

Traffic Safety in Japan



Objectives

- This presentation will familiarize you with some of the laws, customs, and unique differences driving in Japan compared to the United States.
- This presentation is designed for **new arrivals** who have never driven in Japan and is a good refresher for those who have been stationed here before.

Driving Privilege in Japan

To qualify for a SOFA Operator's Permit in Japan you must meet the following criteria:

- Must be 18 years of age.
- Have a valid (current) Driver License issued by any US state or territory, or by the District of Columbia; an international driver's permit, a valid Government of Japan Driver License; or written proof that you successfully completed a [certified formal driving course](#).
- Active duty personnel under age 25 and younger must have a certificate from Navy eLearning “**Navy Driving for Life Program/Course**” or other 4 hour traffic safety class.
- Japanese who are married to SOFA members and willing to operate a Y-number plated vehicle must have USFJ Form 4.



Driving Privilege in Japan (cont'd)

E-4 and below Active Duty military personnel will adhere to the following requirements:

- **Be command approved to live in off-base housing or military family housing (housing areas). Member will need to bring a copy of their off-base contract or on-base housing assignment from the Housing Office or a copy of the Special Request chit to move off-base signed by their Commanding Officer (CO) or Officer-in-Charge (OIC).**
- **Be an accompanied or unaccompanied member with approved request to live off-base.**
- **Be assigned to Security's Military Working Dog division.**
- **If a member desires to use a Navy Exchange (NEX) rental vehicle, the member must be at least age 21 as regulated in the Japanese Liability Insurance policy attached to NEX rental vehicles and must have a special request chit approved by their CO or OIC. Commands with no commissioned OIC will send their requests to COMFLEACT Sasebo CO for approval with an explanation as to why a permit is being requested.**
- **Waivers to these requirements may be granted by COMFLEACT Sasebo CO on a case-by-case basis.**

At your **Licensing Process**, you **MUST** present:

- AOB/ICR completion certificate.
- Orders/Letter of Employment
- Dependent Entry Approval
- A current Stateside Driver License
(If it is expired, **you** must provide proof that it remains valid while on active duty.)

U.S. FORCES, JAPAN				PERMIT NO.	
OPERATOR'S PERMIT FOR CIVILIAN VEHICLE (See Privacy Act Statement on USFJ Form 4EJ Application) 在日米軍個人車兩操縱許可書				CFAY0900393	
OPERATOR'S NAME (Last, First, MI) KANAGAWA, TARO,				DATE ISSUED 2 / 11 / 2009	
SERVICE ID NO. 000-00-0000				FOR OPERATION OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AUTO / JEEP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOTORCYCLE	
SEX M	DATE OF BIRTH 2/12/1980	HEIGHT 70	WEIGHT 150	EXPIRATION DATE 2 / 11 / 2013	
COLOR OF HAIR BLK		COLOR OF EYES BRN		NAME AND LOCATION OF ISSUING UNIT COMFLEACT YOKOSUKA	
UNIT CFAY				GRADE AND TITLE OF ISSUING OFFICER LICENSE EXAMINER	
OPERATOR'S SIGNATURE 				SIGNATURE OF ISSUING OFFICIAL  K. OGURA	

USFJ FORM 4EJ, DEC 82 NON-TRANSFERABLE

Who can DRIVE a SOFA POV?

- Per USFJ Instruction 31-205 paragraph 2.1.4: U.S. Forces personnel will NOT rent, lend, or permit the use or operation of their POV's by persons other than those who possess a valid USFJ Form 4EJ. There are exceptions.
- If you let a SOFA member with a USFJ Form 4EJ use your POV, you must give them permission in writing.

DRIVER LICENSES

After meeting all the requirements for a USFJ FORM 4EJ, you're authorized to operate POV's and GOV's up to 1.5 ton truck/10 pax vehicle.

An OF 346 allows you to : Operate only the type and size of GOV specified on the license.

****The OF 346 is for GOV's only,
you cannot use this operator's permit to drive a POV! ****

There are Two Types of Vehicles

- **POV:** Personal Owned Vehicle.
A vehicle that is owned by a SOFA member.
- **GOV:** Government Owned Vehicle.
A vehicle that is owned by the government.

WRITTEN EXAM

- Consists of **50** multiple choice questions.
- Must score a minimum of 80% to pass.
- About 54% of the test is “**Traffic Signs.**”

ROAD TEST

- Road test is **ONLY** required for all new drivers who don't have a driver license.
- Road test is **optional** for drivers with a stateside license.

LICENSE RENEWAL

Licensing Section operating hours,

Mon, Tue, Wed - 0800-1200 / 1300-1500

Fri - 1000-1200 / 1300-1500

Please make appointment by email.

- License holders allowing their licenses to expire will be required to take and pass the driver's written exam before being issued a new license.
- If they are unable to renew their license due to the CFAS Safety Office closures, a written exam may be waived until the next business day.

MOTORCYCLE

Prerequisites:

- **Have a USFJ Form 4EJ POV License.**
- **Have command approval.**
- **Must complete MSF BRC 2.**
- **Proof of Completion of the MSF Basic Riders Course or motorcycle endorsement on U.S. driver's license.**

For more information email CFASlicense@us.navy.mil

NEW DRIVER



Pay close **attention** when you see this symbol. This identifies a NEW DRIVER or someone with 1 year or less driving experience. They are attached to the **front** and **rear** of a vehicle.

ELDERLY DRIVER



This identifies the driver as an elderly driver **70 Years** of Age or older.

DISABLED DRIVER

Off-Base



MUST be displayed on the Vehicle's Front and Rear portions.

Certified by the
Government Of Japan

SOFA personnel must have a Disabled Person's Hang-Tag issued by Vehicle Registration Office to park in Disable Person's parking spot on-base. Only good on-base.

On-Base



Hearing Impairment Mark



Hearing-impaired person

1. Must be displayed on the front & rear of the vehicle notifying other drivers of hearing impairment.
2. Vehicle must also have an extra wide mirror to eliminate or reduce blind spots.



1. Keep a safe distance from these vehicles: The best way to warn these driver's is by **Flashing your head lights** and sounding your horn for maximum communication.
2. Maintain Maximum Safety Margin with these drivers. Do not tail gate or drive aggressively near or around this type of driver.

Bus Exclusive Lane



“Buses Only” marking on the road is for **Buses, Taxi's and motorcycles only** – Violators will be fined. (Vehicles making a left-turn can enter this lane 30 meter before they turn).

JAPANESE TAXI AND BUS



Public Ground Transportations have priority on the road.

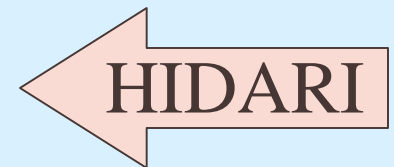
Avoid getting in an accident with them.

You will be responsible for any potential revenues that is lost while they are out of service.

DRIVE ON THE LEFT...



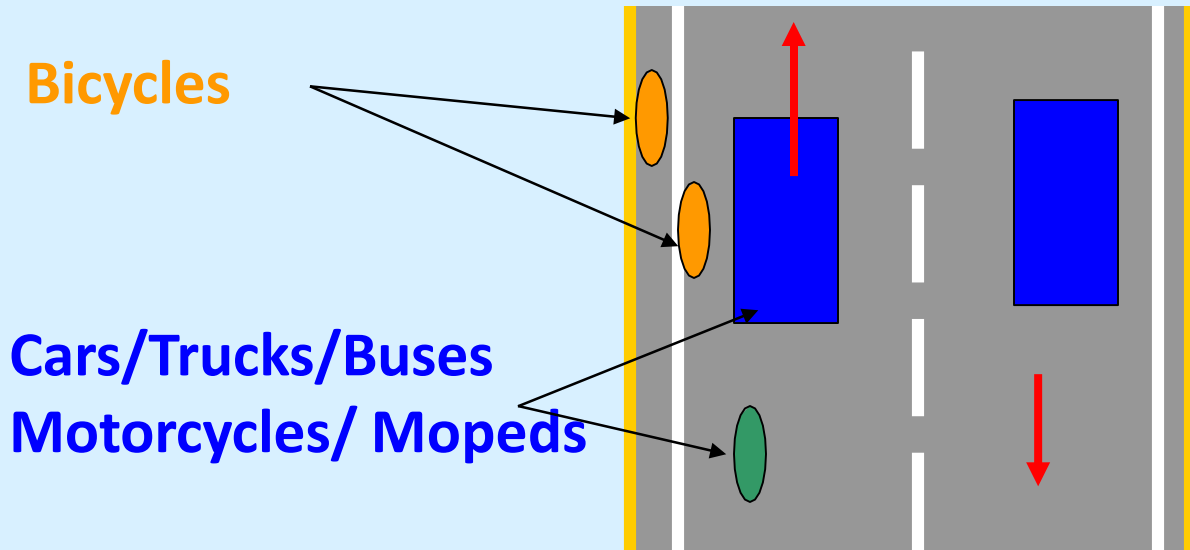
The correct side of the road in Japan is the **“LEFT SIDE”**.
Vehicles here are made a little different than in the states.
All controls are on the opposite side.



Right of Way

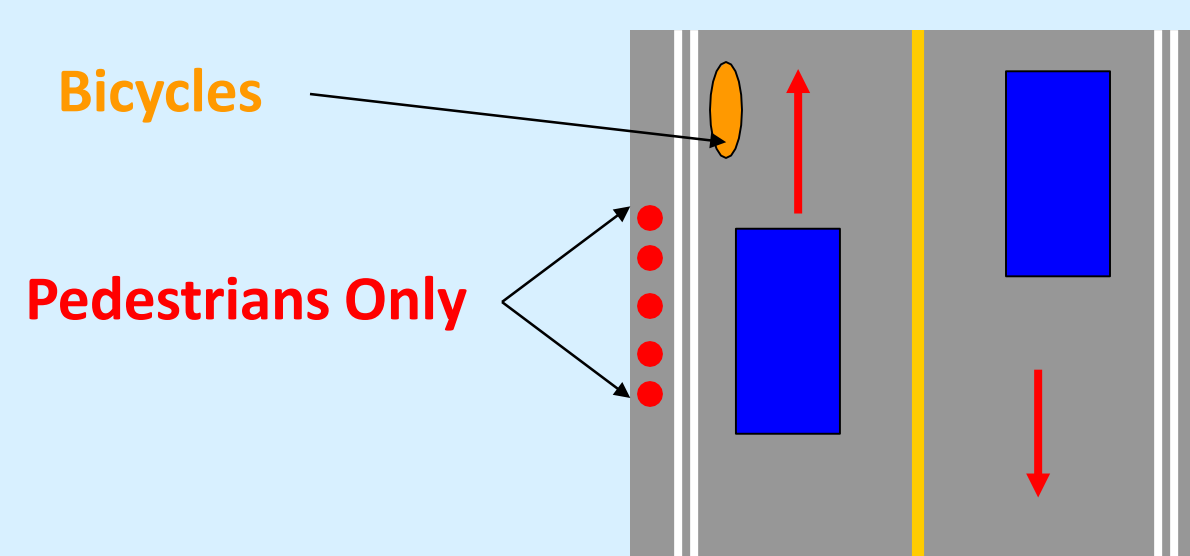
Upon approaching an intersection without a stop sign, the vehicle on the **LEFT** has the right of way.





Bicycles may ride off the road edge marking.

KEEP TO THE LEFT



No entering, stopping, parking or riding if double lined.

ASSURANCE OF PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

How to turn left

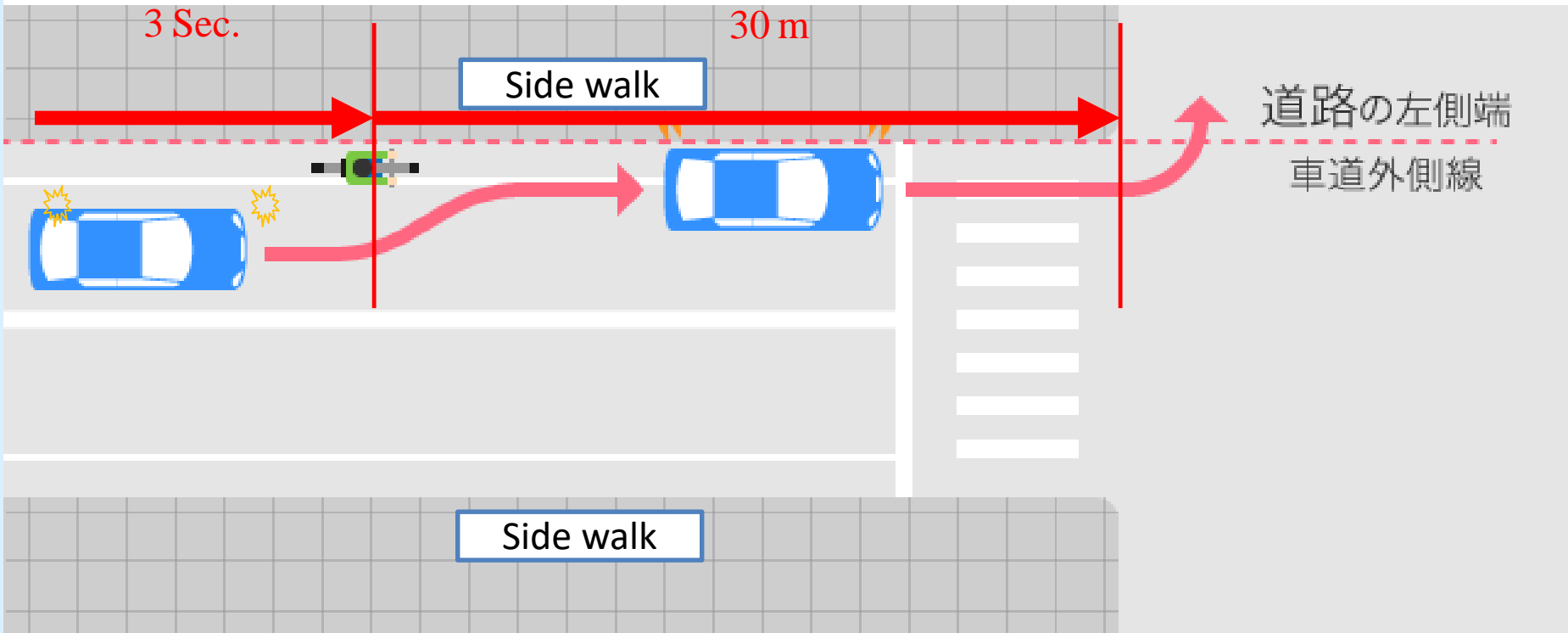
3 Sec.

30 m

Side walk

Side walk

道路の左側端
車道外側線



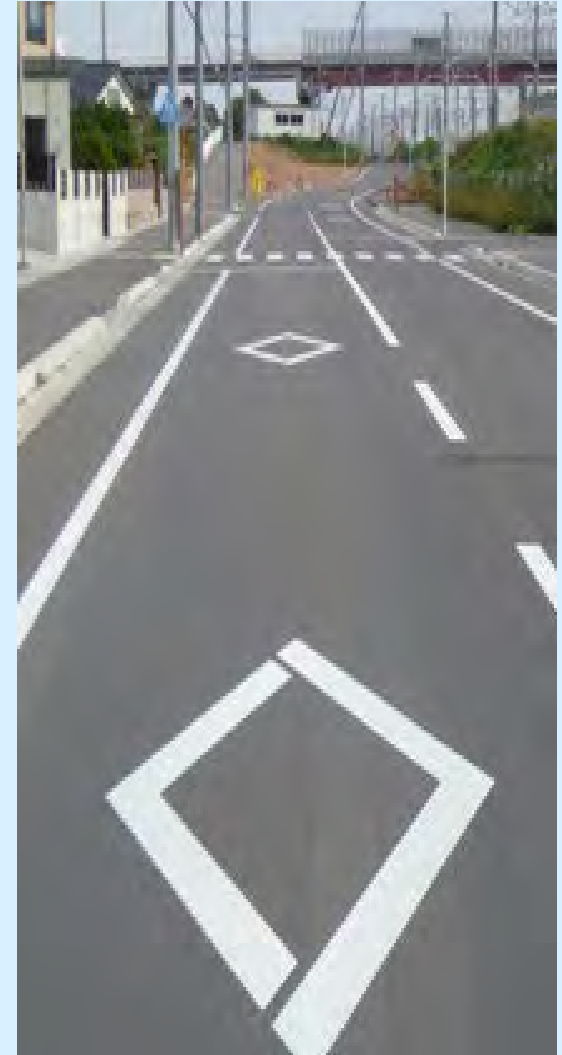
SPEED CONVERSIONS

Off base, maximum speed limit on ordinary roads is: **60 KPH**, unless otherwise posted.

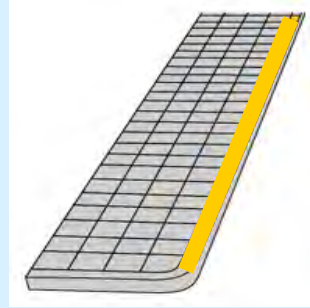
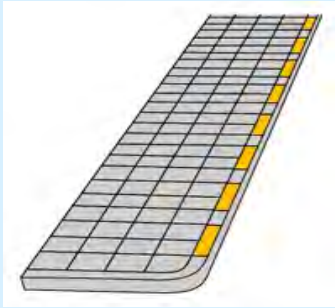
- 40 KPH = 25 MPH
- 50 KPH = 31 MPH
- 60 KPH = 37 MPH
- 80 KPH = 50 MPH
- 100 KPH = 62 MPH

PEDESTRIANS

- Diamond marks on pavement indicates approaching pedestrian crosswalk without traffic lights.
- Pedestrians shall not enter a crosswalk without *first* ascertaining that an approaching vehicle can stop safely.
- **PEDESTRIANS ALWAYS HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY**



ILLEGAL PARKING



COULD EQUAL=

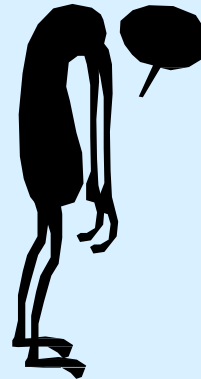
Blue Traffic Ticket



ILLEGAL PARKING



Ticket



- Vehicle may be **Towed** by local police, if it obstructs traffic and is **illegally parked**

KOBAN/ POLICE BOX

Indicate KOBAN

KOBAN

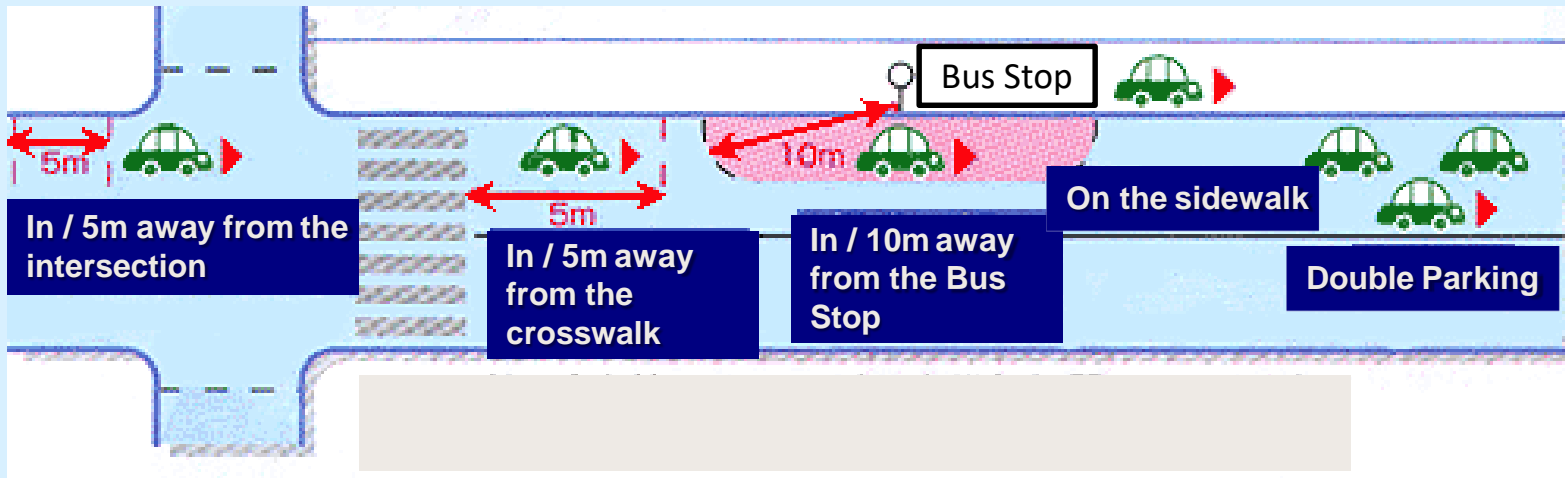
Gold Star Symbol



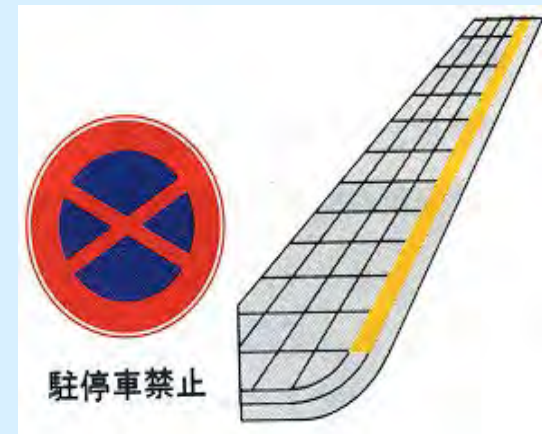
Red Revolving Light



PROHIBITED PARKING/STOPPING



- Top of hill or steep slope, in a tunnel, on sidewalks, on railroad tracks that are on the road.
- **5** meters from:
 - Intersection, Crosswalk
- **10** meters from:
 - Bus Stop and Railroad crossing.



PROHIBITED PARKING

- **1** meter from a fire alarm button
- **5** meters from fire hydrant/sump
- **3** meters from entrance/exit of parking lots or driveways/garages.



LEGAL PARKING SPACE

- To register a vehicle, you must have a parking space “at your residency” for each vehicle you own.
You must obtain a **PARKING CERTIFICATE** from your local police station.
- There are different processes and steps to take depending on where you live.
- Check with CFAS Vehicle Registration Office for details.



Parking Decal



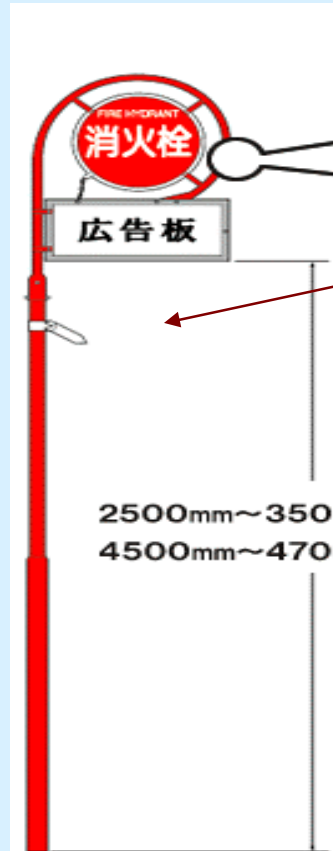
Parking Decal placed on left inside of rear window

FIRE HYDRANTS

ON-BASE



OFF-BASE JAPANESE TYPE



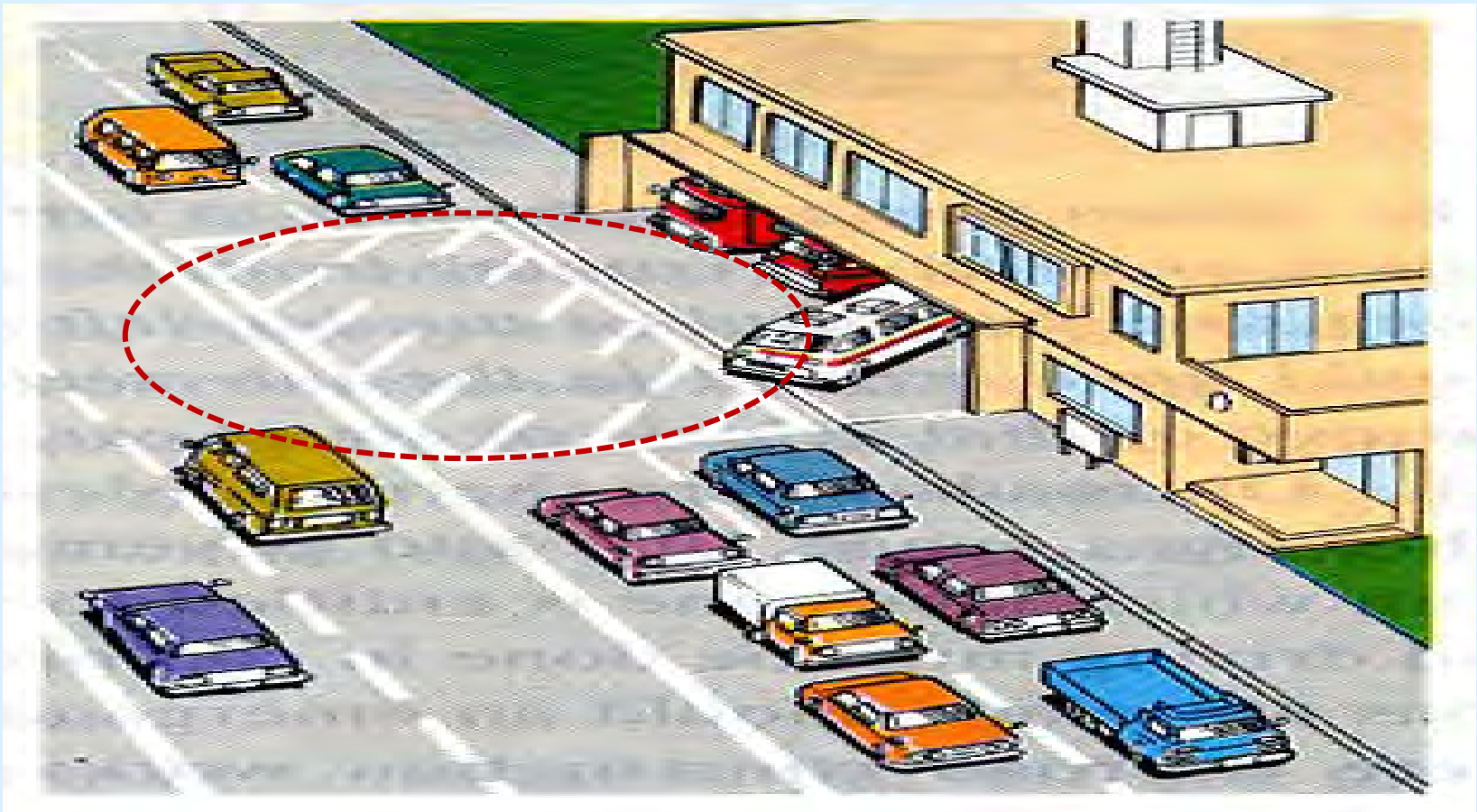
A white arrow tells you where the fire hydrant is on the ground.



NO STOPPING ZONE

You will see this ground paint which means: NO STOPPING ZONE; in front of:

- Hospitals.
- Fire Stations.
- Police Stations.
- And other places.





When already entered in an intersection and an emergency vehicle is approaching from behind, clear the intersection, yield to the LEFT and STOP.

Traffic Signals

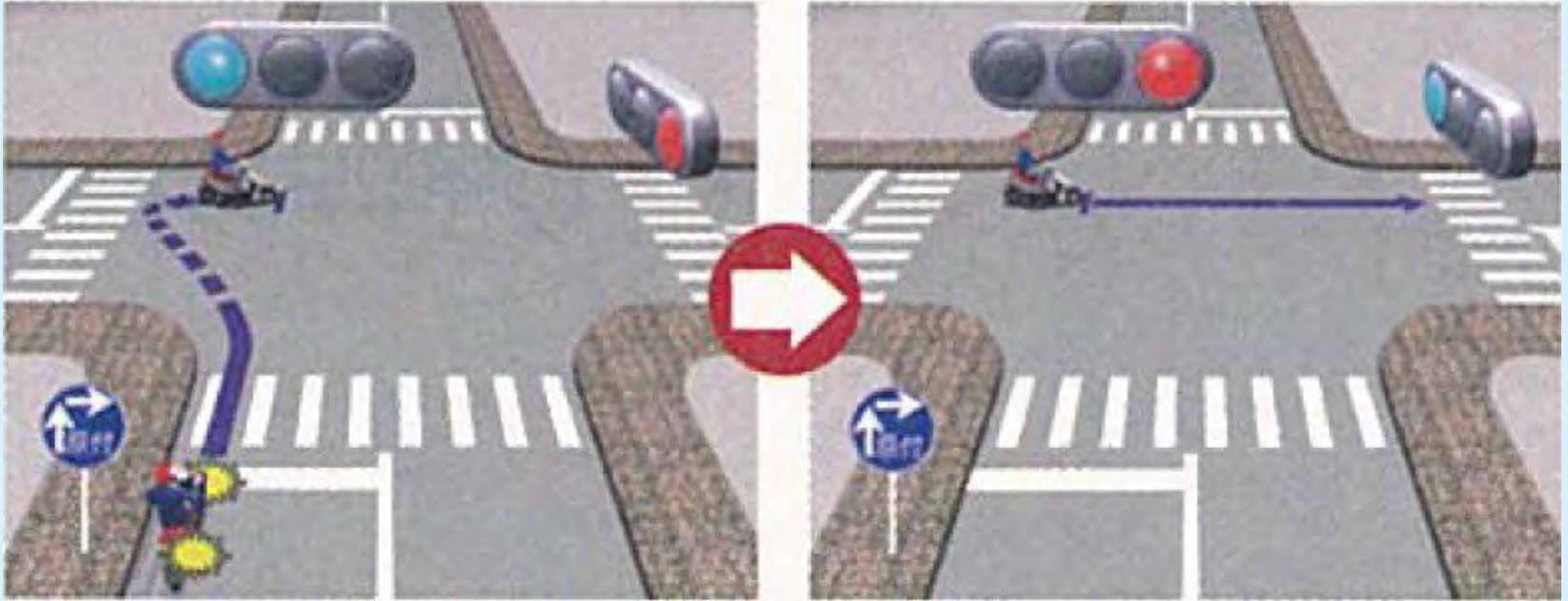


GREEN

You **can** proceed straight and left turn.

You **may** turn right, if there is no on-coming traffic.

Traffic Signals

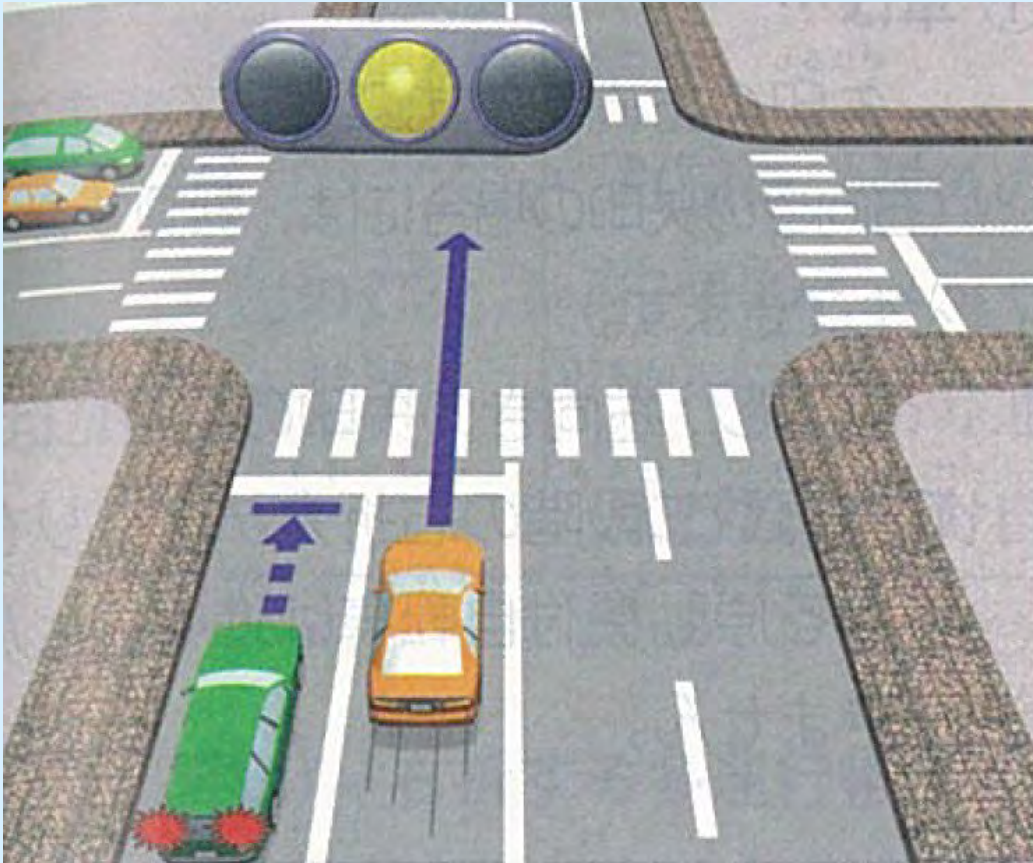


Two-Step Turns

For Bicycles and moped.

1. Proceed straight along far-left side of the road
2. Change direction and wait for a signal to go straight

Traffic Signals

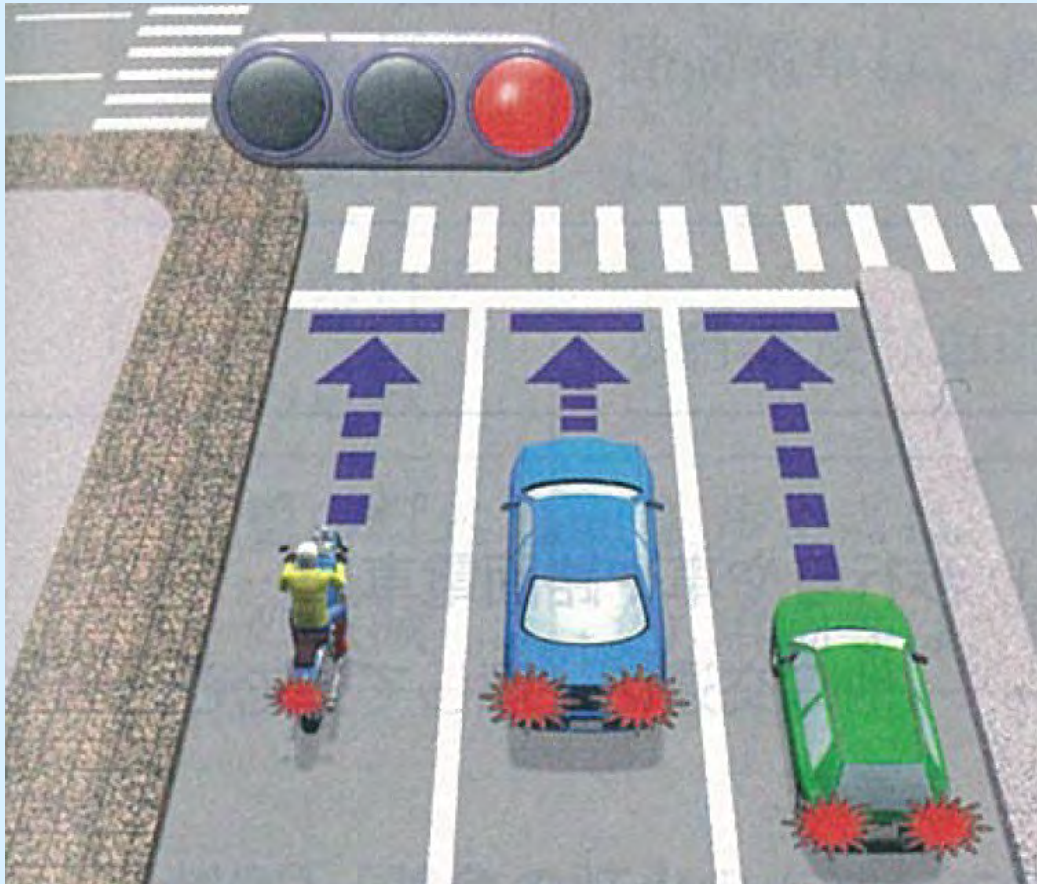


YELLOW

Stop before the stop line.

Proceed if you can not stop Safely.

Traffic Signals

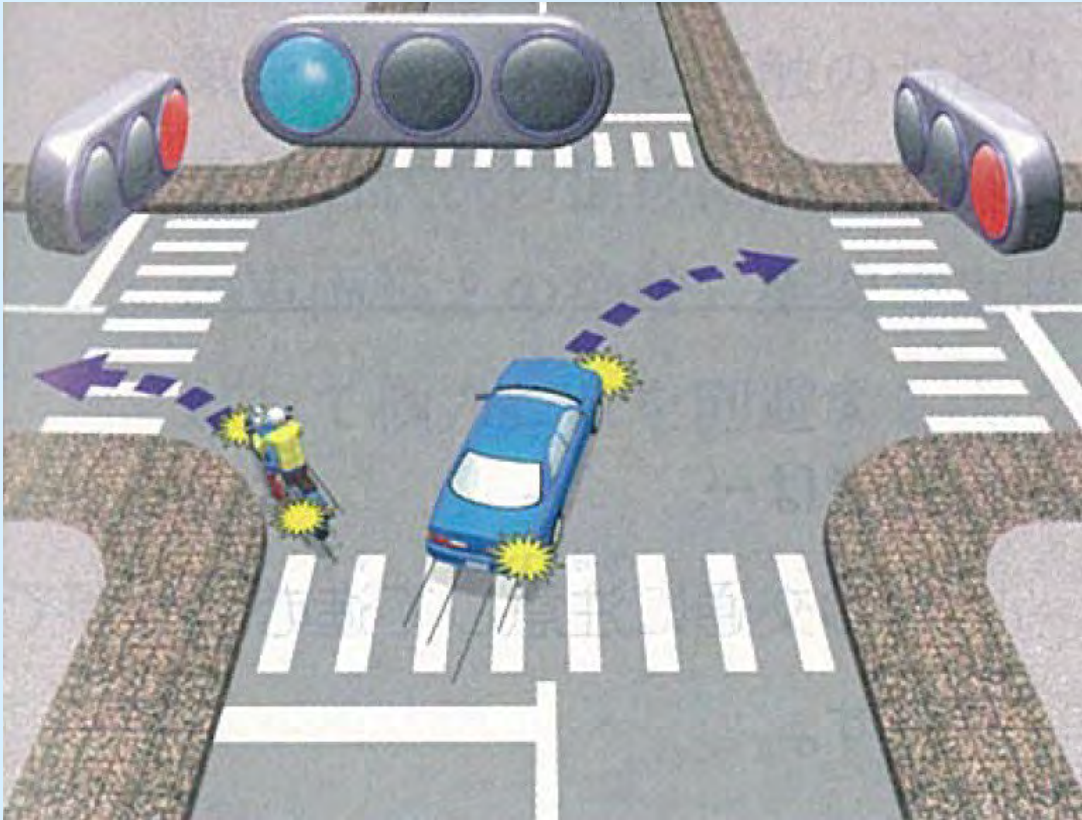


RED

Stop before the stop line.

Left turns on a red signal are prohibited in this part of Japan.

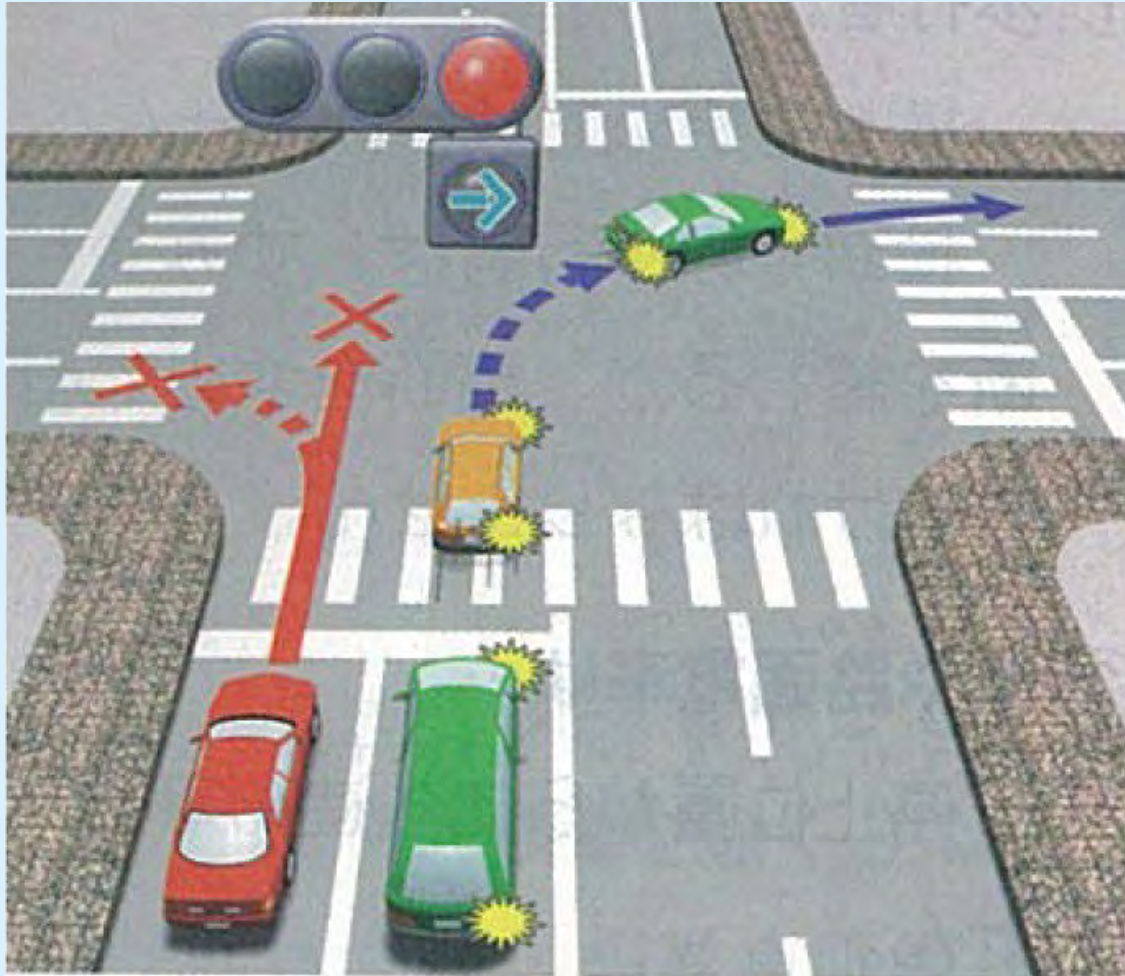
Traffic Signals



RED

If you are within the intersection to make L/R turns, proceed with caution.

Traffic Signals

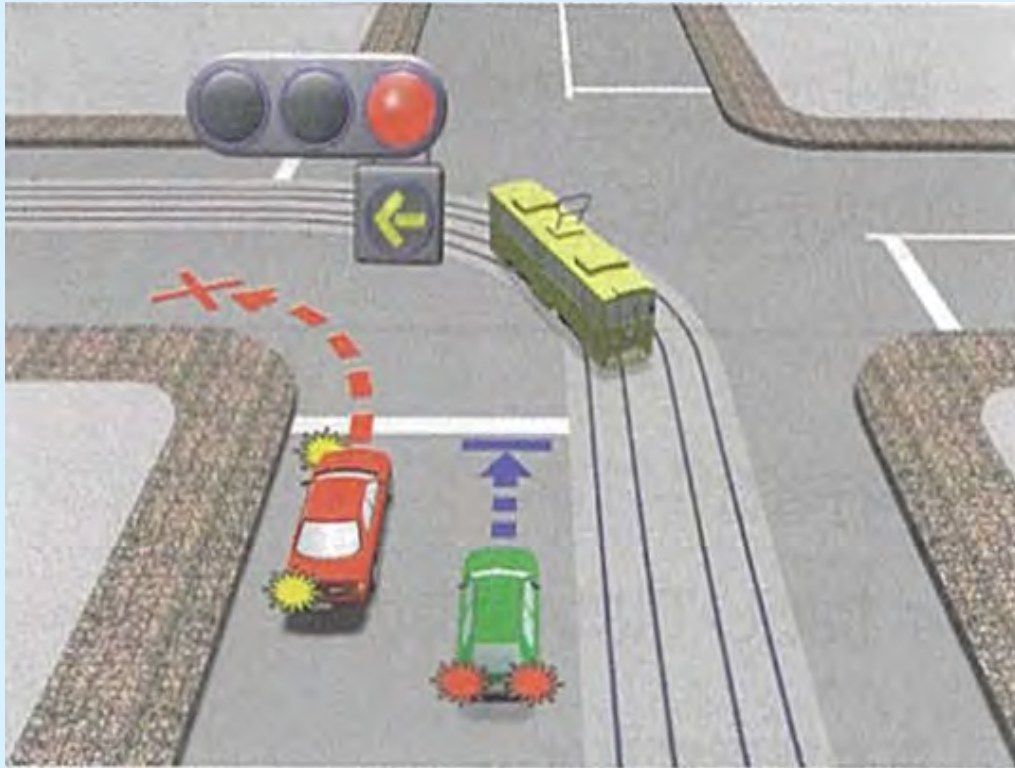


GREEN ARROW

You **can** proceed in the direction of the arrow(s).

STOP for any other direction(s).

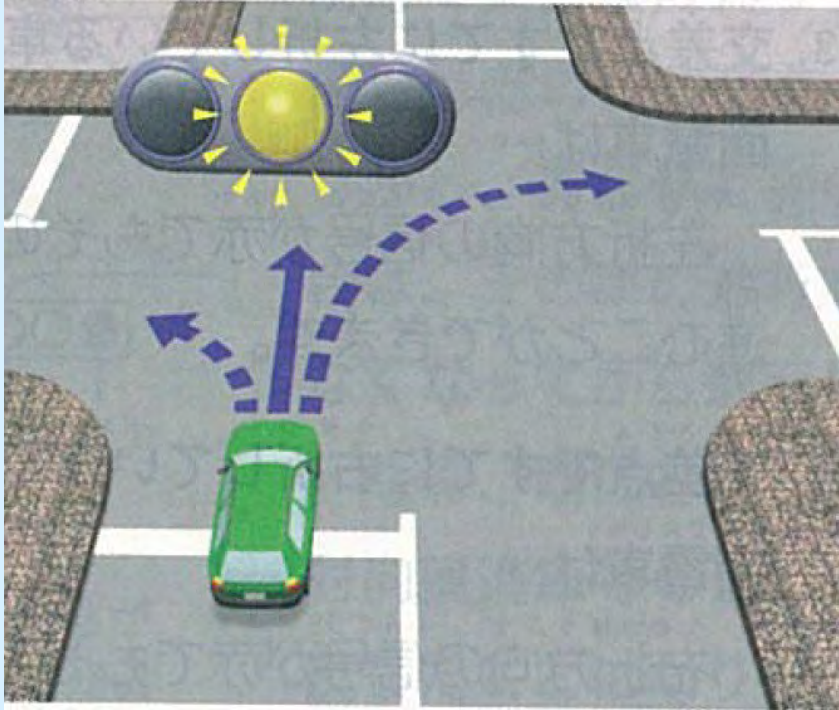
Traffic Signals



YELLOW ARROW

Only an approaching street car may turn in that direction.

NO STOP SIGN RULE

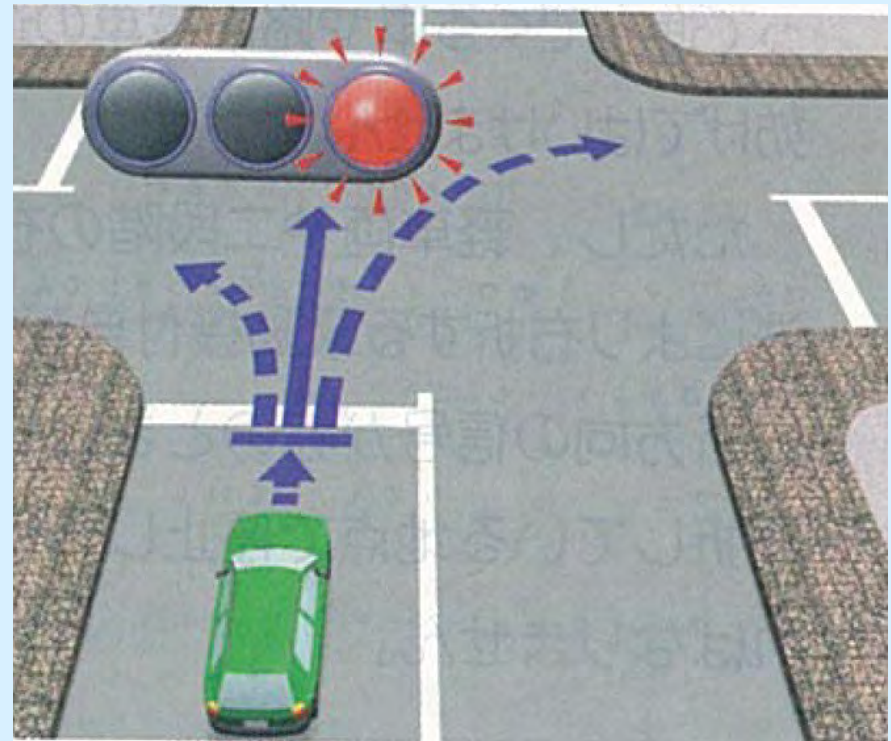


YELLOW FLASH

Slow down and proceed with caution.

RED FLASH

Stop and proceed with caution.



A solid yellow line in the center of the road means
NO PASSING



Tunnels – Light Adaptation

There are many tunnels in Japan. Be extremely cautious when entering and exiting tunnels.



Light adaptation



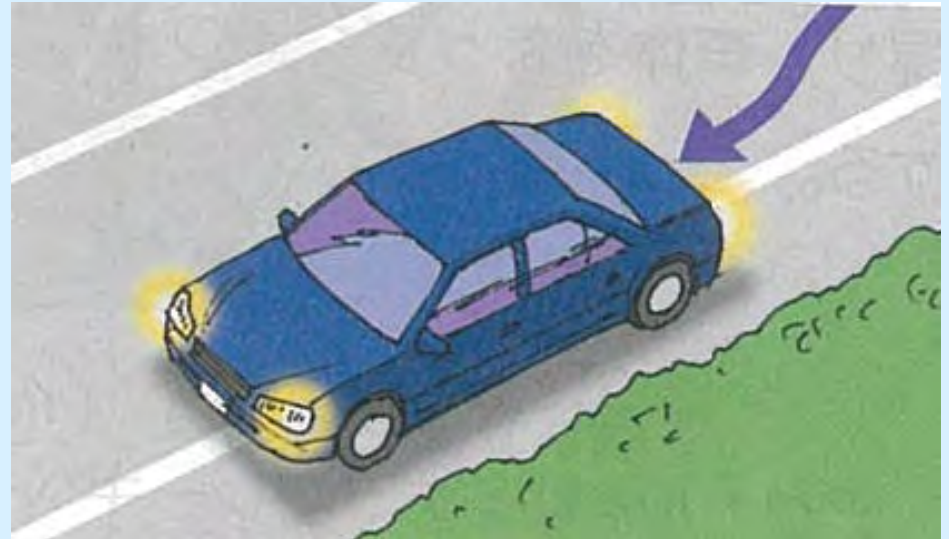
Dark adaptation

Steep Hills and Slopes

When driving down a steep hill, pressing continuously on the brakes could cause damage to the brakes. It is recommended **to switch to low gear when driving down a steep hill.**



When parking on a downhill slope, make sure **to turn wheels to the curb or left shoulder.**



SAFETY ITEMS

JAPANESE LAW:

- Operating a vehicle in Japan, you must have at least one flare and one triangle reflector. Ensure that the flare is not expired. An expired flare will not satisfy the requirement.
- Triangle reflectors are to be used to mark a stranded vehicle on National Highways.



RAILROAD CROSSING

It is mandatory that all vehicles come to a **complete stop** before a railway crossing, open a window, and perform a visual and aural check to ensure it is safe to proceed.

Stopping for one full second is good, two seconds are better.

If the railway crossing is equipped with a traffic signal, you may proceed in accordance with the signal indications.



Speed Limits and Hot Spots

Japan Speed Limits:

30 KPH: Mopeds 50cc (no expressways).

30-50 KPH: On local roads, look for posted speed limit signs.

60 KPH: On roads where no speed limit is posted (excluding national expressways).

70 KPH: Posted speed limit on local Expressways.

100 KPH: Max speed limit on National Expressways with the speed sign is turned-off

Base Speed Limits:

30 KPH – Max speed limit.

20 KPH – In Housing Area roads.

20 KPH – In School Zones.

20 KPH – In Parking Lots.

No Passing, No U-Turns on-base.

TRAFFIC HOT SPOTS ON-BASE

- Main Base Gates Monday -Friday.
- All crosswalks, especially at all School Zones,
- Parking Lots and Parking Garages.
- Piers and dry docks.
- All Family Housing Areas.

Local Traffic Law Enforcement

Japanese Police:

- Japanese police vehicles sometimes drive around with their **red lights** on - flashing. They do this to inform the public of their presence.
- Be aware, Japan has a robust traffic law-enforcement program and are very active on SSK Bypass and RT35. Expect to see Radar stations, marked/unmarked police cruisers, and police motorcycles patrolling for excessive speed violators.



Police Speed Trap in Japan



ON-BASE DRIVING

- No U-turns on-base.



- No passing stopped base School Buses (loading & unloading). **Both traffic directions must stop!**

You may only proceed when the bus starts moving again.



Method for Backing Up on Base

- It is required for GOV to briefly honk their horn before backing up.
- If there is a passenger in GOV, he/she will act as a guide behind the GOV.
- It is highly recommended for all personnel in POV to briefly honk their horn before backing up.
- **Backing is the #1 leading accidents in Sasebo.**



DRINKING AND DRIVING

- Japanese and base Police have alcohol testing devices:

1. Alcohol breath wand (magic wand). This device is used to indicate a positive activation on-the-scene.



2. CFAS Security Test: Intoxilyzer 5000 (breath)



3. Japanese Test: Balloon Test (kitagawa) (breath).



DRINKING AND DRIVING

- **IMPLIED CONSENT:** U.S. Forces, Japan is the legal issuing authority for U.S. Forces to operate a SOFA registered vehicle on and off USFJ installations and to drive any vehicle using a USFJ Form 4EJ or GOV license. Implied consent is therefore a pre-condition for anyone operating a USFJ registered vehicle, GOV or POV, in Japan regardless of location. Drivers give consent to evidential tests for alcohol or other drugs content of their blood, breath, and/or urine as a condition of accepting driving privileges. This consent applies when lawfully stopped, detained, apprehended or cited for any offense committed while driving or in physical control of a motor vehicle in Japan or when stopped for any other lawful reason, e.g., entry to an installation or pursuant to an installation checkpoint, etc.
- If you refuse any test, your driving privileges and license in Japan will automatically be revoked for **two years!**

BLOOD ALCOHOL CONTENT AND PENALTIES

Operating a motor vehicle under any impairment of intoxication caused by drugs or alcohol in violation of Article 111 of the UCMJ and/or Japanese law.

- DUI = **.03 - .079 %** (Japanese spec: **.15 - .25mg/l**)
- DUI Japanese penalties: up to **3 years** in prison and/or **500,000 yen** fine.
- DUI Base penalties: One year revocation.
- DWI = **.08 %>** (Japanese spec: **.25 mg/l**) and above
- DWI Japanese penalties: up to **5 years** in prison and/or **1,000,000 yen** fine.
- DWI Base penalties: Two years revocation.
- Japanese police can charge individuals that provide an intoxicated person with a vehicle and also persons that provide a driver alcohol who is subsequently DUI or DWI.

BLOOD ALCOHOL CONTENT AND PENALTIES

- Even persons riding as passengers with a driver that is DUI or DWI can be cited. Fines: **300,000 to 1,000,000 yen** and/or prison from **2 to 5 years**.
- Off base - DWI can be issued even if your BAC is less than the legal limit, this is based on policeman's assessment of the driver's behavior and ability to safely operate a vehicle.

**DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE
IN JAPAN – the consequences
are just too great.**

Japanese Traffic Law

If you cause a traffic accident when you use your cellphone:

Up to 1 year in jail or ¥300,000 fine + 6 points

Using a cellphone while driving:

Up to 6 month in jail or ¥100,000 fine + 3 points

***Usage of cellphone includes just holding or touching it.**



Japanese Law Updates/Increased Penalties

Japanese Road Traffic Law, effective **1 December 2019**, the punishment for using Electronic Devices While Driving will strengthen:

- ❖ Creating danger to traffic (including causing a traffic accident) while using an Electronic Device:
 - Up to 3 months in prison or a fine of up to ¥50,000 – **increase up to 1 year in prison or not more than ¥300,000 fine.**
- ❖ Use of electronic devices while driving (holding) fines will increase.

Fine Changes (before/after)

- Large size vehicle: from ¥7,000 **increase** to **¥25,000**
- Regular Vehicle: from ¥6,000 **increase** to **¥18,000**
- Motorcycle: from ¥6,000 **increase** to **¥15,000**
- Moped/Scooter: from ¥5,000 **increase** to **¥12,000**

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

There are two types of accidents

Those that causes the **death or injury** of a person.

Those that causes **property damage** only.

If you are involved in an accident, report the type of accident to:

Notify and report to CFAS Security ASAP!

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS (cont'd)

Base security will bring an interpreter to talk with the Japanese police. Let them do their jobs.

- **Look for and attend to the injured.**
- Request help from anyone close-by.
- Notify and report to CFAS Security ASAP.

Never leave the scene of an accident!

DON'T LEAVE UNTIL SECURITY RELEASES YOU!

TRAFFIC CITATION

Once you have been ticketed by Japanese police and pay your fine, the base will ALSO take administrative action against your drivers license.

Where do you pay your Japanese fines?

- Japanese bank
- Japanese post office

You may accumulate 12 points on your driving record in a 12 month period before your license is revoked.

Requirements for Vehicle Registration

(1) Proof of ownership of the vehicle (i.e., Bill of Sale and/or "Jyoto Shomei-sho"). Leased vehicles will not be registered.

(2) A valid USFJ Form 4EJ POV permit. (Prior to starting initial registration at COMFLEACT Sasebo Security VRO for a motor vehicle, all SOFA sponsored personnel or their family members are required to possess a USFJ Form 4 license.) If SOFA personnel and their family members already possess a permit issued by another installation in Japan, the permit still has to be renewed at COMFLEACT Sasebo Safety Department as stated in Article 1 of this instruction.

(3) Japanese Title (GOJ registration) registered by SOFA sponsored personnel only for USFJ decal (Ownership).

(4) Receipt of current road tax payment.

(5) Insurance Policies (JCI and Liability Insurance)

NOTE: It is mandatory for all motor vehicles to be registered with GOJ and CFAS VRO.



SECURITY / EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

CALL FROM THE SCENE

Security: **0956-50-0911**

On Base Emergency: **911** (On-base DSN only)

Off Base Police: **110**

Off Base Fire/EMS: **119**

On Base Operator: **0956-50-1110**

ADD THESE PHONE NUMBERS TO YOUR PHONE.



End of study material

“Traffic Safety in Japan”



By showing your respect for Japanese traffic laws, you become a good personal ambassador to Japan. This respect will further cement the harmonious relations between the United States and Japan.

This will reveal our good faith towards Japan and her people by providing Americans obey the laws of other countries as well as their own.

For more info: CFASINST 5800.1(series)