



Queensland licensing

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Queensland driver licence

Queensland has secure, durable and reliable licences, authorities and proof of age cards.

The cards include:

- driver licence
- heavy vehicle driver licence
- photo identification card
- marine licence indicator
- industry authority.



Applying for a card

Applying in person and providing additional information

Due to the introduction of more secure technology, you will need to apply in person at a licence issuing centre to obtain a card. This is so you can have your photo and signature captured digitally.

Receiving your card

For improved security, you will not receive your card on the spot. Instead, it will be produced at a secure location and mailed to you within 14 days. Once your application is approved you will receive an interim *Driver Licence Receipt* to show a police officer if requested to do so. This will act as proof you hold a licence until your card arrives in the mail.

For more information please visit www.qld.gov.au or call **13 23 80**.

Licence types

Before you drive, or learn to drive, any class of motor vehicle on a road in Queensland, you must hold a current licence allowing you to drive, or learn to drive, that class of vehicle.

The types of Queensland driver licences are:

- learner licence
- provisional licence
- probationary licence
- restricted licence
- open licence.

Learner licence

Before learning to drive any class of motor vehicle you must hold either a learner, provisional, probationary or open licence that allows you to learn to drive that vehicle. *Licence classes, codes and conditions* on page 12 provides information about learning to drive another class of vehicle under your provisional, probationary or open licence. *Applying for a licence* on page 16 provides information about getting your learner licence. *Learning to drive* on page 23 outlines the conditions for driving with a learner licence and helps you get ready for your Q-Safe practical driving test or Q-Ride assessment.

Provisional licence

Queensland has a two-stage provisional licence – P1 and P2 – as part of a graduated licensing system.

After you have held your learner licence for at least one year, you may go for your driving test. Depending on how old you are when you pass your test, you will get either a P1 or P2 provisional licence, which you must hold for a minimum period before you can progress to the next stage – see *Provisional licences* on page 34.

Probationary licence

You will only be eligible for a probationary licence if you have been disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence by a court and you have served the period of disqualification – see *Probationary licences* on page 40.

Restricted licence

If you are convicted of drink driving but need a licence to earn a living, you may be eligible to ask the court that convicts you to grant you a restricted licence, commonly known as a ‘work’ licence – see *Restricted licences* on page 41.

Open licence







You may be eligible for an open licence if you have held your provisional or probationary licence for the required period – see *Open licences* on page 39.

Graduated licensing system

Statistics show that drivers aged 17 to 24 have the highest risk of being involved in crashes resulting in death or injury.

As a result, the Queensland graduated licensing system has been designed to give novice drivers more supervised on-road driving experience, including identifying and dealing with hazards, to improve their driving skills with minimal distraction.

For learner drivers aged 23 and under, there are six steps before you get your open licence:

-  Knowledge assessment (PrepL or written road rules test)
-  Learner licence
-  Practical driving test
-  P1 provisional licence
-  Hazard perception test
-  P2 provisional licence.

Open licence

Under the graduated licensing system, you can get your learner licence at 16 and if you meet all the requirements for each stage, you may get your open licence by the time you are 20.

For information on the graduated licensing system, visit www.qld.gov.au.

For a learner licence

- You may only get a car learner licence if you are at least 16.
- You will need to pass a road rules knowledge assessment.
- Your learner licence will be issued for three years.
- You must hold your learner licence for at least one year, in the previous three years, before you can take your driving test.
- You must carry your learner licence with you at all times while learning to drive. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*.
- L plates must be clearly displayed at the front and back of the car you are learning to drive (back only for motorcycles) – see *L plates*, page 25.
- You must be accompanied by a person who holds and has held an open licence for that class of vehicle for at least one year. The supervising driver must not be on a provisional, probationary, restricted, suspended, cancelled or expired licence.

- If you are a learner driver under 25, you must complete 100 hours of supervised on-road driving (including at least 10 hours of night driving) recorded in your Queensland learner logbook, Queensland learner logbook app or a learner logbook app from a recognised third party provider – see *The compulsory Queensland learner logbook*, page 25.
- You must always drive with a zero (0.00) breath/blood alcohol concentration (BAC).
- Your supervising driver must have a BAC below 0.05 if you are learning to drive a car or 0.00 BAC for drivers supervising heavy vehicle learners.
- If you are under 25 additional restrictions on mobile phone use apply to you, your supervisor and passengers – see *Mobile phones*, page 37.
- If you accumulate four or more demerit points over a continuous one year period while on your learner licence, your driver licence will be suspended for a three month period – see *Demerit points*, page 38.
- To progress to your P1 or P2 licence, you must pass the driving test – see *Q-Safe practical driving test*, page 28.

For a P1 provisional licence

- You may only get a P1 licence if you are at least 17.
- If you are under 25, your first provisional licence will be issued as a P1 licence.
- You are required to hold your P1 licence for at least one year.
- Red P plates must be clearly displayed at the front and back of your car (back only for motorcycles) – see *P plates*, page 36.
- You must always drive with a zero BAC.
- If you are under 25 additional mobile phone restrictions apply to you and your passengers – see *Mobile phones*, page 37.
- You must always carry your licence when you are driving. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*.
- If you are under 25 restrictions apply to driving high-powered vehicles (such as those with eight or more cylinders, or those with turbo, super-charged or modified engines) – see *High-powered vehicles*, page 36.
- If you accumulate four or more demerit points in a continuous one year period you will be required to choose between a three month licence suspension or a one year good driving behaviour period – see *Demerit points*, page 38.
- Peer passenger restrictions apply – see *Peer passengers*, page 38.
- Late night driving restrictions, prohibiting you from driving between 11pm and 5am, may apply if your licence is suspended or cancelled or you are serving a good driving behaviour period – see *Late night driving restrictions*, page 169.

If you turn 25 when you are on your P1 licence, the peer passenger, high-powered vehicle and additional mobile phone restrictions no longer apply to you. You must continue to display red P plates, drive with a zero BAC and always carry your licence or *Driver Licence Receipt*.

You will be required to pass the hazard perception test before you can progress to a P2 provisional or open licence – see *Hazard perception test*, page 35.

For a P2 provisional licence

- You may only get your P2 licence if you are at least 18.
- You must also:
 - have held your P1 licence for at least one year and have passed the hazard perception test – see *Hazard perception test*, page 35
 - or
 - if you are 25 or over, have held your learner licence for at least one year and passed your practical driving test.
- If you got your P1 licence when you were under 23 and your P2 licence when you were under 25, you are required to hold your P2 licence for at least two years. In any other case you are required to hold your P2 licence for at least one year.
- Green P plates must be clearly displayed at the front and back of your car (back only for motorcycles) – see *P plates*, page 36.
- You must always drive with a zero BAC.
- You must always carry your licence when you are driving. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*.
- If you are under 25, restrictions on driving high-powered vehicles (such as those with eight or more cylinders, or those with turbo, super-charged or modified engines) apply – see *High-powered vehicles*, page 36.
- If you accumulate four or more demerit points in a continuous one year period you will be required to choose between a three month licence suspension or a one year good driving behaviour period – see *Demerit points*, page 38.
- Late night driving restrictions, prohibiting you from driving between 11pm and 5am, may apply if your licence is suspended or cancelled or you are serving a good driving behaviour period – see *Late night driving restrictions*, page 169.

For an open licence

- You may only get your open licence if you are at least 20.
- If you were under 23 when you got your P1 licence, you must hold your P2 licence for at least two years to progress to an open licence.

- If you were 23 when you got your P1 licence, you must hold your P2 licence for at least one year to progress to an open licence.
- If you were 24 when you got your P1 licence, you must hold your P1 licence for at least one year to progress to an open licence.
- If you were 25 or over when you passed your practical driving test, you would have been issued with a P2 licence which you must hold for at least one year. To graduate to an open licence you are not required to undertake the hazard perception test.
- If you accumulate 12 or more demerit points in a continuous three year period you will be required to choose between a licence suspension or a one year good driving behaviour period – see *Accumulation of demerit points* – *Queensland licence holders*, page 165.

Learner licence for motorcycle

- You may apply for a class RE motorcycle learner licence after you have held your class C car provisional, probationary or open licence for at least one year – see *Motorcycles*, page 42.
- When you are learning to ride a motorcycle, an L plate must be displayed at the back of your motorcycle or on the back of a vest worn while riding – see *L plates*, page 25.
- You may only learn to ride a learner approved motorcycle – see *Motorcycles*, page 42.
- You must always ride with a zero BAC.
- Restrictions on passengers apply – see *Pillion passenger restriction for learner riders*, page 44.

Minimum period for licence types

If you are required to hold your licence for a minimum period, the time will only count if your licence is current. Any time that your licence is expired, suspended (for any reason) or cancelled will not count and the minimum period you are required to hold your licence will be extended.

Returning drivers

If you previously held a class of licence that has not been valid for more than five years (for example, expired, surrendered or cancelled), you may apply to reobtain that class or a lower class of licence without having to hold any other licence for a minimum period of time - for more information about returning drivers, visit www.qld.gov.au.

Licence classes, codes and conditions

You need a particular class of licence to drive certain vehicles. Your licence will show only the highest class of vehicle you are authorised to drive and, if required, the code for any conditions with which you are required to comply.

This means you are allowed to drive each type of vehicle listed for that licence class. However, motorcycle classes RE or R will appear separately on your licence.

Authority to learn

If you hold a provisional, probationary or open licence for a particular class of vehicle, you can learn to drive the higher class of vehicle – see the table below.

Also, if you hold a provisional, probationary or open licence for a particular class of vehicle, you can learn to drive that class of vehicle with either an automatic or manual transmission or with a synchromesh gearbox.

For example, if you hold an automatic car licence, you can learn to drive a car with a manual transmission.

If you are authorised to learn to drive a class of vehicle under your provisional, probationary or open licence, you must be accompanied by a person who holds an open licence for the class of vehicle you are learning to drive and has held that licence for at least one year. You risk a fine if you drive unaccompanied or with a person who is not appropriately licensed.

Note: L plates must be displayed while learning to drive the higher class of vehicle.

Driver licence classes

This table shows what class of licence you need to drive a particular vehicle.

Licence class	Class of vehicle
RE (motorcycle)	<p>You may ride:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a learner approved motorcycle that is a moped• a learner approved motorcycle, other than a moped, with or without a trailer – see <i>Motorcycles</i>, page 42. <p>You must have held a class C car provisional, probationary or open licence for at least one year to be eligible for a motorcycle (class RE) learner licence.</p> <p>You may learn to ride a class R motorcycle once you have held your class RE provisional, probationary or open licence for at least two years.</p>
R (motorcycle)	<p>You may ride:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a class RE motorcycle• a motorcycle with unlimited engine size, with or without a trailer.

Licence class	Class of vehicle
C (car)	<p>You may drive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a moped • a car, with or without a trailer • a vehicle, e.g. a minivan, not more than 4.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass (GVM), built or fitted to carry no more than 12 adults, including the driver • a specially constructed vehicle with or without a trailer. <p>Note: A specially constructed vehicle does not include a mobile crane of more than 4.5 tonnes GVM.</p> <p>You may learn to drive a class LR, MR, or HR vehicle.</p>
LR (light rigid)	<p>You may drive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a class C vehicle • a bus of not more than 8 tonnes GVM, with or without a trailer of not more than 9 tonnes GVM • a truck (including a prime mover) of not more than 8 tonnes GVM, with or without a trailer of not more than 9 tonnes GVM <p>You may learn to drive a class MR, or HR vehicle.</p>
MR (medium rigid)	<p>You may drive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a class LR vehicle • a bus of more than 8 tonnes GVM, with not more than two axles, with or without a trailer of not more than 9 tonnes GVM • a truck (including a prime mover) of more than 8 tonnes GVM, with not more than two axles, with or without a trailer of not more than 9 tonnes GVM <p>You may learn to drive a class HR, or HC vehicle.</p>
HR (heavy rigid)	<p>You may drive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a class MR vehicle • a bus of more than 8 tonnes GVM, with more than two axles, with or without a trailer of not more than 9 tonnes GVM • an articulated bus • a truck (including a prime mover) of more than 8 tonnes GVM, with more than two axles, with or without a trailer of not more than 9 tonnes GVM <p>You may learn to drive a class HC, or MC vehicle.</p>
HC (heavy combination)	<p>You may drive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a class HR vehicle • a truck (including a prime mover) of more than 8 tonnes GVM, with a trailer of more than 9 tonnes GVM • You may learn to drive a class MC vehicle.
MC (multi-combination)	<p>You may drive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a class HC vehicle • a B-double • a road train.

Licence class	Class of vehicle
UD	You may drive a specially constructed vehicle, with or without a trailer. Note: Class UD is no longer issued to new applicants. Mobile cranes of more than 4.5 tonnes GVM can no longer be driven on a class UD. You will need the appropriate class of heavy vehicle licence.

Licence codes and conditions

Code	Licence condition
A	You may only drive the class of vehicle with automatic transmission.
B	You may only drive the class of vehicle with synchromesh gearbox.
I	You may only drive a nominated vehicle fitted with a prescribed interlock, or while carrying, and in accordance with, an interlock exemption certificate.
M	You may only drive while carrying a current medical certificate form F3712. You must obey any conditions listed on the certificate.
RD	You may learn to drive the class/es of vehicle stated in your returning driver certificate. You must carry your certificate at all times while learning to drive - for more information about returning drivers, visit www.qld.gov.au .
S	You may only drive while wearing corrective lenses.
V	You may only drive a motor vehicle fitted with driver aids, or equipped or adapted, in the way stated in a written notice given to you by the chief executive, and only while carrying the notice.
X1	You may only drive while carrying, and in accordance with, an order under section 87 or 88 of the <i>Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995</i> .
X3	You may only drive while carrying, and in accordance with, a special hardship order and any special hardship order variation order.
X4	You may only drive while carrying, and in accordance with, a section 79E order and any section 79E variation order.

Upgrading your licence


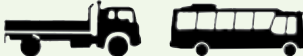



To upgrade your licence to another class, you must:

- produce your licence. You will be required to declare any suspensions, disqualifications or cancellations of your driver licence.
- provide evidence of identity and residence (if required) – see *Evidence of identity*, page 16

- pass a road rules test (if required). To pass the heavy vehicle test, you must answer eight out of ten questions correctly. For the motorcycle test, you must answer 27 out of 30 questions correctly
- pay the driving test fee and pass the test (if required).

Minimum periods for licence classes

You must have held a provisional, probationary or open licence for a minimum period before you can upgrade to another licence class.

Licence class	Minimum period
RE (motorcycle)	You must have held a class C provisional, probationary or open licence for at least one year.
R (motorcycle)	You must have held a class RE provisional, probationary or open licence for at least two years.
LR (light rigid)	You must have held a class C provisional, probationary or open licence for at least one year.
	
MR (medium rigid)	You must have held a class C provisional, probationary or open licence for at least one year.
	
HR (heavy rigid)	You must have held: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a class C provisional, probationary or open licence for at least two years • a class LR or MR provisional, probationary or open licence for at least one year.
	
HC (heavy or open combination)	You must have held a class MR or HR provisional, probationary or open licence for at least one year.
	
MC (multi-combination)	You must have held a class HR or HC provisional, probationary or open licence for at least one year.
	

Applying for a licence

To apply for a licence you must:

- visit a Department of Transport and Main Roads customer service centre or Queensland Government licence issuing office. In some rural or remote areas, Queensland Police stations may issue the licence
- provide evidence of identity and evidence of Queensland residency – see *Evidence of identity*, below
- declare that you are medically fit to drive the class of vehicle for the licence that you are applying for. If you have a medical condition that may adversely affect your ability to drive safely, you must provide a medical certificate – see *Medical conditions and driving*, page 20
- pay the licence fee.

If you hold an interstate or foreign licence and need to get a Queensland licence, – see *Obtaining a Queensland driver licence*, page 59.

Learner licence

To apply for a learner licence, you will also need to pay for and complete the road rules knowledge assessment (if required).

Provisional licence

To apply for a provisional licence you will also need to complete 100 hours of supervised on-road driving experience recorded in a logbook and submit the logbook for assessment prior to your driving test (if required).
– see *The compulsory Queensland learner licence logbook*, page 25.

To move from a P1 to a P2 or open licence you will need to pay the hazard perception test fee and pass the test (if required) – see *Hazard perception test*, page 35.

Evidence of identity

You will need to comply with the evidence of identity requirements when you are applying for a licence for the first time, or when you are renewing your licence and are unable to show your Queensland licence (current or expired less than two years).

If you are unable to present your Queensland driver licence, the evidence of identity requirements may be met if you can present your Queensland industry authority, marine licence indicator, adult proof of age card or photo identification card (conditions apply).

You will also need to comply with these requirements when you are applying in

person for a replacement of your licence if it has been lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged. You may also apply for a replacement licence online.

If you have changed your name and you want your new name shown on your licence, you must show an official change of name document – see *Change of name documents*, page 18.

Evidence of identity documents

You will need to show three evidence of identity documents. These documents must include either of the following:

- one category A document and two category B documents
- two category A documents and one category B document.

At least one of these documents must include your signature. Each document must be an original.

All documents must be current unless otherwise stated. The Department of Transport and Main Roads may keep a copy of your evidence of identity documents or information about them to verify these documents with the issuing agency or a document verification service.

If you cannot show any of the evidence of identity documents, you should discuss this with staff at a Department of Transport and Main Roads customer service centre. For more information call **13 23 80**.

Note: If you have any documents in a foreign language, you must include a recognised English translation. For a list of approved recognised translators, visit the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) website **www.naati.com.au** and access the Online directory.

Category A documents

These documents establish the legal existence of your name and date of birth.

They include:

- Australian birth certificate – full, including a bicentennial birth certificate issued for births in 1988 (other commemorative certificates, extracts, acknowledgment of birth, photocopies or certified copies of original documents are not acceptable)
- Australian or foreign passport (current or expired less than two years)
- Australian citizenship certificate or naturalisation certificate
- Department of Immigration and Border Protection travel document (valid up to five years after issue)
- Department of Immigration and Border Protection Certificate of Evidence of Resident Status
- Australian photo driver licence (current or expired less than two years)
- Queensland or Australian federal police officer photo identity card

- Queensland Card 18+ (issued after 1 January 1992)
- Industry Authorisation Card — for example driver or rider trainer, pilot or escort vehicle driver, dangerous goods driver, tow truck driver, assistant certificate (current or expired less than two years) or driver authorisation.

Category B documents

These documents establish the use of your name in the community. They include:

- Australian Medicare card
- Australian Defence Force photo identity card (excluding civilians)
- financial institution debit/credit card with signature and embossed name
- education institution student identity document (must be issued in Australia and include photo or signature)
- Department of Veterans' Affairs/Centrelink pensioner concession card or health care card
- Australian security guard or crowd controller licence (with photo)
- Australian firearm licence (with photo).

For a full list of evidence of identity documents visit www.qld.gov.au.

Change of name documents

If you have changed your name, or the details of your name are different on the documents to be shown, you must also show an official change of name document such as:

- Australian marriage certificate issued by the relevant Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages (ceremonial certificates are not acceptable)
- Australian change of name certificate issued by the relevant Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages
- Australian civil partnership/relationship certificate
- Australian birth certificate (amended or with notations)
- divorce papers decree nisi or absolute (must show the name being reverted to)
- deed poll (issued before 1 February 2004).

An official overseas marriage certificate may only be accepted if it has a registration number and official crest and is accompanied by one category A document or two category B documents in your married name.

Evidence of Queensland residential address

If your current Queensland residential address is not shown on either the category A or category B documents, you will need to show another document that provides evidence of your Queensland residential address.

They include:

- contract of purchase, lease or rental document, mortgage or land ownership certificate
- Queensland vehicle registration certificate
- Queensland licence or vehicle registration notice (for the coming period)
- Queensland local government rates notice
- Queensland land tax valuation notice
- Australian Taxation Office assessment (last or current financial year)
- Australian Taxation Office tax file number confirmation advice (valid up to two years)
- electricity, gas or telephone account.

If providing documentation from the Australian Taxation Office, please black out all personal information other than your name and residential address (this includes blacking out information such as your tax file number).

If you are genuinely unable to show one of these documents or would like more information, visit www.qld.gov.au or call **13 23 80**.

Eyesight

Clarity of vision is very important for driving. Any loss of vision may reduce your ability to drive safely. If you need to wear glasses or contact lenses when driving, your licence will show a 'S' code indicating that you must wear corrective lenses when driving.

If you have any eyesight problems, you may be required to obtain a medical certificate from a doctor, who may seek the specialist opinion of an optometrist or ophthalmologist, certifying that your sight meets the approved standard for the class of licence you want.

If you only have vision in one eye (monocular vision), you will be required to obtain a medical certificate from a doctor, with verification from an optometrist or ophthalmologist, confirming the extent of the loss of your visual acuity and visual fields. This applies regardless of whether you are a private or commercial vehicle driver.

If you do not meet the eyesight standards, you will not be granted the licence.

Medical conditions and driving

When you apply for a licence, you must tell the Department of Transport and Main Roads about any medical condition that may adversely affect your ability to drive safely.

While you hold a Queensland driver licence, you must promptly notify the Department of Transport and Main Roads about any long term or permanent medical condition, or any change to an existing medical condition that is likely to adversely affect your ability to drive safely. You can notify the Department of Transport and Main Roads by completing a *Medical Condition Notification* (form F4355) or visit www.qld.gov.au.

If you fail to notify the Department of Transport and Main Roads about a medical condition that is likely to adversely affect your ability to drive safely, you risk a fine in excess of \$7500 and you may also be disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence for a period of time.

If you have a medical condition that may adversely affect your ability to drive safely, you must present to the Department of Transport and Main Roads a *Medical Certificate for Motor Vehicle Driver* (form F3712) completed by your doctor. In order to be eligible to apply for or continue to hold a licence, your doctor must recommend on your *Medical Certificate for Motor Vehicle Driver* (form 3712) that you are either:

- fit to drive with no conditions

or

- fit to drive with stated conditions (for example only driving during daylight or in a vehicle with an automatic transmission)

Common medical conditions that may adversely affect your ability to drive safely include, but are not limited to:

- alcohol and/or drug dependency
- Alzheimer's disease and other dementias
- arthritis
- diabetes
- eye problems (for example cataracts)
- epilepsy
- hearing problems
- heart disease
- injuries and disabilities
- loss or partial loss of a limb
- lung disease
- psychiatric conditions
- sleep disorders
- stroke.

If you have a medical condition the code M will be recorded on your licence. This means that when you drive you must carry a current medical certificate (this is detachable from your *Medical Certificate for Motor Vehicle Driver* form F3712) and drive in accordance with any stated conditions. If you don't, you risk a fine in excess of \$2500. You must also show your medical certificate to a member of the Queensland Police Service if you have been asked to do so.

If you have a medical condition and can only drive a specially modified vehicle, you may also be required to carry a current written notice from the Department of Transport and Main Roads authorising you to drive a vehicle with driver aids or specialised equipment. For more information about driving a specially modified vehicle, please visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au or call **13 23 80**.

If you drive vehicles with a GVM of more than 8 tonnes, public passenger vehicles (for example buses, taxis or booked hire) or drive a vehicle that is licensed or required to be licensed to carry dangerous goods, you must meet the commercial vehicle driver medical standards in the *Assessing Fitness to Drive* publication. For more information, visit the Austroads website www.austroads.com.au.

If you are 75 or older

You must have evidence that you are medically fit to drive. This means that you must have a current medical certificate (this is the detachable form from the *Medical Certificate for Motor Vehicle Driver* (form F3712) completed by your doctor recommending that you are fit to drive. You must always carry your medical certificate when you drive and drive in accordance with any stated conditions.

This is a mandatory requirement even if you don't have a long-term or permanent medical condition that is likely to adversely affect your ability to drive safely.

You will be required to present a current medical certificate to the Department of Transport and Main Roads when you apply for or renew a licence. However, in the interim, if you do develop a long-term or permanent medical condition, or you have a change to an existing medical condition that is likely to adversely affect your ability to drive safely, the normal medical condition notification requirements apply.

Medical certificates issued to drivers 75 or older are valid for a maximum period of 13 months from the date of issue. Medical certificates issued prior to 7 July 2017 will expire on the stated expiry date. However, in some cases your doctor may want you to undertake more regular check-ups and therefore may issue you with a medical certificate for a period less than 13 months.

If you are unsure about any medical condition you may have, you should talk to your doctor about any potential impact on your ability to drive safely. Your doctor is the best person to determine if you are fit to drive.

For more information or to obtain forms relating to medical conditions, please visit www.qld.gov.au, call **13 23 80** or contact your nearest licence issuing centre. Forms may also be available from your doctor.

PrepL/Road rules test

PrepL

PrepL is an online learning and assessment program designed to replace the written road rules test to obtain a learner licence. If you complete PrepL you do not need to do the written road rules test. You will need to pay the PrepL fee upfront. This gives you 12 months to complete the program. You can retry as many times needed for the one fee. You must wait 24 hours to retake the test if you fail.

For more information visit to www.qld.gov.au.

Class C general road rules test

You may also be able to take a written road rules test at a driver licence issuing centre to obtain a learner licence. Allow at least 30 minutes to complete your road rules test. You pay a fee for each test.

There are 30 questions in the general road rules test. The test has two main sections. The first section is 10 questions on the give way rules. You need to get 9 correct answers. The second section is 20 questions on the other road rules. You need to get 18 correct answers.

The questions on the test are all multiple choice. This means that you are given a choice between different answers and you have to choose the correct one.

Once you complete PrepL or pass your written road rules test, the result is valid for five years. If you apply for an additional licence class, you may need to pass a specific road rules test for that class.

Class RE or R (motorcycle) road rules test

The motorcycle knowledge test is online. If you take the test online, a fee is only required once you pass the test. If you pass your test, you may get a learner licence. If you fail your test, you cannot take it again until the next working day. You will have to correctly answer at least 27 out of the 30 additional questions specific to motorcycles to pass the test.

Class LR, MR, HR, HC or MC (heavy vehicle) road rules test

You will have to correctly answer at least eight of the 10 additional questions specific to heavy vehicles to pass the test.

Practice test questions

You can test your knowledge for all licence classes by completing the practice road rules test online at www.qld.gov.au. This will give you an indication of the areas you need to focus on.

Learning to drive

Accredited Driver Trainer

Using an accredited driver trainer will help you get training which promotes the knowledge, attitude, and skills to efficiently and safely use a motor vehicle on our public roads.

The benefits of using an accredited driver trainer include:

- a properly trained and qualified teacher who treats you as an individual
- the trainer can develop a teaching plan to suit your needs
- dual-controlled vehicles are used to provide driver training
- lessons may take place before or after work/school and in some cases on weekends
- lessons run for a prescribed length of time.

If you have a driver licence, and want to update your skills, a driver trainer can tailor a lesson to suit your needs.

When looking for a driver trainer, make sure you check:

- their accreditation
- how long each lesson will be
- whether the trainer follows a structured approach with defined outcomes
- whether there is a refund policy in place to cover any prepaid bulk lesson plan.

Every hour you drive with an accredited trainer counts for 3 hours in your logbook—up to a maximum of 10 actual hours or 30 logbook hours.

Any hours with an accredited trainer after the first 10 hours must be recorded in your logbook as like-for-like.



Learner licence conditions

Now you have your car learner licence, there are a number of requirements and restrictions that you must understand.

Rules for all class C learner licence holders regardless of your age

- Display L plates on the front and back of your vehicle.
- Keep your licence with you at all times while driving. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*.
- Be accompanied by a person who holds and has held an open licence for that class of vehicle (for example, automatic or manual), for at least one year. The supervising driver must not be on a provisional, probationary, restricted, suspended, cancelled or expired licence when accompanying a learner. They must have a BAC below 0.05 if you are learning to drive a car or (0.00) for drivers supervising heavy vehicle learners – see *Alcohol and drugs*, page 102.

- You must drive with a zero BAC.
- You must hold a learner licence for at least one year before being eligible to undertake a practical driving test. Passing the practical driving test will enable you to move to the next stage of your licensing journey. If you are under 25 years of age you will qualify for your P1 licence. If you are 25 or over you will qualify for your P2 licence.
- Using a mobile phone is prohibited while driving, including hands-free function, loudspeaker function and Bluetooth® accessories. Your driving supervisor and passengers are also restricted from using mobile phones on loudspeaker function – see *Mobile phones* page 27.

Rules for class C learner licence holders (under 25 years of age)

- Complete 100 hours (or equivalent) of supervised on-road driving experience including 10 hours at night, recorded and verified in a logbook – see *The compulsory Queensland learner logbook*, page 25.

Research shows the more experience you have before graduating to your provisional licence, the less likely you are to be involved in a crash. Make the most of your time as a learner, it's the safest driving period.

Continue to develop safe driving skills by practising in a variety of driving conditions including wet weather, heavy traffic and night driving.

Rules for class C learner licence holders (25 years of age and over)

The Queensland licensing system affects you differently if you apply for a learner licence and you are 25 years of age or older.

Learners 25 years of age and over are not required to log 100 hours of driving before undertaking a practical driving test, although this is encouraged. All drivers are banned from using a mobile phone that is held in the hand while driving.

For more information, visit www.qld.gov.au.

If you accumulate four or more demerit points over a continuous one year period while on your learner licence, your licence will be suspended for a three month period – see *Accumulation of demerit points – Queensland licence holders*, page 165.

L plates

An L plate is a sign that measures at least 146mm x 146mm and shows a black uppercase letter 'L' on a yellow background.



When you are learning to drive a car or heavy vehicle, you must clearly display L plates at the front and back of the vehicle. When you are learning to ride a motorcycle, an L plate must be clearly displayed at the back of the motorcycle or back of a vest worn while riding.

You risk a fine if the letter L cannot be clearly seen at the front and rear of the car (rear only for motorcycles) from 20m away.

You can buy L plates from service stations, major retailers and automotive outlets. Check with your local supplier for the cost. You can also download and print a colour template from www.qld.gov.au.

A person driving or riding a vehicle, other than as a learner driver or rider, must not display L plates on the vehicle.

The compulsory Queensland learner logbook

International research shows there is a significant link between the amount of supervised on-road driving experience that new drivers gain and improvements in road safety.

All learner drivers under 25 must gain 100 hours of supervised on-road driving experience in a car (including at least 10 hours night driving) and record it in a Queensland learner logbook. If you are a learner driver 25 or older, it is not a requirement but highly recommended that you also gain 100 hours of on-road driving experience.

When you are issued with your learner licence, you can download the Queensland learner logbook app or receive a hard copy learner logbook. The logbook has lots of important information about learning to drive, supervisors and your Q-Safe driving test.

You can also record your 100 hours using a learner logbook app from a recognised third party provider. For more information please visit www.qld.gov.au.

If you need to replace your logbook for any reason (for example, your logbook is lost, stolen or destroyed), you will need to:

- obtain another logbook (fee will apply)
- re-enter the previously completed driving experience in the new logbook
- get your supervisor to re-sign your prior driving entries.

You will not have to do this if you are using the Queensland learner logbook app.

The information contained in your logbook is valuable. It's a good idea to keep a copy of the driving experience pages or to keep an electronic logbook.

You cannot take your practical driving test until you lodge your completed logbook and it has been assessed and passed.

Every time you gain on-road driving experience it should be recorded accurately as an entry in your logbook.

Your supervisor can be a family member, a friend or an accredited driver trainer, or a combination of all three of these. An accredited driver trainer is a professional driving instructor with a driving school – see *Accredited Driver Trainer* page 23.

Driving experience (day or night) with an accredited driver trainer counts as triple the amount of actual time you spend driving up to a maximum of 10 hours. For example 10 hours tripled ($\times 3$) = 30 hours which is 1800 minutes that may be recorded in your logbook.

If you have undertaken driving experience in Australia or New Zealand under an Australian or New Zealand learner licence, record that experience on a *Prior Driving Experience Application* (form F4450). You can also use a combination of that experience on *Prior Driving Experience Application* (form F4450) with driving experience recorded in your logbook.

If you have undertaken driving experience in a recognised country under a foreign learner licence, record a combination of that experience on a *Prior Driving Experience Application* (form F4450) (no more than 50 hours) and driving experience gained on Australian roads recorded in your logbook (at least 50 hours, including the required 10 hours of night driving). For more information on recognised countries visit **www.qld.gov.au**.

If you are unable to gain 100 hours of supervised on-road driving experience, you may be eligible to apply for an exemption. If an exemption is granted, you must hold your learner licence for two years before undertaking your practical driving test.

Your supervising driver(s) must approve every entry in your logbook. If you are submitting a *Prior Driving Experience Application*, your supervising driver(s) must also sign this form.

When you have completed 100 hours, you will need to agree to a declaration that the logbook entries are true and correct. Penalties apply to you and your supervisor if you record false or misleading information in your logbook.

Mobile phones

Mobile phones can be a major distraction to young drivers. This is why learner licence and P1 licence holders under 25 are banned from using mobile phones at any time while driving. This includes using hands-free kits, Bluetooth® accessories and loudspeaker functions.

Your supervisor and any passengers are also banned from using mobile phones on loudspeaker function. If you are under 25, a learner licence holder and need to use your mobile phone, you may use it only when you are legally and safely parked.

Ready to drive – for the learner

When you receive your learner licence you can choose between the Queensland learner logbook app or the Queensland learner logbook to record your 100 hours of supervised on-road driving experience (including at least 10 hours night driving). Visit www.qld.gov.au for everything you need to know to progress from your learner licence to your provisional and open licence.

Use your time as a learner to make yourself the best possible driver. It's a bit like sport and other interests. You don't want to just pass. You want to be the best driver you can be.

Sample questions – learner licences

1. What is the maximum breath/blood alcohol concentration (BAC) for a learner driver? (See page 24)

- A. 0.05.
- B. 0.02.
- C. 0.00.
- D. 0.08.

2. If you are driving a car on a learner licence, you: (See page 23)

- A. Must ensure one L plate is fitted to your car so that it can be clearly seen from the front of the car.
- B. Must ensure one L plate is fitted to your car so that it can be clearly seen from the back of the car.
- C. Are not required to display L plates when you are accompanied by a supervising driver.
- D. Must ensure two L plates are fitted to your car so that they can be clearly seen from the front and the back of the car.

3. Which one of the following statements is true for a learner driver? (See page 24)

- A. You must have only one passenger in the car.
- B. You must only drive during daylight hours.
- C. If you are under 25 you need to complete the required number of hours of supervised on-road driving experience before you can undertake your practical driving test.
- D. You can drive without a supervisor, but it will not contribute to your logbook hours.

4. Which one of the following statements is true for a learner driver who is under 25? (See page 27)

- A. You may use a mobile phone while driving, provided you use a hands-free or Bluetooth® accessory.
- B. You may use a mobile phone while driving, provided you do not become distracted.
- C. You may only use a mobile phone in the car you are driving if you are legally and safely parked.
- D. You must never use a mobile phone in your car.

5. How long must you hold your learner licence before you take your practical driving test? (See page 8)

- A. Six months.
- B. 12 months.
- C. Six months if you are 25 or older, and 12 months if you are under 25.

Q-Safe practical driving test

To be able to drive solo, you must demonstrate your driving ability by passing the Q-Safe practical driving test. Please check the Queensland Government website at www.qld.gov.au for up-to-date information about the Q-Safe test.

Booking your Q-Safe practical driving test

If you have an accredited driver trainer, they may arrange an appointment time for your Q-Safe practical driving test at a testing centre. If not, you'll need to do this yourself. You will be required to pay the practical driving test fee. You can book and pay for your practical test online at www.tmr.qld.gov.au or by calling **13 23 80**.

If you are a learner licence holder under 25, you must lodge your completed and certified logbook via Australia Post, or via your app, at least 12 business days before your practical driving test. The Department of Transport and Main Roads will carefully check your logbook and will then notify you of your assessment result. Your logbook must be approved before you can take your practical driving test.

For more information about booking a practical driving test, call the Department of Transport and Main Roads on **13 23 80**, visit *Services online* at www.tmr.qld.gov.au, or check the information in your logbook.

Note: If you wish to obtain a motorcycle licence or heavy vehicle licence, see pages 42 and 54 respectively.

Test vehicles

The standard test vehicle for a class C licence is a vehicle (other than a motorcycle) not more than 4.5 tonnes GVM, built or fitted to carry no more than 12 adults including the driver.

The vehicle must be registered and pass a basic safety check conducted by the driving examiner. Before turning up for your practical test, make sure the vehicle will pass the safety check by having:

- signalling devices, horn and stop lights that are all working
- brakes and tyres that are in good condition
- mirrors and internal sun visors that are adjustable
- windows that are clean and able to be opened and shut
- windscreen and wipers in good condition
- seatbelts and head restraints fitted to both front seats
- doors that are fitted with suitable door handles that are able to be opened from inside and outside the vehicle.

Convertible-style vehicles must have the roof closed. All doors must be able to be opened from inside and outside the vehicle and be fitted with suitable door handles.

If you are going for a manual licence, you must take your practical driving test in a manual vehicle.

If you are under 25 and take your practical driving test in a high-powered vehicle, you will not be able to drive it out of the testing centre if you pass the practical driving test. You will need an open licence holder to drive the vehicle from the licence testing centre as P1 and P2 licence holders under 25 must not drive high-powered vehicles – see *High-powered vehicles*, page 36.

Before the Q-Safe practical driving test

Bring your:

- learner licence or current licence if you are being tested for another class of licence
- L plates if you are using your own vehicle
- *Driving Test Appointment Sheet* (form F3910)
- currently registered and roadworthy standard test vehicle (registration number required)
- glasses or contact lenses, if needed (if you have to wear corrective lenses when driving you must wear them during your practical driving test)

- P plates to attach to your vehicle after you pass your practical test and get your provisional licence – red P plates if you are under 25 or green P plates if you are 25 or older – see *P plates* on page 36 for information on where to buy P plates or how to download them from **www.qld.gov.au**.

You should arrive at least 10 minutes before your practical test with the *Driving Test Appointment Sheet* fully completed by you and the registered operator of the test vehicle.

Failure to be ready for your practical test at the scheduled time may result in the cancellation of your test and the forfeiture of your test fee. You will then be required to book and pay for another practical driving test. Make sure that you give at least two working days notice if you need to alter or cancel your appointment. You can change your booking online at **www.tmr.qld.gov.au** or by calling **13 23 80**.

Your practical driving test may be cancelled for any of these reasons:

- your vehicle is modified (unless the modifications have been approved by the Department of Transport and Main Roads)
- your number plate is obscured by anything (such as a tow bar)
- your number plate cannot be read from 20m away
- your vehicle does not meet the minimum standards for test vehicles
- your vehicle does not pass a basic safety check
- L plates are not displayed on the vehicle
- you have not obtained the registered operator's permission for the vehicle to be used in the test
- you failed a practical driving test for the same class of licence earlier the same day
- you are under 25 and your logbook has not been checked and passed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Your practical driving test fee will not be refunded if:

- you fail your practical driving test
- you don't give two working days notice before altering or cancelling your appointment or cannot take your practical driving test at the set time, possibly because you arrived late
- your practical driving test is cancelled for any of the reasons outlined above.

During your Q-Safe practical driving test

The duration of your practical driving test for a class C licence will be not more than 35 minutes, but you should allow at least one hour in total so that any administrative activities may be undertaken.

When you arrive for your practical driving test, you will be informed about how the test will be conducted. Turn off your mobile phone as soon as you arrive at the testing centre and leave it off for the duration of the test.

A message from your driving examiner

When you meet your driving examiner they will make the following statements to you before you start your driving test:

Q-Safe is designed to evaluate your ability to drive safely and correctly in different driving situations, which may include a variety of speed zones.

I will be asking you to perform a series of driving tasks throughout your assessment. You will be given clear directions in ample time.

If I don't give you any specific directions, please follow the road and be directed by road signs, signals and road markings.

If your vehicle is fitted with any driver assist technology, such as park assist or GPS, please ensure that it is switched off for the duration of the test.

Do you have any questions?

Then you have a chance to ask questions before your practical driving test starts.

The driving examiner will carry out a basic safety check of your vehicle. After the safety check, the driving examiner will go through a pre-drive check, which assesses your knowledge of the vehicle's controls.

Additional information

- You will be expected to perform the driving tasks according to the road rules.
- At no time during your test will you be asked to perform any driving tasks that are illegal or unsafe.
- If your vehicle is fitted with blind spot mirrors, you must still look over your shoulder to make sure there are no vehicles in the blind spot.
- Once your practical driving test has begun, the driving examiner cannot answer any questions that may influence your driving performance.
- As you drive, the driving examiner may make notes about how well you complete each task; don't assume you have made a mistake. It is the driving examiner's job to assess your ability to drive safely, but they are also there to help – so don't feel intimidated or nervous.

Q-Safe practical driving test

When you undertake your practical driving test for a car licence you will be assessed on a number of tasks.

Pre-drive check

The pre-drive check asks you to locate and explain the operation of a range of vehicle controls including wipers, washers, demister, air conditioner, seat adjustment, hazard lights, mirrors and headlights.

Driving tasks

In your practical driving test, the driving examiner will check that you perform the following procedures correctly:

- Stopping – use of the vehicle’s parking or foot brake when stopped.
- Giving way – slow down or stop and give way to vehicles or pedestrians so they do not have to slow down, stop or take action to avoid your vehicle. This also applies to reversing your vehicle.
- Signs, signals and road markings – obey all traffic signs, signals and road markings, including any warning and guide signs.
- Moving off, changing direction or lane changing – follow this sequence:
 1. look in mirrors
 2. indicate your intention
 3. check the vehicle’s blind spot by turning your head
 4. check traffic, your road position and speed
 5. when beginning to move, check for changed traffic conditions.
- Clutch – control the clutch so that there is a smooth take-up of power to the drive wheels and smooth gear changing; no clutch coasting.
- Gears – demonstrate the correct use of gears appropriate for speed, vehicle and driving conditions.
- Braking – drive to avoid harsh or abrupt movement by slowing the vehicle smoothly and progressively. The parking brake is used when the vehicle is stationary.
- Speed – do not exceed the speed limit and drive at a speed that suits the road and traffic conditions.
- Observation and scanning – be on guard, always looking for traffic hazards and possible problems. Look left, right, ahead and behind when approaching a hazard, then use a driving ‘system’ to deal with it in time – see *Hazards*, page 146.
- Mirrors – check rear vision mirrors, including both side mirrors, frequently.
- Following vehicles – in good conditions, travel at least two seconds behind the vehicle in front of you. Double this gap in poor conditions – see *Safe following distance*, page 144.

- Marked lanes – keep within lane markings. Change lanes only after signalling and if it is safe to do so.
- Road position – keep as far left as safe and practical when driving on a road without marked lanes.
- Signalling and indicators – give other road users sufficient warning of what you intend to do – see *Indicating and signalling*, page 79.
- Steering – always keep control of the steering wheel. Never:
 - put your hands inside the rim of the wheel
 - remove your hands or let the wheel ‘go free’
 - hold the wheel with your arms crossed or so that the movement of the wheel is restricted
 - operate the wheel with one hand unnecessarily (for example one arm resting on the door)
 - palm the wheel with one hand
 - operate the wheel with the vehicle stationary (‘dry’ steering).
- Manoeuvres (classes C or CA) – perform two of the listed manoeuvres (at least one with a reversing component):
 - reverse parking – park the vehicle parallel to and within 45cm of the kerb. You can have one attempt with a maximum of two reverse and one forward movements
 - reverse – steer a steady course (in an approximately straight line), starting and finishing within 50cm of the kerb. The observation should be predominantly by turning your head and looking through the rear window
 - turn around – within the width of a street, turn the car around with a minimum number of forward and reverse movements. Do not turn the wheel when the vehicle is stopped
 - U-turn – give way to all other vehicles and pedestrians and have a clear view of all approaching traffic
 - hill start – position the car parallel to and within 50cm of the kerb and move off without rolling backwards
 - gear-changing in automatic vehicles – if you are driving an automatic car, you may be asked to select a lower gear and re-select ‘drive’.

For more information about what to expect during your practical driving test, please visit www.qld.gov.au.

After the Q-Safe practical driving test

After you have completed all the driving tasks, your driving examiner will direct you back to the testing office. Your examiner will tell you at the end of your practical driving test whether you have passed or failed. You also get feedback on any errors, and a copy of your *Driving Assessment Report*. If you have passed, you pay the licence fee and you may have your photo taken.

You then get a P1 licence if you are under 25, or a P2 licence if you are 25 or older. You risk a fine if you do not display the correctly coloured P plates on your vehicle before you start driving.

Note: If you already hold a provisional or open licence and are upgrading your licence, it will be re-issued with the new licence class stated on it.

If you failed, don't panic

Come back after more practice and try again. Before you leave, make sure you know exactly what you did wrong and how you can improve. You can take the test as many times as you like, but you must pay each time and you can't re-take the test until your cooling off period is over. Cooling off periods highlight the importance of taking time to practise more.

The cooling off periods are:

First fail - you may re-sit the test on the next calendar day.

Second fail - you may re-sit the test on the 8th day after the second fail test date.

Third and subsequent fail - you may re-sit the test on the 29th day after the third or each subsequent fail test date.

Provisional licences

Once you have passed your practical driving test, you will get a provisional licence. Under the graduated licensing system, the type of provisional licence you receive will depend on how old you are.

If you are under 25 you will get a P1 provisional licence. If you are 25 or older, you will get a P2 provisional licence.

P1 provisional licence requirements

If you hold a P1 provisional licence and you are under 25, you:

- must display red P plates at the front and back of your car when driving (back only for motorcycles)
- must not use your mobile phone when driving, including hands-free functions or Bluetooth® accessories. Your passengers are banned from using mobile phones on the loudspeaker function – see *Mobile phones*, page 37
- are not allowed to have more than one passenger aged under 21 in the car with you between 11pm and 5am, unless they're members of your immediate family – see *Peer passengers*, page 38
- are not allowed to drive high-powered vehicles – see *High-powered vehicles*, page 36
- must drive with a zero BAC – see *Alcohol and drugs*, page 102
- must always carry your licence when you are driving. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*.

If you turn 25 when you are on your P1 licence the peer passenger, high powered vehicle and additional mobile phone restrictions no longer apply to you. You must continue to display red P plates, drive with a zero BAC and always carry your licence or *Driver Licence Receipt*.

Getting your P2 licence

If you hold a P1 licence, to get your P2 licence you will need to:

- be at least 18
- hold your P1 licence for at least one year (not including licence suspensions or cancellations)
- obtain green P plates
- pass a hazard perception test – see below
- pay the hazard perception test fee.

If you are eligible for a P2 licence it will automatically be mailed to you.

Note: You must remove the red P plates from your vehicle and replace them with green P plates before you start driving as a P2 licence holder.



Hazard perception test

In order to graduate to a P2 or open licence, all P1 licence holders must pass a hazard perception test. The hazard perception test is an additional test that complements the road rules test and the practical driving test.

The hazard perception test assesses whether your hazard perception skills are sufficiently advanced to allow you to upgrade from a P1 licence to a P2 or open licence.

The hazard perception test is an online computer-based test that measures a driver's ability to recognise and appropriately respond to potentially dangerous situations (traffic conflicts) while driving. A traffic conflict is a situation where your vehicle is on course to hit another road user. If your vehicle needs to slow down or change course to prevent a crash, then there is a traffic conflict.

The test is only available online at **www.qld.gov.au**. It is not available at driver licence issuing centres.

Once you have passed the hazard perception test, paid the required fee and held your P1 licence for 12 months, you are eligible to upgrade your licence.

If you pass the hazard perception test, you will not be required to sit this test again.

Note: You will not be able to exit the P1 licence stage until you have successfully passed the hazard perception test.

Visit **www.qld.gov.au** for more information.

P2 provisional licence requirements

If you hold a P2 provisional licence you must:

- display green P plates at the front and back of your car when driving (back only for motorcycles)
- drive with a zero BAC – see *Alcohol and drugs*, page 102
- always carry your licence when you are driving. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*.

If you are under 25 you must not drive high-powered vehicles – see *High-powered vehicles*, below.

Provisional licence issued before 1 July 2007

If you obtained your provisional licence before 1 July 2007, you must:

- drive with a zero BAC – see *Alcohol and drugs*, page 102
- always carry your licence when you are driving.

P plates

The first year of driving poses the greatest risk of crashes for young drivers. P plates were reintroduced to remind young or inexperienced drivers that they are novice drivers and are still developing their on-road experience. They also help to remind other road users to exercise caution around P-plated drivers.

A P plate is a sign that measures at least 146mm x 146mm and features an upper-case red letter 'P' or an upper-case green letter 'P' on a white background. You can buy P plates from service stations, major retailers and automotive outlets. Check with your local supplier for cost. You can also download and print a colour template from www.qld.gov.au. If you are a P1 or P2 licence holder, you must not drive a car or ride a motorcycle unless a P plate can clearly be seen from:

- the front and back of the car
- the back of the motorcycle.

High-powered vehicles

You are not allowed to drive a high-powered vehicle if:

- you hold a P1 or P2 provisional licence and you are under 25
- you are returning from a disqualification and at the time of the offence you were under 25 – you will get a P1 or P2 probationary licence.

Vehicles manufactured after 1 January 2010

For vehicles that are manufactured on or after 1 January 2010 a high-powered vehicle means any car with a power to weight ratio of more than 130kW/tonne.

The power to weight ratio of a vehicle (expressed in kilowatts per tonne), is calculated by dividing the vehicle's maximum engine power in kilowatts by the tare weight and multiplying the product of the division by 1000.

For example, the power-to-weight ratio of a vehicle that has a maximum engine power of 195kW and a tare weight of 1667kg would be calculated as follows:

$(195 \div 1667) \times 1000 = 117\text{kW/tonne}$.

Vehicles manufactured before 1 January 2010

For vehicles that are manufactured before 1 January 2010 a high-powered vehicle means any car that has at least one of the following:

- 8 or more cylinders
- a supercharged or turbocharged engine that is not diesel powered
- an engine that has a power output of more than 210kW under the manufacturer's specifications for the car
- a rotary engine that has an engine capacity of more than 1146cc under the manufacturer's specifications for the car
- a modification to the engine of any kind that must be approved under the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2010*, section 13.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads website provides an online service so that you can check whether or not a vehicle is a high-powered vehicle. Please visit www.qld.gov.au to use this service.

You may request an exemption, but exemptions are considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with strict guidelines. If you breach the high-powered vehicle restriction, a fine and three demerit points will apply.

Mobile phones

All drivers are banned from using a mobile phone that is held in the hand while driving (see page 125). You will get a fine and three demerit points if you are caught. If you're a learner or P1 licence holder under 25 you are further banned from using hands-free kits, Bluetooth® accessories and loudspeaker function. See also *Double demerit points*, page 167.

If you're under 25, and a P1 licence holder, your passengers are also banned from using a mobile phone on loudspeaker function.

Peer passengers

Research shows that the risk of having a crash is higher when a young driver is carrying more than one passenger of a similar age to them (their peers) in their vehicle.

If you are under 25 you are not allowed to have more than one passenger under 21 in the car with you between the hours of 11pm and 5am, unless they're members of your immediate family (parents, grandparents, husband or wife, brothers or sisters or children). You risk a fine and three demerit points if you do not comply with this restriction.

Demerit points

If you hold a provisional licence and you accumulate four or more demerit points over a one year period, you will have the choice between:

- a three month driving suspension
- a good driving behaviour option for one year.

If you are under 25, a late night driving restriction will be imposed during the good driving behaviour period or when you resume driving after the suspension – see *Late night driving restrictions*, page 169.

If your licence has expired, is suspended, or you are disqualified by a court from holding or obtaining a licence during the provisional licence period, this time will not contribute to the time for which you must hold that licence.

Sample questions – provisional licences

1. What is the maximum blood alcohol concentration for a provisional licence holder? (See page 34)

- A. 0.05.
- B. 0.02.
- C. 0.00.
- D. 0.08.

2. If you are under 25 and hold a P1 provisional licence, how many passengers under 21 (other than immediate family members) are you allowed to have in the car between 11pm and 5am? (See page 34)

- A. None.
- B. 1.
- C. 2.
- D. 4.

3. Which two of the following statements are true for a driver with a P1 provisional licence who is under 25? (See page 34)

- A. You may use a mobile phone while driving provided you use a hands-free or Bluetooth® accessory.
- B. You may not use a mobile phone while driving, but your passengers can, provided they do not use the loudspeaker function.
- C. You may use a mobile phone while driving provided you do not become distracted.
- D. You may only use a mobile phone in the car when you are legally and safely parked.

4. If you hold a provisional licence, your licence will be suspended or you will have to comply with a good driving behaviour option if you accumulate how many demerit points? (See page 38)

- A. Four or more over a one year period.
- B. Four or more over a three year period.
- C. 12 or more over a one year period.
- D. 12 or more over a three year period.

Open licences

You may be eligible for an open licence if you are at least 20 and you have held your P1 or P2 licence for the required period:

- if you were under 23 when you got your P1 licence, you must hold your P2 licence for at least two years to progress to an open licence
- if you were 23 when you got your P1 licence, you must hold your P2 licence for at least one year to progress to an open licence
- if you were 24 when you got your P1 licence, you must hold your P1 licence for at least one year to progress to an open licence
- if you were 25 or over when you passed your practical driving test, you would have been issued with a P2 licence which you must hold for at least one year. To graduate to an open licence you are not required to undertake the hazard perception test.

If you pass a practical driving test for an additional or higher class of licence and you already hold an open licence, your licence will be re-issued to you showing the additional or higher licence class.

Conditions for open licence holders

- You must remove any P plates once you get your open licence.
- It is recommended that you always carry your licence with you when driving. However, if you are driving a heavy vehicle you must always carry your licence when you are driving. If you are waiting to receive your heavy vehicle driver licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*.
- You must drive with a BAC below 0.05 or 0.00 for interlock, public passenger vehicle or heavy vehicle drivers – see *Alcohol and drugs*, page 102.

Demerit points

If you accumulate 12 or more demerit points over a three year period you will have the choice between:

- driving suspension (up to five months)
 - a good driving behaviour option for one year
- see *Accumulation of demerit points – Queensland licence holders*, page 165.

Probationary and restricted licences

Probationary licences

If you were disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence by a court and you have now served the period of disqualification, you will be issued with a probationary licence.

If you held a P1 or P2 licence before you were disqualified, you will get a P1 or P2 probationary licence. You will be required to hold a probationary licence for at least one year. You must continue to comply with the conditions applicable to your P1 or P2 licence, including displaying P plates on your vehicle while driving.

If you held a P provisional licence (issued before 1 July 2007) or an open licence before you were disqualified, you will get a P probationary licence. You will be required to hold a probationary licence for at least one year.

Conditions for probationary licence holders

You must:

- hold the probationary licence for at least one year
- carry your licence at all times when driving. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*
- have a zero BAC when driving – see *Alcohol and drugs*, page 102
- comply with a late night driving restriction (if you held a P1 or P2 licence and were under 25 at the time of committing the offence that resulted in your disqualification), prohibiting you from driving between 11pm and 5am, if required – see *Late night driving restrictions*, page 169.

You may:

- drive any class of vehicle shown on your licence
- learn to drive a higher class vehicle as long as you are with someone who holds an open licence for that class vehicle and has held that licence for at least one year – see *Licence classes, codes and conditions*, page 12.

Note: High-powered vehicle restrictions also apply to probationary licence holders who return from a disqualification to a P1 or P2 probationary licence, when at the time of the offence they were under 25. These restrictions apply for the duration of the probationary period regardless of age.

For further information about probationary licences visit www.qld.gov.au.

Restricted licences

If you are convicted of a drink or drug driving offence you may ask the court that convicts you to grant you a restricted licence, commonly known as a 'work' licence. You must apply to the court for this licence before your period of disqualification is imposed.

To be eligible for a restricted licence you must be able to prove to the court that you will not impose a risk on other road users and you need a driver licence to earn your living.

You are not eligible to apply for a restricted licence if:

- you did not hold a Queensland open licence at the time you committed, and were convicted of, the offence
- you were driving a motor vehicle that you were not authorised to drive under your open licence at the time you committed the offence
- when tested, your BAC was 0.15 or greater – see *Alcohol and drugs*, page 102
- when you committed the offence you were using the vehicle in an activity directly connected with your means of earning a living
- at the time of the offence, you were driving a truck, tractor, specially constructed vehicle, bus, articulated motor vehicle, B-double, road train, public passenger vehicle (for example bus, taxi or booked hire vehicle), tow truck, pilot or escort vehicle escorting an oversize vehicle, a vehicle that is licensed or required to be licensed to carry dangerous goods, or a vehicle being used by a driver trainer to give driver training
- in the past five years, your provisional or open licence has been suspended or cancelled, or you have been disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence
- you have been convicted of drink or drug driving or dangerous driving in the past five years.

Conditions for restricted licence holders

You must:

- carry your licence and court order at all times when driving. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*
- comply with the conditions stated on the court order when driving
- have a zero BAC when driving – see *Alcohol and drugs*, page 102.

You may drive any class of vehicle shown on your driver licence.

For further information about restricted licences, visit www.qld.gov.au.

Motorcycles

Getting a class RE motorcycle learner licence

To be eligible for a class RE motorcycle learner licence, you must:

- Hold a provisional or open licence of another class and have held the licence for at least one year during the past five years.
- Successfully complete the Q-Ride pre-learner course.
You may apply for an exemption from the Q-Ride pre-learner course if you live outside a 100km radius of a Q-Ride training area, however you will then need to hold your learner licence for longer.
- Pass the motorcycle road rules test, and pay the test fee.

Class RE licence holders (learner, provisional, probationary and open licence holders) are only able to ride a motorcycle that is a learner approved motorcycle. See *Getting a class R motorcycle licence*, page 43 for information on when you can learn to ride a class R motorcycle.

A learner approved motorcycle is a production motorcycle that is fitted with an electric motor, or has an internal combustion engine with an engine capacity of not more than 660 mL, and:

- has a power to weight ratio of not more than 150kW per tonne
- has not been modified other than for an allowable modification
- is stated to be a learner approved motorcycle in a list kept by the chief executive and published on the Queensland Government website at **www.qld.gov.au**.

To help identify motorcycles that can be legally ridden under a class RE licence, a learner approved motorcycle indicator is included on the vehicle registration notice and registration certificate of learner approved motorcycles.

For a full list of learner approved motorcycles and more information about the learner approved motorcycle scheme visit **www.qld.gov.au**.

Q-Ride

Pre-learner course

You can get your class RE learner licence when you have successfully completed the Q-Ride pre-learner course and passed a motorcycle knowledge test. The pre-learner course is a competency based training and assessment course provided by Q-Ride training providers. You can enrol in the course after you have held a provisional, probationary or open licence of another class for at least one year.

If you live within a 100km radius of a Q-Ride training area, you must complete the pre-learner course. During the course you will be required to demonstrate basic

riding knowledge and motorcycle handling skills. If you live outside a 100km radius you can apply for an exemption from the pre-learner course, however you will then need to hold your learner licence for longer (one year rather than three months).

To check your eligibility to undertake the pre-learner course, or to see a full list of Q-Ride training providers, please visit www.qld.gov.au/motorcyclelicence.

Getting a class RE provisional or open licence

To be eligible for a class RE provisional or open licence you must:

- hold a class RE learner licence and have held it for at least three months (one year if you got an exemption from the Q-Ride pre-learner course)
- successfully complete the Q-Ride restricted (RE) course or pass a Q-Safe practical riding test.

You can get your class RE provisional or open licence when you have successfully completed the Q-Ride restricted course. The course is a competency based training and assessment course provided by Q-Ride training providers.

If you live within a 100km radius of a Q-Ride training provider, you must complete the restricted course.

During the course you will be required to demonstrate your competency in riding a learner approved motorcycle.

If you live outside a 100km radius of a Q-Ride training provider, you have the option of completing a Department of Transport and Main Roads Q-Safe practical riding test once you have held your class RE learner licence for at least one year.

For more information on booking a Q-Safe test through the Department of Transport and Main Roads call **13 23 80**.

Once you have undertaken and passed the Q-Ride restricted course or a Q-Safe test, you may apply for a class RE provisional, probationary or open licence. To check your eligibility to undertake the restricted course, or to see a full list of Q-Ride training providers, please visit www.qld.gov.au/motorcyclelicence.

Getting a class R motorcycle licence

You must have held your class RE provisional, probationary or open licence for at least two years before learning to ride or upgrading to a class R motorcycle licence.

If you live within a 100km radius of a Q-Ride training provider, you must successfully complete the Q-Ride unrestricted (R) course.

If you live outside a 100km radius of a Q-Ride training provider, you have the option of completing a Department of Transport and Main Roads Q-Safe practical riding test.

For more information on booking a Q-Safe test through the Department of Transport and Main Roads call **13 23 80**.

Once you have undertaken and passed the Q-Ride unrestricted course or a Q-Safe practical riding test, you may apply for a class R provisional, probationary or open licence.

A class R provisional, probationary or open licence allows you to ride a motorcycle of any engine capacity including a learner approved motorcycle and a moped.

To check your eligibility to undertake the unrestricted course, or to see a full list of Q-Ride training providers, please visit **www.qld.gov.au/motorcyclelicence**.

Note: If you got your class RE provisional, probationary or open licence before 1 October 2016, you may learn to ride a class R motorcycle and apply to progress to an R licence after holding your RE provisional or open licence for at least one year.

Pillion passenger restriction for learner riders

Class RE and R learner riders are prohibited from carrying pillion passengers (including their supervisor) when learning to ride a motorcycle on a road.

A learner is still required to be supervised by an appropriately licensed person when riding a motorcycle. If the motorcycle has a sidecar, the supervisor may accompany the learner by being safely seated in the sidecar. If the motorcycle does not have a sidecar, the supervisor may follow at a safe distance on another motorcycle or in another vehicle.

P plates on motorcycles

If you hold a P₁ or P₂ licence, you will need to clearly display a red or green P plate on the back of your motorcycle (including a moped) when riding.

If you hold an open licence when you get your class RE or R licence, you will not need to display a P plate when riding.

Conditions for learning to ride a class RE motorcycle

You must:

- obey the conditions that apply to your licence
- carry your licence when you are learning to ride. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*

- be supervised by a person who holds an open class RE or class R licence and has held this licence for at least one year. Your supervisor must hold the class of licence for the motorcycle you are learning to ride
- only learn to ride a learner approved motorcycle (for class RE learner licence holders)
- display an L plate on the back of the motorcycle you are riding or on the back of a vest worn while riding – see *L plates*, page 25
- have a zero BAC when you are on your class RE learner licence
- not carry a pillion passenger while you are learning to ride.

Your first motorcycle licence will be for a class RE, which will allow you to ride a learner approved motorcycle.

If you hold a P1 or P2 licence you need to display the appropriate P plate on the back of the motorcycle at all times. During the first year of holding your class RE provisional, probationary or open licence, you must:

- have a zero (0.00) BAC (even if you hold an open licence)
- not carry a pillion passenger until you have held your RE class for at least one year.

Conditions for learning to ride a class R motorcycle

You are able to learn to ride a class R motorcycle after you have held your class RE provisional, probationary or open licence for at least two years.

- You must:
 - carry your licence when you are learning to ride. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*
 - be supervised by a person who holds an open class R licence and has held the licence for at least one year
 - display an L plate at all times on the back of the motorcycle, or alternatively on the back of a vest worn while you are learning to ride
 - have a zero (0.00) BAC
 - not carry a pillion passenger.

The learner approved motorcycle scheme restrictions do not apply to holders of a class R motorcycle licence. For more information about upgrading your class RE licence, visit www.qld.gov.au.

Note: You are required to be supervised by an appropriately licensed person when learning to ride a motorcycle. If the motorcycle has a sidecar, your supervisor may accompany you by being safely seated in the sidecar. If the motorcycle does not have a sidecar, your supervisor may follow at a safe distance on another motorcycle or in another vehicle.

Special rules about mopeds

A moped is a motorcycle that has a maximum engine capacity of 50mL and a maximum top rated speed of 50km/h. If you have a class C learner licence and you want to learn to ride a moped, you must:

- carry your learner licence when you are learning to ride. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*
- be accompanied by, or ride under the direction of, a person who holds an open class C, RE or R licence and has held this licence for at least one year
- wear a motorcycle helmet that meets the *Australian Standard AS1698* or *United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) 22.05* standard when riding.

Your riding experience on the moped will not count towards your required 100 hours of supervised on-road driving experience. Only supervised hours accumulated when driving a car may be recorded as supervised on-road driving experience.

You cannot take a driving test, or a Q-Ride course, on a moped because it is not representative of the class of vehicle that may be driven under a class C or class RE licence.

You cannot carry a pillion passenger on a moped unless the moped has seating capacity for two people and you hold a class RE or R provisional, probationary or open licence, and, if you hold a class RE licence, you have held it for at least one year. That is, if you only have a car (class C) or truck (class LR, MR, HR, HC or MC) licence, then you are not permitted to carry a pillion passenger.

A moped rider with an open class C, RE or R licence may lane filter and ride on road shoulders or in emergency stopping lanes under certain conditions when it is safe to do so. For further information, see *Additional road rules for motorcycle riders*, page 50.

Note: If you hold a class C, RE or R provisional, probationary or open licence, you are already authorised to ride a moped without supervision.

The Q-Ride method

Q-Ride is a competency-based training and assessment program aimed at improving the quality of learner rider instruction. Q-Ride ensures that participants continue their training until they can demonstrate they are competent against set standards.

Q-Ride training providers are approved by the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Eligibility

- You can sign up for Q-Ride to get your class RE learner licence after you have held a provisional, probationary or open licence of another class for at least one year.
- You can sign up for Q-Ride to get your class RE provisional or open licence after you have held your class RE learner licence for at least three months (one year if you got an exemption from the pre-learner course).

- You can sign up for Q-Ride to get your class R licence after you have held your class RE provisional or open licence for at least two years.

To check your eligibility to undertake a Q-Ride course please visit www.qld.gov.au/motorcyclelicence.

Applying for Q-Ride training and assessment

To get your motorcycle licence (class RE learner licence, class RE or class R provisional, probationary or open licence) with Q-Ride, follow these steps.

1. Get started – to undertake the pre-learner course you need to hold a class C provisional, probationary or open licence, which you have held for at least one year. To undertake the restricted (RE) course you need to hold a class RE learner licence, which you have held for at least three months. To undertake the unrestricted (R) course you need to hold a class RE provisional, probationary or open licence, which you have held for at least two years.
2. Choose – a Q-Ride training provider. Your choice may depend on location, fees and charges.
3. Enrol – in Q-Ride training with a Q-Ride training provider. The training provider may ask you to provide evidence that you are eligible to undertake the Q-Ride course.
4. Learn – develop your motorcycle riding skills through progressive training. You must always carry your class RE learner, provisional, probationary or open licence. You must only receive instruction from another rider who holds an open licence for the class of motorcycle you are riding and who has held that licence for at least one year.
5. Certificate – when you have been assessed as attaining the required competencies by an accredited rider trainer, the Q-Ride training provider will issue you with a competency declaration (Q-Ride certificate) for the course. The Q-Ride training provider may notify the Department of Transport and Main Roads that you have successfully completed the course, or may tell you to present the certificate at a driver licence issuing centre.
6. Licence – if your Q-Ride training provider notifies the Department of Transport and Main Roads that you have successfully completed a course you may be eligible to apply for your motorcycle licence online. If you complete a pre-learner course you may be eligible to take the motorcycle knowledge test online and have the RE learner licence automatically added to your licence. If you complete a restricted or unrestricted course, you may be eligible to upgrade your licence online at www.qld.gov.au/motorcyclelicence. If your Q-Ride training provider gives you a paper Q-Ride certificate you will need to take the certificate in to a driver licence issuing centre to apply for your motorcycle licence.

For further information about your local Q-Ride registered training providers, visit www.qld.gov.au/motorcyclelicence.

Q-Safe practical driving test

Q-Safe is a practical riding test conducted by the Department of Transport and Main Roads. You are only eligible to undertake a Q-Safe test for a class RE or class R licence if you live 100km or more from a registered Q-Ride training provider.

You can check whether you are eligible to undertake a Q-Safe test by visiting www.qld.gov.au/motorcyclelicence and looking at the list of registered Q-Ride training providers.

See *Booking your Q-Safe practical driving test*, page 28 for information on how to book a Q-Safe test.

Test vehicles

If you are eligible to undertake a Q-Safe test, for your test, you must ride a motorcycle that is a standard test vehicle for the class of licence you want.

Licence class	Vehicle requirement
RE (restricted motorcycle)	A learner approved motorcycle Note: You cannot take a test on a moped, conditionally registered motorcycle, motorcycle with a sidecar attached or motortrike.
R (motorcycle)	A motorcycle not stated on the learner approved motorcycle list, which is published on the Queensland Government website www.qld.gov.au . Note: You cannot take a test on a moped, conditionally registered motorcycle, motorcycle with a sidecar attached or motortrike.

The vehicle must be registered and pass a basic safety check conducted by the riding examiner. Before turning up for your test, make sure the vehicle would pass the safety check by checking the:

- signalling devices, horn and stop lights are all working
- brakes and tyres are in good condition
- mirrors are adjustable.

If you hold a P1 or P2 licence, bring your P plate to attach to your motorcycle after you pass the test. You will need a red P plate if you hold a P1 licence or a green P plate if you hold a P2 licence – see *P plates on motorcycles*, page 44.

Clothing requirements

The Department of Transport and Main Roads recommends that you wear the following clothing when you take your motorcycle test:

- pants made from heavy material that cover the leg length
- long-sleeved shirt or jacket made from heavy material
- gloves providing appropriate protection
- fully enclosed shoes or boots
- eye protection.

You must wear a motorcycle helmet that meets the *Australian Standard AS1698* or *NZ/NZS1698*, or the *United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) 22.05* standard when riding a motorcycle, including when taking the test.

A message from your riding examiner

The riding examiner will make the following statements to you before starting your practical test.

Q-Safe is designed to evaluate your ability to ride safely and correctly in different situations, which may include a variety of speed zones.

I will be asking you to undertake a series of riding tasks throughout the assessment. You will be given clear directions in ample time.

I will follow you during the riding assessment. Please keep me in your vision and, should we get separated during the assessment, please stop somewhere safe and legal and wait for me.

You will be given clear instructions in ample time. Directions will be given by radio.

If radio reception of directions given becomes unclear, pull over somewhere safe and legal and I will give you further instruction.

You will be expected to perform the riding tasks when conditions are safe and in accordance with the road rules.

Please make any lane changes that are necessary to follow my direction.

At no time during the assessment will I ask you to perform any riding tasks that are illegal.

Once the assessment has commenced, I am unable to answer any questions that may influence your riding performance.

Do you have any questions?

Pre-ride check

The test will start with the pre-ride check followed by the practical riding test. The pre-ride check will involve the riding examiner asking you to locate and explain a range of vehicle controls including the operation of the fuel reserve, choke, kill switch, side stand, horn and headlight/dip switch.

Riding tasks

The duration of your practical riding test will be up to 35 minutes for both a class RE and class R licence. The practical riding test will include general riding exercises and low speed manoeuvres.

During your practical riding test, the riding examiner will check that you perform the following procedures correctly:

- changing road position – give other road users sufficient warning of what you intend to do and always check your mirrors and your vehicle’s blind spot before changing your position on the road – see *Indicating and signalling*, page 79
- posture when riding:
 - keep your knees into the tank
 - keep your head up so you are looking well ahead through the corners
 - keep your foot instep on the footrest
 - keep your feet on the footrests except when stopping or moving off
 - keep your feet out and slightly down
- gear changing – avoid wheel lock-up by smooth gear changes. A touch to the accelerator on down changes is recommended
- balance and control – maintain full balance and control of the motorcycle in all speed and riding conditions
- road position – keep clear of painted surfaces and metal inspection covers on the road surface. Beware of oily or loose surfaces, especially near intersections. The positioning of your motorcycle on the road must be suitable for the road conditions. When in a marked lane, keep within the lane. On a two-way road where there are no line markings, maintain a road position that enhances your safety
- required manoeuvres:
 - slow ride – ride in a straight line at the speed of a slow walk using the clutch if necessary to adjust the speed of the motorcycle – see *posture when riding*, above
 - U-turns – give way to all other vehicles and pedestrians and have a clear view of all approaching traffic in all directions of travel – see *U-turns*, page 76
 - emergency stop – stop the motorcycle safely with full control from a speed of no more than 40km/h. Use all your fingers on the front brake at all times. Don’t lock the wheels. You are not required to change back through the gears in this exercise
 - hill start – move off smoothly from a stationary position and travel up a moderate incline without the motorcycle rolling backwards.

Additional road rules for motorcycle riders

As a motorcycle rider, you are subject to the same road rules that apply to you when you drive other vehicles. However, because of the different nature of a motorcycle, the following road rules also apply:

- You must wear an approved motorcycle helmet securely fastened at all times other than when the motorcycle is parked or being pushed with the engine turned off.

- You must always display an L plate on the back of the motorcycle you are learning to ride or on the back of a vest worn by you while learning to ride – see *L plates*, page 25.
- If you hold a provisional licence (P1 or P2) you need to display the appropriate P plate on the back of the motorcycle at all times.
- You must be astride the rider’s seat.
- Before carrying a passenger on a class RE motorcycle, you must have held your class RE provisional, probationary or open licence for at least one year. For a class RE motorcycle, you can carry a passenger as soon as you get your class R licence.
- You may ride side-by-side with another motorcycle rider in one marked lane, provided you are not more than 1.5m apart.
- You may enter a bicycle storage area as long as you give way to bicycle riders or other motorcycle riders already in or entering the area.
- If you hold an open class RE or R motorcycle licence you may lane filter between stationary or slow moving vehicles travelling in the same direction as you provided your speed is 30km/h or less and it is safe to do so. If the lanes or lines of traffic are in a dedicated turning lane you cannot lane filter. You must not lane filter in school zones during school zone hours, in bicycle lanes or if there is a ‘no filtering’ sign.
- You can also ride on sealed road shoulders and in emergency stopping lanes on major roads if the speed limit is 90km/h or more (even if it has been reduced by a variable speed control sign) and it is safe to do so. You must ride at 30km/h or less and give way to other vehicles already using the shoulder. You must not ride on road shoulders if there are roadworks or if you are in a tunnel.

Rules for carrying passengers on any motorcycle

- You must not carry a pillion passenger when you are learning to ride a class RE or R motorcycle and during the first year of holding your class RE provisional, probationary or open licence.
- Each of your passengers must wear an approved motorcycle helmet securely fastened at all times other than when the motorcycle is parked.
- Your pillion passenger on a moving motorcycle must be astride the pillion seat and face forwards. They must be at least eight years of age and their feet must be able to reach the passenger footrests while seated.
- You must not carry more passengers in the motorcycle’s sidecar than the sidecar was designed to carry.
- Your passenger must be seated safely on the pillion seat or in a sidecar attached to the motorcycle.
- Your pillion passenger must not ride on the motorcycle unless it has a suitable pillion seat and suitable passenger footrests.
- Your passenger must not interfere with your effective control of the motorcycle.

Parking

When parking a motorcycle or moped, position at least one wheel as close as possible to the kerb. Park a motorcycle with a sidecar parallel to the kerb. You must obey the parking rules. For more information, see *Parking*, page 117.

Preparing to get on the road

You and your passengers (both pillion and sidecar) must wear a motorcycle helmet that meets the *Australian Standard AS1698* or *NZ/NZS1698*, or the *United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) 22.05* standard when riding, unless the motorcycle or moped is parked. It should fit properly (for example an adult's helmet on a child will offer no protection) and be kept in good condition.

For safety, the Department of Transport and Main Roads recommends that both you and your passengers should wear eye protection, gloves, boots, and hardwearing, high-visibility clothing, covering legs and arms.

To increase your visibility and safety, the Department of Transport and Main Roads also recommends you ride your motorcycle with the headlight on at all times.

Before riding on the road, check the following safety equipment on your motorcycle is working:

- headlight
- rear and brake light that shows a red light
- rear number plate light (clear)
- rear red reflector
- front and rear brakes
- footrests for you and for your pillion passenger, if the motorcycle is registered to carry a pillion
- muffler
- horn
- chain guard – if the motorcycle is chain driven, an appropriate chain guard must be fitted
- chain – if the motorcycle is chain driven, ensure that the chain is correctly adjusted and lightly lubricated
- right and left rear-vision mirrors – a left rear-vision mirror is optional if the motorcycle was manufactured before June 1975
- safe tyres (with a tread at least 1.5mm deep)
- indicators (if manufactured after 1962).

For more information on riding safely, visit www.motorcyclesafety.qld.gov.au.

Note: If you are an employee of, or a contractor or sub-contractor with, Australia Post, you may ride a motorcycle on a footpath or road reserve if:

- you are delivering postal articles
- the motorcycle engine is not more than 125mL
- the speed of the motorcycle is not more than 10km/h
- you ride safely, taking care to avoid danger or a crash.

Sample questions – motorcycles

1. As a learner motorcycle rider, you: (See page 25)

- A. Must display one L plate so that it can be seen clearly from the back of the motorcycle.
- B. Are not required to display L plates.
- C. Must only display L plates when riding on highways.
- D. Are only required to display L plates at night.

2. What type of motorcycle can be ridden under a class RE licence? (See page 42)

- A. A motorcycle with an engine capacity of more than 660mL.
- B. A motorcycle with a power to weight ratio of more than 150kW per tonne.
- C. A learner approved motorcycle.

3. Motorcycle riders must ride: (See page 51)

- A. Single file in one marked lane.
- B. No more than two riders side-by-side in one marked lane (or three riders if one is overtaking).
- C. No more than four riders side-by-side in one marked lane.

4. Is a pillion passenger required to wear a motorcycle helmet? (See page 51)

- A. Yes.
- B. Only if the motorcycle has an engine capacity of more than 250mL.
- C. No, only the person controlling the motorcycle is required to wear a helmet.

Heavy vehicles

To obtain a heavy vehicle licence, you must pass a practical driving test.

See *Booking your Q-Safe practical driving test*, page 28 for information on how to book a Q-Safe test.

Test vehicles

For your driving test, you must drive a vehicle that is representative of the class of vehicle authorised to be driven under the particular class of licence.

There are standard test vehicles for each class of licence.

Licence class	Vehicle requirement
LR (light rigid)	A bus or truck more than 4.5 tonnes GVM but not more than 8 tonnes GVM.
MR (medium rigid)	A bus or truck more than 8 tonnes GVM with not more than two axles.
HR (heavy rigid)	A bus or a truck more than 15 tonnes GVM with at least three axles. Note: The test cannot be taken in a bobtail prime mover.
HC (heavy combination)	A prime mover more than 15 tonnes GVM with at least three axles and semi-trailer with at least two axles. A truck more than 15 tonnes GVM with at least three axles and trailer more than 9 tonnes GVM with at least two axles.

A vehicle of more than 12 tonnes gross vehicle mass (GVM) must be equipped with at least three portable warning triangles for the test.

Practical driving test times

The duration of practical driving tests for the different heavy vehicle licence classes are:

- LR – 25 to 35 minutes
- MR and HR – 60 to 70 minutes
- HC – 70 to 80 minutes.

Uncontrolled and unpredictable events such as road works and traffic crashes may affect the duration of the test.

Q-Safe practical driving test

When you take a practical driving test for a heavy vehicle, you will also be assessed on the following tasks.

Pre-drive check

The pre-drive check asks you to locate and explain a range of vehicle controls including wipers, washers, demister, air conditioner, seat adjustment, hazard lights, mirrors, horn and headlights.

Practical driving test

In your practical driving test, the driving examiner will check that you perform the following procedures correctly:

- reversing exercise – reverse the vehicle around a corner. You can do the manoeuvre in a left-hand or right-hand direction. Start and finish reversing parallel to and within 2m of the edge of the road. The driving examiner may allow you two attempts to successfully reverse the vehicle around the corner. Two reverse movements and one forward movement are allowed for each attempt. The forward movement for left and right reversing can be as far as the furthest edge or kerb from which you are turning. You should check what you are doing by looking in your mirrors, although you can glance over your shoulder occasionally. If you drive a truck with a dog trailer in the test, you may reverse with or without the trailer steerable axle locked
- gear changing – change down to a lower gear, excluding crawler gears, when the vehicle is in motion. On a manual vehicle, use the clutch. You must be able to operate exhaust brakes, two-speed differential, range selector and so on, if they are fitted
- hill start – move off smoothly from a parked position and travel up a moderate incline without the vehicle rolling backwards
- uncouple/recouple requirements – for the class HC practical driving test, uncouple the trailer, drive forward approximately 10m and reverse back onto the trailer to recouple. Uncouple and recouple the trailer, following all safe practices and in the correct sequence, within 12 minutes. Extra time may be given for some configurations, for example flying saucer type coupling.

Correct sequence and procedure – uncouple

1. Apply the park brake to the vehicle.
2. Alight from the cab, facing the vehicle.
3. Secure the wheel chocks (necessary for vehicles that do not have a spring brake system).
4. Lower trailer/drawbar support legs.
5. Disconnect, retract and secure:
 - electric cable
 - hydraulic lines
 - brake hoses
 - chains, where applicable.
6. Release the turntable jaws/pin coupling.
7. Where the vehicle has airbag suspension, operate the air dump valve (where applicable) to prevent any damage to the vehicle.
8. Drive prime mover or truck forward for a distance of approximately 10m.

Correct sequence and procedure – recouple

1. Ensure pin coupling/jaws are in the correct position for recoupling.
2. Reverse prime mover/truck back towards the trailer. You can stop and check the position of the prime mover/truck in relation to the trailer coupling. Where applicable, activate valve to refill airbag suspension.
3. After you have coupled the prime mover/truck and trailer, check that all the mechanisms are locked by:
 - attempting to carefully ease forward against the trailer brakes (tug test)
 - visually checking the coupling to ensure locking pin/jaws have engaged after first applying the park brake.
4. Connect and check the condition of:
 - brake hoses
 - hydraulic lines
 - electric cables
 - chains, if applicable (ensure they are crossed).
5. Wind up trailer support legs and lock in position or secure drawbar leg.
6. Start engine and build up air pressure to operating level.
7. Turn the engine off and walk around the vehicle listening for air leaks and checking the condition of all tyres.
8. Remove wheel chocks, if appropriate.
9. Check trailer and footbrake stop lights, turn indicators and sound the horn. This is done to ensure correct functioning of the electrical system.
10. An additional tug test should be conducted on the trailer brake at low speed after recoupling when asked to do so by the driving examiner.

You are not required to do a practical driving test for a class MC licence.

If you currently hold a class HR licence, you must complete Drive Multi-Combination Vehicle approved training course (TLIC4006A) through an approved multi-combination training provider.

If you hold a class HC licence you must either complete a Drive Multi-Combination Vehicle approved training course (TLIC4006A) or complete a *Multi-Combination Driving Experience Declaration* (form F3272) and provide evidence you have accumulated 50 hours of class MC driving experience within a 6 month period. Please visit www.qld.gov.au/mcvehiclelicence for more information about upgrading to a class MC licence.

Long vehicle

While driving a long vehicle, you should know the length and height of the vehicle and your obligations regarding turning, following distance and giving way to other vehicles.

Synchromesh restriction code

If the driving test is conducted in a vehicle with a synchromesh transmission and non-synchromesh skills have not been displayed in a previous driving test, a licence condition code B (synchromesh restricted) will be stated on the licence.

For additional road rules for heavy vehicles, see *Heavy vehicles*, page 107.

General provisions

Renewing your licence

To apply for, or renew, your licence visit a licence issuing centre. If you hold a provisional, probationary or open licence, you may renew your licence online through *Services online* at **www.tmr.qld.gov.au**. The licence may be granted to you for a period up to five years.

You may renew your licence up to six weeks before it expires, and renewing early will not reduce your licence period. If your licence has expired, you may have to show extra identification when you apply to renew it. You will need to pay a fee when renewing your licence.

If you renew your provisional, probationary or open licence within five years of the expiry date of the licence, you will not be required to take another practical driving test before being granted a further licence of the same class. However, if you are found driving after your licence expires and before you renew it, you may be charged with unlicensed driving – see *Disqualified and unlicensed driving*, page 171.

Travelling interstate or overseas

If you are driving interstate you still need to comply with the conditions of your licence. You will also have to comply with the road rules and restrictions applicable to the state or territory that you will be driving in. Prior to travelling interstate, you are advised to check with the relevant transport authority for details of any specific road rules or restrictions.

If your licence will expire while you are travelling interstate or overseas, and you still need to drive after it expires and before returning to Queensland, contact the Department of Transport and Main Roads on **13 23 80**.

Changing your name or address

If you change your name or address, you must tell the Department of Transport and Main Roads or its agent within 14 days. Call the Department of Transport and Main Roads on **13 23 80** for information about what you will need to show to change your name or address on your licence.

Alternatively, you can change your address online by visiting *Services online* at **www.tmr.qld.gov.au**.

Non-Queensland driver licences

Interstate licence

An interstate licence is a driver licence granted to you in another Australian state or territory. This also includes any external territory of Australia.

Foreign licence

A foreign licence is a licence to drive a vehicle issued to you under a law of another country. This includes a New Zealand licence.

Driving in Queensland

When you may drive in Queensland

If you are visiting Queensland and driving on your foreign car licence, you can drive vehicles allowed under a Queensland class C licence regardless of the GVM or seating capacity restrictions on your foreign licence. You may drive vehicles up to 4.5 tonnes Gross Vehicle Mass that may carry up to 12 people including the driver. If you hold a valid interstate or foreign licence, you are allowed to drive any class of vehicle in Queensland that you are authorised to drive on that licence, as long as you comply with the conditions (if any) on it.

When you are driving, you must have the licence with you at all times.

If your licence is in a language other than English, you should carry a recognised English translation of it at all times when driving. For a list of approved recognised translators, visit the National Accreditation Authority of Translators and Interpreting Ltd (NAATI) website www.naati.com.au.

When you must not drive in Queensland

You must not drive in Queensland on your interstate or foreign licence if:

- your licence is no longer valid because:
 - it has expired
 - it has been suspended or cancelled by the issuing authority
- you have been disqualified by an Australian court from holding or obtaining a licence
- your authority to drive in Queensland on your interstate or foreign licence has been suspended because:
 - you have been convicted of driving more than 40km/h over the speed limit
 - you have not paid fines
 - you have accumulated too many demerit points – see *Accumulation of demerit points – interstate and foreign licence holders*, page 166

- your authority to drive in Queensland has been withdrawn because:
 - you have a medical condition that adversely affects your ability to drive safely – see *Medical conditions and driving*, page 20
 - you fail a practical driving test in Queensland
 - the three months residency rule applies to you – see below.

When the three months residency rule applies

Under the three months residency rule, you can no longer drive on your interstate or foreign licence and must obtain a Queensland driver licence to continue driving in Queensland. This applies if:

- you are an Australian citizen and you have been residing in Queensland for three months
- you are not an Australian citizen, and:
 - before you took up residence in Queensland you were given a permanent visa or special category visa under the Migration Act 1958 (Commonwealth)
 - you have now been residing in Queensland for three months
- you are not an Australian citizen, and:
 - after you took up residence in Queensland you were given a permanent visa or special category visa under the Migration Act 1958 (Commonwealth)
 - you have now been residing in Queensland for three months since getting the visa.

Permanent visa and special category visa

A permanent visa and a special category visa allow you to stay indefinitely in Australia. A visa, such as a student visa, that allows you to stay in Australia for a limited time, or until a certain event happens or while you have a special status, is not a permanent visa or special category visa.

If you need to drive in Queensland

If your licence has expired or your authority to drive in Queensland has been withdrawn and you still need to drive, you may be eligible to be granted a Queensland driver licence – see *Applying for a licence*, page 16.

Obtaining a Queensland driver licence

If you hold an interstate licence and need to get a Queensland licence for the same class as your interstate licence, you will need to:

- show your interstate licence and supporting evidence of identity documents
- show evidence of your Queensland residence
- surrender your interstate licence.

You may also be required to show evidence that you are medically fit to drive safely.

If you hold a foreign licence and need to get a Queensland licence for the same class as your foreign licence, you will need to:

- show your foreign licence and a recognised translation of the licence if it is not in English
- show supporting evidence of identity documents
- show evidence of your Queensland residence
- pay a fee.

You may also be required to:

- show evidence that you are medically fit to drive safely
- pay the road rules test fee and pass the test
- pay the practical driving test fee and pass the test
- have your photo and signature taken digitally.

If you have genuine difficulty in understanding or speaking English, an approved interpreter may assist you while you take your road rules test. The Department of Transport and Main Roads may organise an interpreter for you.

You must not continue to drive in Queensland on your interstate or foreign licence once you have been granted a Queensland driver licence.

If any of the following happens, you will not be eligible to be granted a Queensland driver licence until the period of suspension or disqualification has ended:

- your licence has been suspended by the issuing authority
- you have been disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence by an Australian court
- your authority to drive in Queensland has been suspended because you have:
 - been convicted of driving more than 40km/h over the speed limit
 - not paid fines
 - accumulated too many demerit points.

For more information about unpaid fines, contact the State Penalties Enforcement Registry on **1300 365 635** or visit **www.sper.qld.gov.au**.

If your authority to drive in Queensland has been withdrawn because you have a medical condition that adversely affects your ability to drive safely, you will not be eligible for a Queensland driver licence until your doctor gives you a medical certificate stating that you are medically fit to drive – see *Medical conditions and driving*, page 20.