



LICENSING OFFICE



# ***Driving in Japan Pamphlet***

The Point of Contacts for additional Information on Driving Safe in Japan:

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**UNITED STATES NAVY JAPAN  
AND  
NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI JAPAN**

## DRIVING IN JAPAN

This pamphlet addresses the most important aspects of Japanese traffic laws as they apply to U.S. Armed Forces personnel driving vehicles in Japan. While this pamphlet addresses many local Japanese traffic laws and regulations, it is not intended to be a complete summary of ALL traffic regulations.

**Problem Statement:** *If you drive like an American in Japan, you will likely have an accident!* **Defensive driving is the key factor for accident prevention in Japan!**

### Accident Trends (Key Factors):

- Poor time-management skills (Heavy traffic is a way of life and a 10-kilometer (6-mile) drive can easily mean 30 minutes travel time)
- Lack of experience with right-seat drive vehicles (Practice on post first)
- Ability to navigate in Japan (Program your navigation device for primary roads only)
- Lack of defensive driving skills (Be passive, slow down, and never rush while driving)
- Situational awareness (Never allow yourself to be distracted)
- Tactical vehicle movements (Use deliberate planning with travel times, route planning, and consider the driver's experience)

### Common Errors:

- Not getting used to your vehicle before driving and not getting acclimated before driving mid-sized vans/SUVs in traffic
- Getting lost or stuck in tight spots by allowing navigation devices to avoid heavy traffic by placing the driver on narrow, one-lane side roads
- Poor backing and turning skills without thinking of the angle of approach in relation to the size of the road, turning radius, or depth of the parking slot
- Not paying attention to the road and not knowing your own vehicle's blind spots
- Leaving the scene of the accident without reporting it to the military police

### Ten (10) Safety Tips to Help Prevent You from Having an Accident:

1. Know your vehicle's blind spots!
2. No left turn on red!

JAF Accident Avoidance Training **RISK PREDICTION** Instruction by Yasuhisa Nagayama, Professor Emeritus, Osaka University



You are approaching an intersection with a traffic light, and you want to turn left. The car in front of you is signaling a left-hand turn with its indicator, and the truck on the right is going straight. You are running late, and you want to quickly follow the car in front of you into the turn.

Your Position Weather Time of Day

**You are about to turn left at a traffic light.**

What should you be looking at right now?

**ANSWER** You should be watching the parking lot entrance and car ahead of you.

The car in front of you wasn't going to turn at the lights as you thought. It was heading into the parking lot of the family restaurant before the lights. It was a near miss, but luckily you didn't hit the car as it slowed down. When a car's indicator comes on before an intersection, people following behind will tend to assume the car is turning at the intersection. However, drivers should remember that there is always a possibility that the vehicle is turning into a parking lot or alley before the intersection. Even when that doesn't happen, following too closely to another turning vehicle, like in this example, makes it more difficult to see pedestrians or cyclists on the crosswalk.



**Dangerous Assumptions**  
The driver of the blue car in the picture, by presuming where the driver of the yellow car will turn left, illustrates the danger of making assumptions about other drivers. People tend to make assumptions that are beneficial to them, particularly when there's lots of traffic and they can't get moving. It's important to properly confirm how fast other drivers are going, and what their signals show.

● Read Nagayama's risk prediction commentary online. (Japanese only)  
Diagram by Hideaki Kinosh  
Photography by Norihiro Ochiai



“Courtesy of the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF).”





**JAF Accident Avoidance Training** **RISK PREDICTION** Instruction by Yasuhisa Nagayama, Professor Emeritus, Osaka University



You are driving on a two lane road during the morning rush hour. The photograph here shows the view from the driver's seat, and as the photograph shows, there is a line of stopped cars in the oncoming lane. A bicycle is heading down the road in the same direction as you, and a man is walking across the crosswalk. You start slowing down to let the pedestrian across the road, then you're planning to continue down the road.

    
 JAF Pollin Weather Time of Day

**You're about to drive past a pedestrian crossing.**

What should you be looking at right now?

**ANSWER** You should be watching the head of the person visible in between two of the approaching cars.

Before you even reach the crosswalk, a woman darts out from between the vehicles and almost causes an accident. Of course the woman is partly at fault for crossing the road near rather than at the crosswalk, where she was hidden by the approaching traffic, but with so many pedestrians in a hurry during the rush hour, this sort of thing is very common. In this example, we could see the head of the woman between the approaching cars, but there are more minivans and other taller vehicles on the roads today, and people can come out from behind such vehicles with absolutely no warning. When you notice traffic in the opposite lane is heavy, make sure you keep an extra close eye out for people crossing in dangerous areas. Leave enough space to your right and travel at a slow enough speed so you will be able to stop in time if necessary.

**Pedestrian-Related Traffic Accidents by Type (2014)**

Accident Type	Count	Percentage
When stopped at the road	1,029	2%
When crossing at a crosswalk	15,601	33%
When crossing near a crosswalk	1,394	3%
When crossing slow lanes	18,629	22%
When crossing behind (in a roadway)	2,654	5%
When hit from the front (in a roadway)	1,342	3%
Other	14,494	31%

Source: ITARBA

**Common car accidents involving pedestrians**

The graph shows that the number of car accidents involving pedestrians crossing at or near crosswalks is more than 30% of all pedestrian-related accidents. Except when it is clear that no pedestrians are present, it's your obligation as a driver to always make sure to approach crosswalks at a speed that will allow you to stop quickly.

● Read Nagayama's risk prediction commentary online. (Japanese only)  
 Diagram by Hideaki Kinosh  
 Photography by Naohiro Ochiai



“Courtesy of the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF).”

- Pedestrians have the right of way!
- Stop in front of all railroad crossings, even when no warning lights are active!
- Accept the fact that there is heavy traffic in Japan; a 10-kilometer (6-mile) drive can easily equate to 30 minutes driving time. Never allow your cell phone navigation app take you down secondary roads - always stay on the main roads despite the traffic!
- Put defensive driving to work and take it slow on narrow and congested roads!
- Be prepared for bikes, pedestrians, and other vehicles to enter your path when you least expect it!
- Beware of the bright halogen vehicle lights that can impact your vision while driving at night. If blinded, slow down and glance quickly away from the headlights!
- Never block intersections – stay behind the white lane markers!



**1. Key Definitions for Driving in Japan**

1. Key Points for Driving in Japan

Driving in Japan is not as difficult as you may have been told or think, as long as you follow the rules of the road. It certainly is different from driving in the United States, so extra care must be taken in order to drive safely here. It is your responsibility to learn the local traffic laws and abide by them.

We recommend that once you obtain your license and purchase a car that you spend time driving on post before you venture out in town. The streets are wider on our installation and are not as congested. Remember, if you find yourself traveling on the wrong side of the street - and it happens - gain situational awareness and adjust to the correct lane.

Here are some key points to remember when driving in Japan:

**Certified (Licensed) Driver:** As a licensed driver in Japan, you are considered an “experienced driver” and are subject to all Japanese laws on and off base. For your own protection, know and understand these laws.

**Customs and Courtesies:** Be respectful when driving in Japan. Giving respect will earn you respect from other drivers. Do not allow yourself to become angry or have a road rage incident. There are also Japanese customs you are expected to follow should you become involved in an accident involving a fatality or personal injury. Immediately contact the International Law Division, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate/Legal Office), if this occurs.

**Cell Phones:** Studies and investigations have shown many accidents have been attributed to drivers talking on cell phones or texting while operating their vehicle. It is **ILLEGAL** in Japan to use hand-held portable electronic devices, such as a cellular phone, without the use of a hands-free device while operating a vehicle. That being said, hands-free devices are still discouraged unless the vehicle is safely parked. The only exception to this rule is in the event of an emergency to call the authorities. In case of emergency, vehicle operators should exit the road as soon as possible. The cell phone number to report an accident is **0467-63-3200**.

**Exercise Due Care:** Every driver shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian or any person operating a vehicle. Drivers shall give an audible signal when necessary and shall exercise proper precautions upon observing any child, pedestrian, or any obviously confused, incapacitated, or intoxicated person.



**Drinking and Driving:** Drinking and driving is not tolerated in Japan. You may be arrested with as little as one beer in your system due to Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) laws here. Roadblocks are common occurrences and are used to detect drivers who have been consuming alcoholic beverages. If caught Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) or Driving Under the Influence (DUI), you will face heavy fines and possible jail time.

**Emergency Vehicles:** When you hear a siren indicating that an emergency vehicle is approaching, pull over to the left as far as possible, and come to a stop until the vehicle has passed.

**Headlights:** Your headlights must be on when, you are passing through a tunnel, driving in dense fog, or under other circumstances when visibility falls below 50 meters (200 meters for expressways), even during daytime hours. Japanese law does not require the use of headlights during periods of reduced visibility from inclement weather. However, headlight use is mandatory aboard all U.S. Installations and highly encouraged during any reduced visibility.



**Obedience to Police Officers and Other Authorities:** All persons shall comply with any lawful order or direction of any police officer, firefighter, or uniformed crossing guards to direct, control, or regulate traffic.

JAF Accident Avoidance Training
**RISK PREDICTION**
Instruction by Yasuhisa Nagayama,  
Professor Emeritus, Osaka University

You are driving down a narrow road that runs through a residential area. The photograph here is taken from the driver's seat, and shows the vehicle approaching an intersection with no traffic light. A white car is stopped on the road to the left, and you see a man along the road on your right. The white car has stopped, so you plan to continue through the intersection.

Your Position
 Weather
 Time of Day

**You are about to drive straight through an intersection in a residential area.**

What should you be looking at right now?

**ANSWER**
You should be watching the person behind the white car.

The cyclist ended up popping out in front of you. The cyclist is required by law to stop for the sign, but apparently he didn't notice it as he was looking at the screen of his smartphone. Since your car isn't required to stop at this intersection, and since the car on the cross road has stopped, it is only natural to think you can simply continue through. However, it is important to make sure you don't overlook someone hiding behind the car in a situation like this. The cross road is one-way, but the sign says "Except Cyclists", so you should also keep in mind that someone could appear from the right as well.

**Bicycle accidents by violation**

1 Failure to check whether it was safe	4,282 (27%)
2 Failing to stop	3,159 (20%)
<b>STOP</b>	
3 Not watching the road	1,237 (8%)
4 Ignoring traffic signals	1,235 (8%)
5 Steering error	1,025 (7%)

Source: ITARDA (2015)

**Failure to stop - A Common Infraction by Cyclists**

Many people use their smartphones as they ride bicycles, but this sort of behavior is prohibited under the Road Traffic Act. Failure to stop infractions are common among accidents involving cyclists (see chart above), so they should always make sure to stop at stop signs and at intersections with poor visibility.

● Road Nagayama's risk prediction commentary online, (Japanese only)  
Diagram by Hideaki Kinjoh  
Photography by Norihito Ochiai

“Courtesy of the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF).”



Instruction by Yasuhisa Nagayama, Professor Emeritus, Osaka University | JAF Accident Avoidance Training

### RISK PREDICTION

You are driving down a major road with a lot of traffic. The photo was taken from the driver's seat, and shows the vehicle approaching an intersection where you want to turn left. You look at the door mirror on the left, and decide to make your turn.



**Your Position** **Weather** **Time of Day**

**mate safety**

**risk prediction**

You are checking your mirrors before turning left.

**Q.** What should you be looking at right now?

**RISK PREDICTION** → **Answer** You should have noticed the makikomi warning sign and continued watching the door mirror.

**Door mirror blind spot**



Just as you were about to turn left, a scooter passed you on the left and you almost struck the vehicle with your own. It seems that the scooter was hidden in your blind spot. Right before the intersection is a sign that reads "makikomi chui", a warning to drivers to watch out for motorcycles and bicycles coming up from the left where they could be knocked down and run over. Also, you should have noticed that the blind spot warning light on the far left-hand side of the mirror (See zoomed photograph on the left). Drivers should always check their blind spots on their own, but some cars in recent years have been produced with supplementary blind spot detection (BSD) safety systems.

**Always check your blind spots!**

Even when a car is equipped with a BSD system, the location and size of a vehicle in the blind spot could result in the system not detecting something there. So, when you are turning left or making a lane change, you should always turn your head and check your blind spot (see illustration above). Also, when making a left-hand turn, you should move your vehicle over to the left before-hand to ensure that bicycles and motorcycles have no room to slip through the space.

● Read Nagayama's risk prediction commentary online. (Japanese only)  
Chart by Hideaki Kinjoh  
Photography by Norihiro Ochiai



“Courtesy of the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF).”

**Seatbelts:** DOD Instructions require everyone operating or riding in private motor vehicles ON or OFF DOD installations to wear seatbelts. Seatbelts will be in use whenever a vehicle is being operated.

**Speed Limits:** Speed limits in Japan are posted as kilometers-per-hour instead of miles- per-hour. Speedometers on Japanese-made vehicles also register in kilometers-per-hour. The maximum speed limit off base for most areas is 60 KPH unless otherwise posted. The maximum speed limit on the Japanese expressway is 100 KPH (minimum speed limit is 50 KPH) unless otherwise posted. A moped's maximum speed limit is 30 KPH at any time.

**Unattended Motor Vehicle:** No person driving or in charge of a motor vehicle shall permit it to remain unattended without first shutting off the engine, removing the key from the ignition, effectively setting the brake, and when upon any grade, turning the wheels to the curb or side of the road.

**Vehicle Malfunctions:** Should a motor vehicle have to stop due to a malfunction or breakdown in the traffic lanes, the road shoulder, or the zone along the side of an expressway, the driver must clearly show that the motor vehicle is stopped by using an emergency warning device. Warning devices are readily available for purchase.

**Vehicle Horn:** It is not acceptable to use a vehicle's horn unless it is required by law or to avert a hazard.

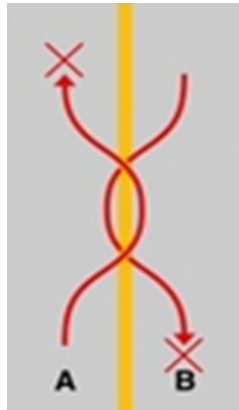


**2. Driving Rules**

**Converting to the Left Side of the Road:** While driving in Japan, vehicles use the left side of the roadway with driver physically located on the right side of the vehicle. A primary traffic rule in Japan is that vehicles always keep to the left side of the road. Always “think left” while behind the wheel. Remember the three most common times you may catch yourself on the wrong side of the road are 1) while making turns at intersections, 2) while exiting parking lots and driveways, and 3) while in emergency situations. You should use the right lane to pass vehicles. A solid or broken white line in the center of the road marks the center line and vehicles may pass other vehicles to the right when conditions allow for passing. The following markings on the roadway restrict passing.



- Solid yellow centerline – No passing for either lane
- Solid yellow line on both sides of center line – No passing for either lane
- Solid yellow line on one side of centerline – No passing for the lane in which yellow line appears



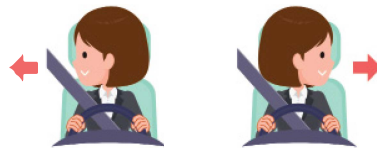
A solid white line on left edge of road surface means that two-wheeled vehicles may pass stopped or slow moving traffic if there is a sidewalk along the road. Only two-wheeled vehicles (engine size up to 50cc) and pedestrians may occupy the area left of the white solid line.

When there are three or more lanes going in the same direction, the right-most lane is a passing lane. Slower moving traffic must stay to the left. Buses generally travel in the left lane on multiple-lane roadways.

Some roadways are marked with signs that designate use only by buses, taxicabs with passengers and motorcycles. No other vehicle may travel in those lanes. When a bus is signaling to leave a bus stop, no vehicle will interfere with the bus unless the vehicle will be required to change its speed or direction of travel abruptly.

You must travel in the direction of the white arrows marked on the lane you are traveling in. You will get a traffic ticket by not following the white arrows or changing lanes across a solid white line.

Before proceeding through or crossing any intersections; LOOK RIGHT, THEN LEFT, THEN RIGHT AGAIN!

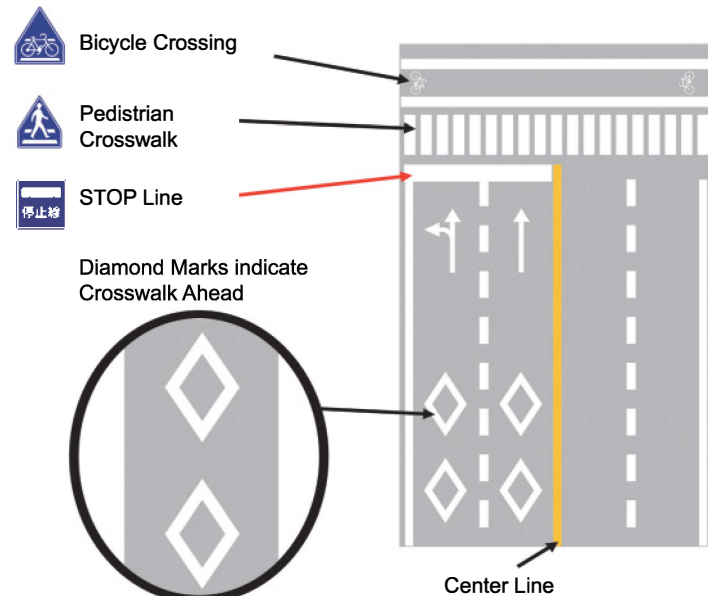


**Crosswalks:** Two diamonds painted in the roadway are a warning to let you know that you are approaching a pedestrian crosswalk. Extreme caution should be exercised at crosswalks and school zones. Japanese children are taught to simply raise their hand when they wish to cross the street and traffic will stop to allow them to cross. When you see children, slow down and expect to stop. This includes school zones where children don't always use the designated crosswalk.

Whenever a pedestrian is using or waiting to use a marked crosswalk, vehicles must make a temporary stop at the white "stop line." Pedestrians using a crosswalk have the right-of-way at all times.



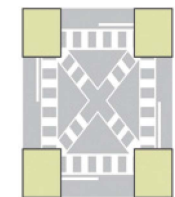
### Street Markings



Multiple Crosswalks

Stopping Prohibited Zone

Intersections with a high volume of Pedestrian traffic may look similar to this.



Stopping Prohibited Zones are generally located in front of Fire Department, Fire hydrants, Hospitals & Emergency Services Facilities.



## Warning Signs

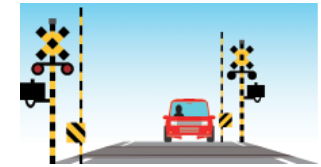


Any vehicle approaching a crosswalk is required to travel at such a speed as to be able to stop before entering the crosswalk, except when there is no pedestrian attempting to cross it. When pedestrians are crossing or attempting to cross, vehicles must stop and not interfere with the travel of the pedestrians.

Passing is prohibited at crosswalks and intersections, or within 30 meters (100 feet) of them.

Pedestrians should use extreme caution when crossing in marked crosswalks. You should ensure that all traffic has stopped before stepping onto the crosswalk. Statistics have shown that more pedestrians are injured or killed while crossing at marked crosswalks than at non-marked locations. Crosswalks require the utmost caution for all pedestrians.

**Left Turn on Red:** Making a left turn on a red light after a complete stop is against Japanese traffic laws, except when permitted by a traffic control device (a signal green- arrow or white sign with a blue arrow.)



**Railroad Crossing:** When approaching any railroad crossing in Japan, all vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians must come to a complete stop and look both ways prior to crossing railroad track.

### Right-of-Way at an Uncontrolled Intersection:

Any vehicle traveling on a priority road (larger or wider road) has the right-of-way.

Any vehicle approaching the intersection from the left has the right-of-way over the one from the right. Right-of-way of a vehicle that has already entered the intersection and one that is already in the process of a right turn is abolished. Roads with a centerline or vehicle traffic lanes provided in the intersections are the priority roads.



Any driver entering in the intersection is required to pay attention to other vehicles as well as pedestrians and to proceed at the safest possible speed and in the safest manner in accordance with conditions of the intersection. Vehicles must not enter an intersection, even with a green traffic signal, if it will become necessary to stop in the intersection due to traffic conditions ahead.

When intending to travel through a crosswalk, railroad crossing, or any other portion of a road with road markings, vehicles will not enter it if they may have to stop in it due to traffic conditions.



When approaching a solid white line painted on the roadway, all vehicles must come to a complete stop and give the right-of-way to other vehicles. The only exceptions to this rule are if a yield sign is present or the stop line is adjacent to a crosswalk. In these cases, vehicles may proceed without stopping if no pedestrian or other vehicle is approaching.

**Signaling:** When making a lane change or turning any direction, vehicle operators are required to use either the vehicle's turn signal or a hand signal at least 30 meters prior to the intended turn or lane change. Drivers should ensure vehicle signals are turned off after the lane change or turn has been made.

**Yield Versus Proceed Slowly:** In Japan, "yield" signs are known as "proceed slowly" signs. They are triangular like the stop signs; however, they have a red border and white interior. When you approach a "proceed slowly" sign, you must reduce your speed and prepare to stop at the marked stop line if necessary.

**Following Too Close:** Tailgating is driving too closely to the vehicle in front. It's unsafe because if that driver were to suddenly stop, you'd likely crash into the back of the vehicle. There is a recommended safe following distance which varies with speed and is indicated by time: the two-second rule. This means that the time difference between the back of the vehicle in front and the front of trailing vehicle should not be less than two seconds. In wet conditions, or if you are towing a trailer, you should increase this to four seconds. The safe following distance should give a driver enough time to stop if the vehicle in front stops suddenly.



### 3. Parking

**Parking:** No-parking zones are designed to keep traffic moving smoothly and safely. It is true that parking spaces are sometimes difficult to find, particularly in the larger cities, but that is no excuse for parking in a no-parking zone. Drivers are cautioned not to stop or park their vehicles at places on the road such as are listed below, unless coming to a temporary stop according to the law, or to comply with an order of a police officer to avert danger.

#### No Parking & No Stopping:

- At roadway intersections or in a crosswalks

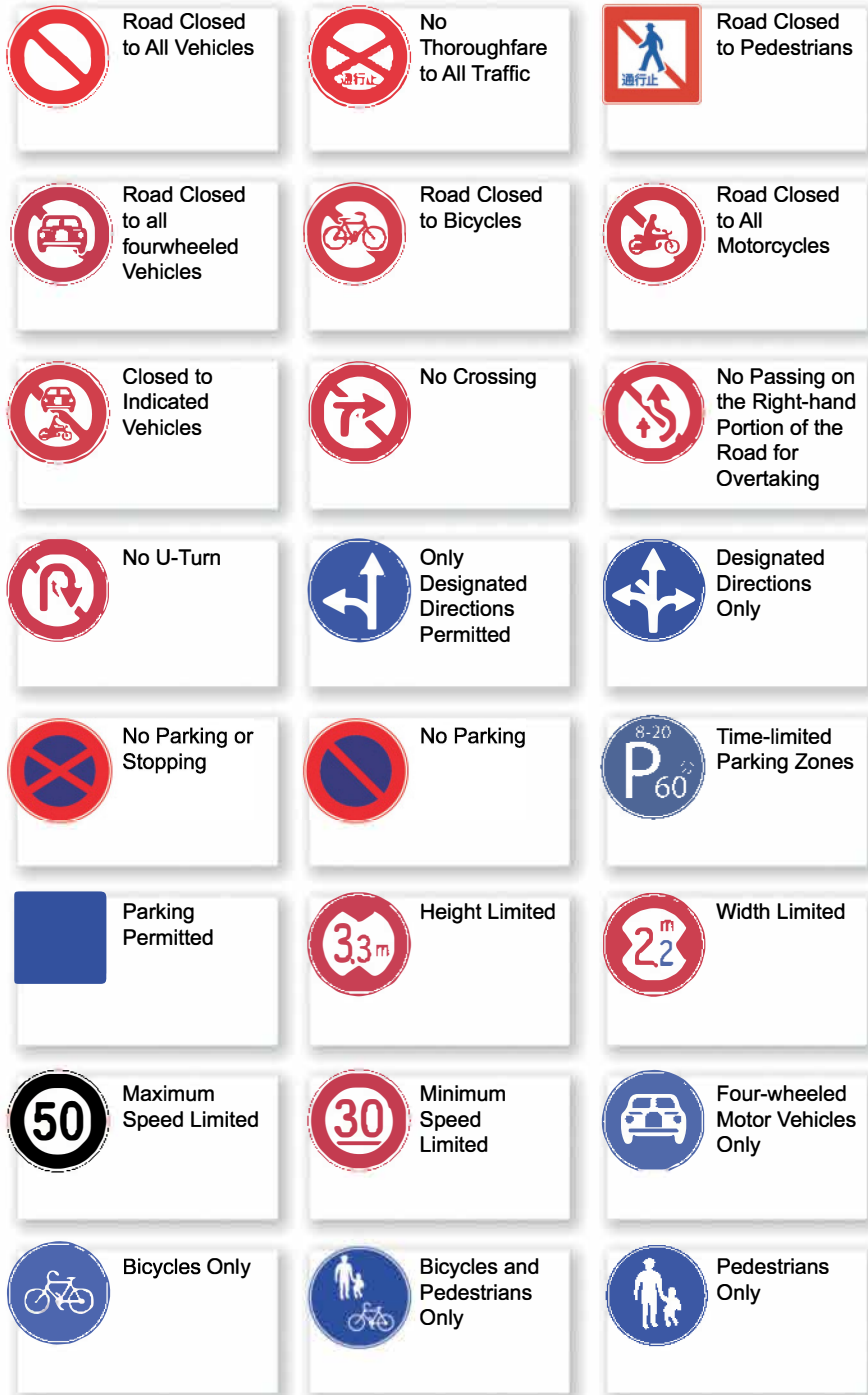
- Within 5 meters (16 feet) or less from the outer edge of an intersection, a corner of a road, or a fire hydrant

- At the left side of a safety zone, or within 10 meters (33 feet) or less from either end of a safety zone on a road if so provided





## Control/Regulatory Signs



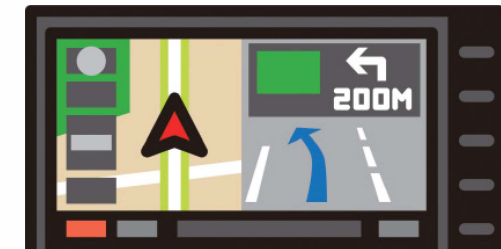
- Within 10 meters (33 feet) or less from a signpost or signboard indicating a bus stop or railroad crossing (This applies only during the operational hours of buses.)
- Near the top of a hill
- On a steep road
- Within 5 meters (16 feet) of a pedestrian crosswalk
- At any place that the Public Safety Commission designates as a prohibited stopping or parking area to promote safe and orderly traffic

## 4. Highways / Toll Roads

**Navigation (Vehicle Navigation Systems):** Navigation systems are now common and a contributing link between the devices and accidents has been identified. While the reasons are varied, it often boils down to drivers being distracted.

One of the most common errors is overreliance on the navigation system. People think, "Why plan when the device will tell me where to go?" It's important to remember that GPS devices are fallible due to satellite communication errors and outdated or inaccurate maps. Even when maps are current, some mapping and navigation information does not take into account road types. With this type of software error, the road that may look like the shortest distance between Point A and Point B might actually be an unpaved, extremely small side or private road. If your navigation device does not recognize it as such, it could add the road to your route.

Because of these factors, drivers could find themselves driving on unsafe and small side roads and possibly into other hazards, such as train tracks. The more confident you are in what your navigation device tells you, the less likely you are to notice something's wrong. Accident risk increases when drivers take their navigation device's instructions too literally. Instructions such as, "when possible, make a legal U-turn" could send someone veering into oncoming traffic. Driver inattention and distraction is one of the leading cases for accidents in Japan.



## When using navigation systems:

- Always, program your route for the main roadways in Japan. Verify the route prior to departure or have a map available.
- Always use NAF Atsugi Main Gate, East Gate or West gate as the return home waypoint on your navigation aid.
- Locations of places without phone numbers like scenic spots can be input by entering MAPCODEs into the car navigation system. A MAPCODE is a number of up to ten digits that provides location data for many places in Japan. Enter the MAPCODE for your destination for directions.

**Highways:** Highway "main lanes" refer to lanes for ordinary traveling on the highways - excluding the acceleration lane on the entry ramp, the deceleration lane on the exit ramp, the slow lane, the side strip and the shoulder of the road.

- When merging into the main lanes, you should accelerate fully in the acceleration lane, if available.
- When merging in the main lane, do not interfere with the traffic. When the main lane you are on is merging with another main lane, you must give way if the other lane has the right of way as indicated by a traffic marking painted in the merging section of two main lanes.
- You must observe maximum and minimum speed limits as designated by traffic signs and markings.

Use the white line on your left as a guide and stay a little left of the center of the lane that you are traveling on. It helps the vehicle behind you to adopt a safe distance for overtaking, thus preventing collisions.

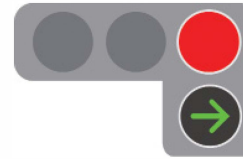
Parking and stopping are prohibited on highways except under the following conditions:

- Stopping temporarily to avoid danger.
- Parking or stopping on a sufficiently wide shoulder or side strip due to breakdown or other unavoidable reason.
- Parking or stopping at a parking area or stopping to pay a toll.



When leaving the main lane, look out carefully for exit signs for your destination. When approaching the exit, change to the lane leading you to the exit.

## Green arrow light



- Vehicles may proceed in the direction indicated by the arrow even if the signal light is yellow or red (Vehicles may also make a U-turn when the signal arrow is indicating a right turn.) However, in the case of a signal arrow indicating a right turn, lightweight vehicles and mopeds making a two-step right may not proceed.

## Yellow arrow light



- Streetcars/trams may proceed in the direction by the arrow even if the signal light is yellow or red, but pedestrians and vehicles may not proceed.

## Flashing yellow light



- Pedestrians, vehicles and streetcars/trams may proceed carefully, paying attention to other traffic.

## Flashing red light



- Pedestrians may proceed carefully, paying attention to other traffic.
- Vehicles and streetcars/trams must stop at the stopping point before proceeding.

## 9. Traffic Lights and Signs:

Types of traffic lights with meanings

Green light



- Pedestrians may proceed and cross.
- Vehicles other than lightweight vehicles, and streetcars/trams may go straight or turn left or right. Mopeds making two-step right turn may go straight ahead to the point for turning right, and change the direction they are heading.
- Lightweight vehicles (bicycles, carts, etc.) may go straight and turn left. When turning right, these vehicles must proceed to the point of making a right turn, stop and change their direction to the right and wait at that point.

Yellow light



- Pedestrian may not start to cross.
- Vehicles and streetcars may not go further than the stopping point, unless they are already in the intersection and can proceed safely.

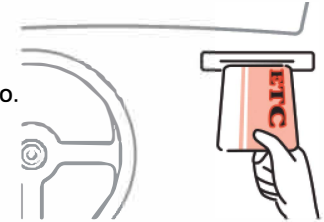
Red light



- Pedestrians must not cross.
- Vehicles and streetcars/trams may not proceed past the stopping point.
- A vehicle or streetcar/tram, when already making a left turn at an intersection, may continue to proceed even if the signal light on the left is red.
- A vehicle or streetcar/tram, when already making a right turn at an intersection, may continue to proceed even if the signal light on the right is red. In this case, the vehicle or streetcar/tram, must not obstruct the traffic of vehicles or streetcars/trams approaching on a green light. However, lightweight vehicles and mopeds making a two-step right turn must stop after crossing the road and wait at that point while the signal light on the right is red.

**Toll Roads:** The Electronic Toll Collection System (ETC) is a new toll system designed to enhance convenience for drivers by enabling cashless toll collection and thus mitigating congestion at expressway tollgates. Tolls are automatically collected via wireless communication between an antenna installed on the tollgate, and on-board equipment. This enables simple and speedy payment by allowing drivers to pass through tollgates without stopping to pay.

- Get ETC card first.
- Insert the ETC card into the ETC device, and go.



There are two types of ETC gates.

### ETC-exclusive gate

- You can pass through this gate only when an ETC card is inserted properly into the ETC device. Otherwise, the gate bar will not open.

\* Drive at no more than 20 KPH through the gates.

### ETC-general shared gate

- These gates are shared by cars equipped and non-equipped with ETC cards. Exercise caution when passing through this gate as the car in front may not utilize an ETC card and must stop to pay the toll. Overtaking stationary cars in the ETC gate is prohibited.

If you do not have ETC card, pick up a ticket at the entrance, hand the ticket to the operator at the general gate at the exit and pay.



## 5. Motorcycles:

Motorcyclists must exercise care and ride prudently at all times, paying attention to the surrounding traffic since their presence could be overlooked by drivers of four-wheeled vehicles.



## 6. Bicycles:

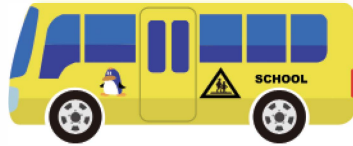
Bicycles are a great way to get around, but there have been traffic accidents involving bicycles and pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles, bicycles and other bicycles, and bicycles by themselves. Many of these have resulted in serious injuries or even fatalities.

Any person operating a bicycle is required to wear an approved helmet. Bicycle riders on the roadway are subject to the same traffic laws as drivers of motorized vehicles. Bicycles operated after hours of darkness will have a permanently affixed headlight that projects a white light visible for 150 meters (500 feet) in front of the bicycle. Bicycles operated on the roadway will be operated in a single file, with the flow of traffic, and must stay as far to the left as safely possible.



## 7. School Buses:

On base, vehicle operators must stop 6 meters (20 feet) in front or behind the bus when approaching from the front or rear while the bus is loading or unloading passengers.



## 8. Accidents:

**Accidents:** Despite traffic laws and precautions taken by drivers, accidents will still occur. The number one cause of vehicle accidents in Japan is people failing to yield the right-of-way.

Conditions that lead to accidents can include congested roadways, slick surfaces, pedestrians, roadway construction, narrow roads, tight parking lots, other drivers, and driving too fast.

If you are involved in an accident, first of all, assist the injured, remain at the scene, exchange personal data and notify the local prefectural police and the military police. Do not move your vehicle until told to do so by the police. Moving your vehicle will hamper the investigation and you could be automatically found at fault.

You are required to report all accidents (both major and minor) to the military police of the closest military installation to the area where the accident occurred.

Civil law also requires that a report of the accident be submitted to local civil police authorities.

The below items are for informational purposes only and will not be tested. It is a good idea to keep this material in your vehicle.

### REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE (ENGLISH-JAPANESE)

1. I am lost. 【私は道に迷ってしまいました】
2. How do I get to . . . ? 【...へはどう やったら行けますか?】
3. My car has broken down. 【車が故障してしました】
4. I am out of gas. 【ガソリンが切 れてしまいました】
5. Where is the nearest gas station? 【一番近くのガソリンスタンドはどこですか?】
6. May I park here? 【ここに駐車してもいいですか?】
7. My address is... My name is... 【私の住所は...です。私の名前は...です】
9. My telephone number is... 【私の電話番号は...です】
10. I am stationed at... 【私は...に勤務しています】
11. There has been a traffic accident. 【交通事故が起 こりました】
12. Persons at the accident were injured. 【交通事故で怪我人がで ました】
13. Please notify Japanese Police. 【(日本の) 警察に連絡して頂きたいの です が】
14. Please notify Security Forces at **0467-63-3200** on base. 【米軍基地の憲兵隊に連絡をして頂け ますか? (They have Japanese interpreters available.) (日本人の通訳が待 機していま す。)]
15. I will pay for the telephone call, please hurry! 【電話料金は私がま 払いま すので、急いで下さい。】
16. I refuse to sign on a Japanese document. 【私は日本の書類への署名は 拒否します】
17. How much does it cost? 【料金はおいく らですか?】
18. Turn to the right / to the left Straight ahead. 【右へ曲がっ て下さい/左 へ曲がっ て下さい/まっす ぐ行ってください】