

No. 5823

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
PANAMA**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement relating to
the establishment of procedures for reciprocal recog-
nition of motor-vehicle operator's licenses issued by
the Canal Zone and Panama. Panamá, 31 October 1960**

Official texts : English and Spanish.

Registered by the United States of America on 23 August 1961.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
PANAMA**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord créant un système
de reconnaissance réciproque des permis de conduire
délivrés par la Zone du Canal et par le Panama. Panama,
31 octobre 1960**

Textes officiels anglais et espagnol.

Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 23 août 1961.

No. 5823. EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND PANAMA RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCEDURES FOR RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF MOTOR-VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENSES ISSUED BY THE CANAL ZONE AND PANAMA. PANAMÁ, 31 OCTOBER 1960

I

The American Ambassador to the Panamanian Minister of Foreign Relations

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Panamá, R. P., October 31, 1960

No. 166

Excellency :

I have the honor to refer to meetings and discussions which have taken place between representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Relations and the Canal Zone Government, in which a representative of the Embassy has also participated, on the subject, among other things, of the establishment of procedures for reciprocal recognition of motor-vehicle operator's licenses issued by the Canal Zone and Panamá.

In this connection I have received for transmittal to Your Excellency a letter dated October 28, 1960 from the Governor of the Canal Zone addressed to Your Excellency setting forth the understandings reached concerning this matter. The letter reads as follows :

"October 28, 1960

"Excellency :

"I have the honor to refer to recent discussions between representatives of our two Governments concerning the establishment of procedures for reciprocal recognition of motor-vehicle operator's licenses issued by the two jurisdictions on the Isthmus of Panama in order to establish comity for the convenience of residents of the two jurisdictions.

"As a result of these discussions, the following understandings were reached.

¹ In accordance with the provisions of the said notes, the Agreement came into force on 1 November 1960, the date on which the jurisdictions of the two signatory States had completed any changes in law or regulations required under paragraph 2 of the said Agreement.

"1. *Jurisdiction to license.* Each jurisdiction will limit the exercise of its jurisdiction to license motor-vehicle operators to residents of the jurisdiction ; that is, the competent authorities in the Canal Zone will issue licenses only to residents of the Canal Zone and the authorities in the Republic of Panama will issue licenses only to persons residing within that jurisdiction : *Provided, however,* That in addition to the exercise of licensing jurisdiction based upon residence, each jurisdiction may provide for the issuance of official licenses or permits by any agency or instrumentality of the respective Governments without regard to the residence of the person licensed. It is understood, however, that any such official license or permit shall authorize the operation of only designated, or designated classes of, Government vehicles.

"2. *Reciprocal recognition of operator's licenses.* Each jurisdiction will grant reciprocal recognition to the motor-vehicle operator's licenses issued by the other jurisdiction and will take the necessary action to conform its internal laws and regulations to give effect to this agreement. To be entitled to reciprocal recognition, the licensed operator must have the valid, unexpired license in his immediate possession.

"3. *Revocation or suspension of permission to operate motor-vehicles.* The permission to operate a motor-vehicle within the Canal Zone based upon reciprocal recognition of a motor-vehicle operator's license issued by authorities of the Government of Panama will be subject to revocation or suspension by Canal Zone authorities for the same reasons as constitute grounds for revocation or suspension of a license or permit issued by Canal Zone authorities to residents of the Canal Zone, and the procedures followed in the revocation or suspension of such permission will conform, as nearly as may be practicable, to the procedures prescribed by applicable laws and regulations for the suspension or revocation of a license issued by Canal Zone authorities to residents of the Canal Zone ; as a corollary, the permission to operate a motor-vehicle in the Republic of Panama based upon reciprocal recognition of a motor-vehicle operator's license issued by Canal Zone authorities will be subject to revocation or suspension by the Panamanian authorities for the same reasons as constitute grounds for revocation or suspension of a license or permit issued by Panamanian authorities to residents of that jurisdiction, and the procedures followed in making any such revocation or suspension will conform, as nearly as may be practicable, to the procedures prescribed by applicable laws and regulations for the suspension or revocation of a license issued by Panamanian authorities to a resident of that jurisdiction.

"4. *Notice of revocation or suspension.* In the case of a revocation or suspension by Canal Zone authorities of a person's reciprocal permission to operate, appropriate Panamanian authorities, upon notification of that fact, will, if requested, take the necessary steps to serve any notice required in connection therewith upon the person involved, in conformity with the requirements for giving legal notice in Panamanian jurisdiction, and will duly present to the Canal Zone authorities appropriate evidence or certification that such service of notice has been made ; as a corollary, in the case of a revocation or suspension by Panamanian authorities of a person's reciprocal permission to operate, the appropriate authorities in the Canal Zone, upon notification of that fact, will, if requested, serve any notice required in connection therewith, upon the Canal Zone resident involved, in conformity with the requirements for giving legal notice in the Canal Zone and will duly present to the appropriate officials of the