

By the Judgement of 7 April 2026 No. 21-II, the Constitutional Court assessed constitutionality of Article 25 (item 12) of the Federal Law № 196-FZ «On Road Safety»

This legal provision was subject of consideration insofar as it serves (both in its previous and current edition) as a basis for resolving the issue of whether a citizen of the Russian Federation who permanently and lawfully resides in a foreign state, which is a party to the Convention on Road Traffic, and who has temporarily entered the Russian Federation, is permitted to drive a vehicle on its territory on the basis of a foreign national driving licence issued by an authorised body of a state party to the Convention on Road Traffic (with the exception of a driving licence issued to a citizen of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Belarus), subject to compliance with other conditions for such permission.

The contested legal provision was recognised as inconsistent with the Constitution to the extent that it permits refusing such a citizen permission to drive a vehicle on the basis of the said driving licence (with the exception of a national driving licence issued to a citizen of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Belarus) during his temporary stay in the Russian Federation, provided that other conditions for such permission are met.

Until appropriate legislative changes are made, the said citizen of the Russian Federation shall have the right to drive a vehicle in the Russian Federation – in the absence of other obstacles to such permission provided by legislation – on the basis of his valid foreign driving licence issued by an authorised body of a state party to the Convention on Road Traffic, without regard to the expiry of the one-year period from the date of his first entry into the Russian Federation after obtaining the foreign driving licence, unless (with the exception of cases where the national driving licence was issued to a citizen of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Belarus) the authorised bodies establish the fact that he has been present in the Russian Federation for at least 183 calendar days within any 12 consecutive months.