fog weather

### COMMON SENSE RULES FOR NIGHT DRIVING

1. You see less at night use your lights
2. Drive slower (5 mph lower than usual speed)
3. Watch out for animals
4. Be alert for pedestrians
5. Increase following distance
6. Dim lights when meeting or following other vehicles
7. Avoid driving when you are sleepy
8. Avoid being temporarily blinded by oncoming headlights
9. Never wear sunglasses at night
10. Instrument lights dim and dome light off
11. Headlights for driving and parking lights for parking
12. Keep your windshield and headlights clean
13. Allow enough time for passing

## TRAFFIC SIGNS

-  Stop Sign (Complete stop)
-  Yield Sign (Yield to other cars or vehicles)
-  Warning Signs (Diamond shaped)
-  Information Signs (Rectangular shaped)
-  School Zone (children and pedestrians)

## WARNING SIGNS

- |  |   |   |  |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| <br>Careful on<br>Bridge | <br>Men Working<br>Flag Man | <br>Speed Bump  | <br>Round About    | <br>Slippery Wet<br>Road | <br>Beware Pedestrians<br>Crosswalks   |
| <br>Right & Left        | <br>Road Detour            | <br>Left Curve | <br>Dead End Road | <br>Left Turn           | <br>Multiple Curves<br>(Winding Road) |

## INFORMATION SIGNS

- |  |   |   |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| <br>Speed Limit<br>25 mph | <br>No Passing | <br>Handicapped<br>Parking | <br>Wear<br>Seatbelts | <br>Hospital<br>Near By | <br>No Parking |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|



Do Not Enter



Left Turn Only



No Large Vehicles



One Way



No Pedestrian Traffic



Speed Limit 20 mph

## Driving Under the Influence (DUI)

### B.A.C

Blood Alcohol Content

0.08% BAC is considered **DUI** in American Samoa

## Traffic Laws Commonly Violated by Drivers

- 22.0201 No person shall operate any motor vehicle in American Samoa without a valid driver's license or a driving privilege card.
- 22.0211 Possession of driver license, driving privilege card, or permit when operating a motor vehicle on the roadways of American Samoa.
- 22.0222 Authorizing any person without a driver license, driving privilege card or learner's permit to operate their (violation meaning vehicle owner) motor vehicle on the highways of American Samoa.
- 22.0301 Refusal to comply with a lawful order of a sworn police officer.
- 22.0302 Obedience to traffic-control devices (stop signs).
- 22.0307 Passing vehicle on the left.
- 22.0316 Signaling turns and stops.
- 22.0319 Meeting or overtaking school bus.
- 22.0320 Obstructing of traffic
- 22.0323 Speed limits
- 22.0332 Child passenger restraints. Infants and children under the age of 4 years should be properly restrained in a passenger restraint system (car seat).

- 22.0333 Mandatory use of seat belts
- 22.0352 Duties owed emergency vehicle. All vehicle must make way for emergency vehicles responding to an emergency. No vehicle must follow a emergency vehicle responding to an emergency.
- 22.0504 Duty to give information and render aid.
- 22.0701 Careless driving
- 22.0702 Reckless driving
- 22.0703 Reckless driving – Operator responsibility. Driver’s who allow their passengers to ride in the back of trucks with their bodies extending beyond the interior portion of the vehicle.
- 22.0704 Reckless driving – Passenger responsibility. Passengers who ride in the back of trucks with their bodies extending beyond the interior portion of the vehicle.
- 22.0705 Fleeing from or attempting to elude police officer.
- 22.1001 Motor vehicle registration and license required.
- 22.1003 Display of license. One plate in the front and the other to the rear at all times.
- 22.1004 Expiration of license
- 22.1101 Lead lamps and tail lamps
- 22.1102 Stop lamps
- 22.1103 Lamp or flag on projecting load or part of vehicle. Red flag or cloth not less than 16 inches square should be attached to vehicle loads protruding 4 feet to the rear of a truck.
- 22.1106 Back up lamps
- 22.1142 Exclusion of emergency warning equipment from unauthorized vehicles.