



EASY ITALIA: BEST PRACTICES 2010 – VISA APPLICATIONS, PERMITS, AUTHORIZATIONS

1)

A CHINESE TOURIST ASKS: My mother, who is in Paris now, has lost her passport and has already reported the loss. She is coming to Italy, where I am at the moment, but she will not be allowed to travel by plain since most of the air companies don't accept the report of loss as a valid travel document. Would it be possible to compensate for the problem if she travels by train?

ANSWER: We inform the customer that, for entering, staying or transiting in the entire Schengen area, foreigners must have a passport or a valid travel document recognized by all Schengen States. The Chinese citizen must go to the police station where she reported the loss of her document and ask if the report of loss can be considered as a " valid travel document recognized by all Schengen States". Otherwise she must go to the Chinese Embassy in Paris and request a duplicate of her passport and a new Schengen visa in possession of which she will be able to enter Italy.

We also contacted the Trenitalia Call Center 89 20 21 and they confirmed what above mentioned.

2)

A FRENCH TOURIST ASKS: I have a french driving licence and I am going to drive around Italy for 8 days. I would like to know if it is necessary a special permit to drive the following means of transport: a 125cc³ motor scooter; a 200cc³ motor scooter; a 300cc³ motor scooter. Thanks in advance for your kind reply.

ANSWER: Citizens in possession of a driving license issued by an EU country are entitled to drive the category of vehicles for which the license has been issued.

Therefore, if the category of vehicles specified in the driving license correspond to the ones specified by the client, (125cc³ motor scooter; 200cc³ motor scooter; 300cc³ motor scooter), he is entitled to drive them around Italy without having to ask for a special permit.

3)

AN ENGLISH TOURIST ASKS: My UK driving license is at DVLA (Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency), for the necessary renewal of the photo. The license is still in force and I made a color front/back copy of the license. I'd like to come to Italy soon: Is it legal to drive in Italy with a copy of the original driving license? Can it be considered as equivalent of the original one?

ANSWER: According to the Nuovo Codice della strada (Legislative Decree n° 285, 30/04/1992), citizens in possession of a valid license issued by an EU country, are entitled to drive the category of vehicles for which the license has been issued with no restrictions. The driving license must be original (duplicates are not valid): is not possible, therefore, to drive vehicles in Italy with a copy or duplicate of the driving license, even if issued by the competent authority of the United Kingdom.