Current situation on IDPs

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What is an International Driving Permit?

IDPs were created to facilitate cross-border travel for drivers whilst ensuring a minimum standard of road safety.

Several UN Conventions set up the framework for IDPs.

Most recent and most used are the 1949 and 1968 Conventions on Road Traffic.
Who issues IDPs?

- In some countries, like France, Spain or Germany, IDPs are issued by the same government department responsible for issuing national driving licences.

- In many countries, government authorities have granted automobile associations sole rights to issue IDPs. Most of them are FIA member clubs.

- In other countries, both government departments and automobile associations are authorized to issue IDPs.

According to information received from clubs, over 1.5 million IDPs are issued by FIA clubs every year.
The FIA and IDPs

The International Driving Permit is not an FIA document.

FIA member clubs which issue IDPs can obtain information on a variety of IDP-related topics from the AIT/FIA Information Centre ("the OTA office"):

- **Formats**
- **Validity** of IDPs in other countries
- **Authenticity** of IDPs issued in other countries
IDP Formats

IDP formats are set by the United Nations Road Traffic Conventions.

The booklet format is not exactly practical, but since the UN requires the document to be in several languages, plastic card formats are not an option.

The 1968 IDP model was recently (2011) modified in order to make it simpler. The obligation to carry the national driving licence together with the IDP was also introduced in order to prevent fraud.

The OTA office can provide information on IDP models, as well as Word or PDF files of the categories’ page in several languages, for clubs that are planning to reprint their IDPs.
IDP security features
IDP Validity

- Not all countries require an IDP, although car hire companies may sometimes ask for one.

- Some countries accept all IDP models, from all Conventions.

- Other countries only accept IDPs issued in countries that are party to the same Conventions as them.

- The OTA office distributes regularly a summarized table on IDP issuance and acceptance all over the world.
Fraudulent IDPs are regularly advertised and sold on the Internet.

These bogus IDPs are sold without checking whether the applicant’s national driving licence is still valid or even for which categories it was issued.

The OTA office receives many queries from FIA member clubs that have been asked to verify these kind of documents by their country’s police.
IDP Authenticity

Other examples of fraudulent IDPs
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