

\$16.55  
r.r.p.

# Your keys to driving in Queensland

No. 19 – November 2022



**Queensland**  
Government

# Your keys to driving in Queensland

Published by The Department of Transport and Main Roads PO Box 673 Fortitude Valley 4006

© The State of Queensland (Department of Transport and Main Roads) 2022

Copyright protects this material. Except as permitted by the *Copyright Act 1968 (Commonwealth)*, reproduction by any means (photocopying, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise), making available online, electronic transmission or other publication of this material is prohibited without the prior written permission of the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Enquiries should be addressed to **copyright@tmr.qld.gov.au** or to the Department of Transport and Main Roads at the postal address shown above.

## Disclaimers

Information in this guide is current as at July 2022. Road rules and driver licensing requirements are subject to change. For the latest road rules and driver licensing requirements, please regularly refer to the Queensland Government website **www.qld.gov.au** and the Department of Transport and Main Roads website **www.tmr.qld.gov.au**.

**Note: the notes and information contained in this guide are an interpretation of current traffic law and should not be used for a legal interpretation.**

ISSN 1443-4172

Calls to phone numbers listed in this publication may incur a cost. Check with your service provider for call costs. Higher rates apply for mobile phones and payphones.

# Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Queensland licensing</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Queensland driver licence .....	6
Applying for a card .....	6
Licence types .....	7
Graduated licensing system.....	8
Licence classes, codes and conditions.....	12
Upgrading your licence .....	15
Applying for a licence .....	17
Eyesight.....	20
Medical conditions and driving.....	21
PrepL/Road rules test.....	23
Learning to drive .....	24
L plates.....	26
The compulsory Queensland learner logbook.....	26
Hazard perception test .....	28
Mobile phones.....	28
Ready to drive – for the learner .....	28
Q-Safe practical driving test.....	29
Provisional licences.....	35
Open licences .....	39
Probationary and restricted licences .....	40
Motorbikes .....	42
Heavy vehicles .....	54
General provisions .....	57
Non-Queensland driver licences .....	58
<b>Road rules</b> .....	<b>61</b>
Signs and signals.....	62
Speed limits.....	72
Making turns.....	75
Roundabouts .....	77
Indicating and signalling .....	79
Giving way .....	81
Road markings .....	90
Hazardous localities.....	98
Alcohol and drugs .....	102
Heavy vehicles .....	107

Other rules and responsibilities.....	116
Parking .....	117
Rules for other road users.....	127

**Safe road use ..... 135**

Sharing with other road users .....	136
Driving safely in tunnels .....	144
Stopping.....	145
Hazards .....	147
Driver fatigue .....	151
Correct seatbelt and child restraint use .....	153
Towing a trailer or caravan .....	156
What to do at a crash.....	158

**Offences and penalties ..... 160**

Enforcement .....	161
Licence sanctions.....	165
Disqualified and unlicensed driving .....	172

**Your vehicle ..... 174**

Buying a vehicle – safety considerations.....	175
Registering your vehicle.....	176

**Organ donation ..... 178**

Organ donation .....	179
----------------------	-----

---



## Introduction

*Your keys to driving in Queensland* is a publication for Queensland drivers that combines important information about the Queensland driver licensing system and the Queensland road rules.

*Your keys to driving in Queensland* is not just for learner drivers – it is important for everyone who uses the road, regardless of their level of experience, to read the book to update their knowledge of the road rules and road safety.

The information in this guide is an interpretation of the rules applying to road use in Queensland. For the complete picture of the Queensland driver licensing system and the Queensland road rules, visit the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel website at **[www.legislation.qld.gov.au](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au)**.

For further information, visit **[www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au)**, **[www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au)** or call the Department of Transport and Main Roads on **13 23 80**.

### **Translating and interpreting service**

If you have any problems with reading and speaking English, talk to people at the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS). Ring the number below for assistance.

**13 14 50 (from anywhere in Queensland at any time)**

---

### **口筆譯服務處**

如果您用英語閱讀或交談有困難,請與口筆譯服務處(TIS)的工作人員聯繫。請撥下面的電話號碼以便得到幫助。

**13 14 50 (任何時間在昆士蘭的任何地方均可撥打)**

---

### **Dịch Vụ Thông Phiên Dịch**

Nếu quý vị gặp trở ngại trong việc đọc và nói tiếng Anh, hãy liên lạc với nhân viên của Dịch Vụ Thông Phiên Dịch (TIS). Xin gọi số dưới đây để được giúp đỡ.

**13 14 50 (từ bất cứ nơi nào trong Queensland vào bất cứ giờ nào)**

---

### **Servicio de Traducción e Interpretación**

Si tiene problemas para leer o hablar inglés póngase en contacto con el Servicio de Traducción e Interpretación (TIS). Para obtener asistencia llame al siguiente número:

**13 14 50 (desde cualquier lugar de Queensland - atención permanente)**

---



## Queensland licensing

- Queensland driver licence
- Licence types
- Graduated licensing system
- Licence classes, codes and conditions
- Applying for a licence
- Learning to drive
- Q-Safe practical driving test
- Provisional licences
- Open licences
- Probationary and restricted licences
- Motorbikes
- Heavy vehicles
- General provisions
- Non-Queensland driver licences

# 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 to 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](http://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.

### 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* provides information about learning to drive another class of vehicle under your provisional, probationary or open licence. *Applying for a licence* provides information about getting your learner licence. *Learning to drive* 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 its graduated licensing system.

You can go for your driving test once you have held your learner licence for one year, completed 100 logbook hours (if you are under 25), and passed the hazard perception test. Depending on how old you are when you pass your practical driving 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*.

### 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*.

### 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*.

### 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*.

# 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 seven steps before you get your open licence:

-  PrepL (or the written road rules test if you cannot access PrepL)
-  Learner licence
-  Hazard perception test
-  100 hour logbook requirement
-  Practical driving test
-  P1 provisional licence\*
-  P2 provisional licence.

*\*If you got your P1 licence before the hazard perception test was moved to the learner licence phase, you will have to complete the test before you upgrade your P1 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](http://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 PrepL (an online road rules test), or the written road rules test if you cannot access PrepL.
- Your learner licence will be issued for three years.
- 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 motorbikes) – see *L plates*.

- 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*.
- 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*.
- 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*.
- You must hold your learner licence for at least six months, before you can take the hazard perception test – see *Hazard perception test*.
- You must hold your learner licence for at least one year, have passed the hazard perception test, and have completed 100 hours of supervised on-road driving (if you are under 25), before you can take your practical driving test – see *Q-Safe practical driving test*.

### 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 motorbikes) – see *P plates*.
- 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*.
- 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*.

- 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*.
- Peer passenger restrictions apply – see *Peer passengers*.
- 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*.

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*.

## 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 (*If you got your P1 licence before the hazard perception test was moved to the learner licence phase, you will have to complete the test before you upgrade your P1 licence*).
  - or
  - if you are 25 or over, have held your learner licence for at least one year and passed your hazard perception test and 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 motorbikes) – see *P plates*.
- 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*.
- 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*.

- 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*.

### 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 progress to an open licence.
- 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*.

### Learner licence for motorbike

- You may apply for a class RE motorbike learner licence after you have held your class C car provisional, probationary or open licence for at least one year – see *Motorbikes*.
- When you are learning to ride a motorbike, an L plate must be displayed at the back of your motorbike or on the back of a vest worn while riding – see *L plates*.
- You may only learn to ride a learner approved motorbike – see *Motorbikes*.
- You must always ride with a zero BAC.
- Restrictions on passengers apply – see *Pillion passenger restriction for learner riders*.
- You will need to pass the motorbike hazard perception test before you can take the Q-Ride RE Course or Q-Safe practical riding test and upgrade your motorbike learner licence – see *Hazard perception test*.

### 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](http://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, motorbike 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
<b>RE (motorbike)</b>	<p>You may ride:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a learner approved motorbike that is a moped</li><li>• a learner approved motorbike, other than a moped, with or without a trailer – see <i>Motorbikes</i>.</li></ul> <p>You must have held a class C provisional, probationary or open licence for at least one year to be eligible for a motorbike (class RE) learner licence.</p> <p>You may learn to ride a class R motorbike once you have held your class RE provisional, probationary or open licence for at least two years.</p>
<b>R (motorbike)</b>	<p>You may ride:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a class RE motorbike</li><li>• a motorbike with unlimited engine size, with or without a trailer.</li></ul>
<b>C (car)</b>	<p>You may drive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a moped</li><li>• a car, with or without a trailer</li><li>• 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</li><li>• a specially constructed vehicle with or without a trailer.</li></ul> <p><b>Note:</b> 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>
<b>LR (light rigid)</b>	<p>You may drive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a class C vehicle</li><li>• a bus of not more than 8 tonnes GVM, with or without a trailer of not more than 9 tonnes GVM</li><li>• 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</li></ul> <p>You may learn to drive a class MR, or HR vehicle.</p>
<b>MR (medium rigid)</b>	<p>You may drive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a class LR vehicle</li><li>• 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</li><li>• 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</li></ul> <p>You may learn to drive a class HR, or HC vehicle.</p>

Licence class	Class of vehicle
<b>HR (heavy rigid)</b>	<p>You may drive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a class MR vehicle</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• an articulated bus</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul> <p>You may learn to drive a class HC, or MC vehicle.</p>
<b>HC (heavy combination)</b>	<p>You may drive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a class HR vehicle</li> <li>• a truck (including a prime mover) of more than 8 tonnes GVM, with a trailer of more than 9 tonnes GVM</li> <li>• You may learn to drive a class MC vehicle.</li> </ul>
<b>MC (multi-combination)</b>	<p>You may drive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a class HC vehicle</li> <li>• a B-double</li> <li>• a road train.</li> </ul>
<b>UD</b>	<p>You may drive a specially constructed vehicle, with or without a trailer.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> 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.</p>

## Licence codes and conditions

Code	Licence condition
<b>A</b>	You may only drive the class of vehicle with automatic transmission.
<b>B</b>	You may only drive the class of vehicle with synchromesh gearbox; or a class C motor vehicle with an automatic or manual transmission.
<b>I</b>	You may only drive a nominated vehicle fitted with a prescribed interlock, or while carrying, and in accordance with, an interlock exemption certificate.
<b>M</b>	You may only drive while carrying a current medical certificate form F3712. You must obey any conditions listed on the certificate.
<b>RD</b>	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 <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au">www.qld.gov.au</a> .
<b>S</b>	You may only drive while wearing corrective lenses.

Code	Licence condition
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*.
- pass a road rules test (if required). To pass the heavy vehicle test, you must answer eight out of ten questions correctly. For the motorbike test, you must answer 27 out of 30 questions correctly.
- pay the hazard perception test fee and pass the test (if required) – see *Hazard perception test*.
- pay the practical 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 (motorbike)	You must have held a class C provisional, probationary or open licence for at least one year.
R (motorbike)	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.

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

# 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*
- 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*.

## Learner licence

To apply for a learner licence, you will also need to pay for and complete PrepL. If you are unable to access PrepL you may be able to complete the written road rules test instead, call 13 23 80 to find out more.

## Provisional licence

To apply for a provisional licence you will need to:

- complete 100 hours of supervised on road driving experience (if you are under 25) – see *The compulsory Queensland learner licence logbook*
- pass the hazard perception test (once you have held your learner licence for six months) – see *Hazard perception test*. You don't need to complete your logbook before you take the hazard perception test
- pass the practical driving test (once you have passed the hazard perception test) – see *Q-Safe practical driving test*.

## 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*.

### **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](http://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](http://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](http://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 an '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.

Before you drive in Queensland, you must 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](http://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 \$8200 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 F3712) 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 \$2700. 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](http://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](http://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 always carry your current 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](http://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 which is replacing the written road rules test to obtain a learner licence. You will need to pay the PrepL fee upfront. This gives you 12 months to complete the program. You can retry as many times as needed for the one fee. You must wait 24 hours to retake the test if you fail.

For more information visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

## Class C general road rules test

If you are unable to access PrepL, you may 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 attempt.

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 (motorbike) road rules test

The motorbike 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 motorbikes 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](http://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*.

- You must drive with a zero BAC.
- You must hold a learner licence for at least six months before being eligible to undertake the hazard perception test. You must pass the hazard perception test before you can undertake a practical driving test – see *Hazard perception test*.
- 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.
- All drivers are banned from holding a mobile phone in their hand or having it rest on any part of their body, such as their lap, while driving. The phone does not need to be turned on or in use for it to be an offence – see *Mobile phones*.

### **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*.

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.

- 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.

### **Rules for class C learner licence holders (25 years of age or 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 or 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](http://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*.

## 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 motorbike, an L plate must be clearly displayed at the back of the motorbike 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 motorbikes) 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](http://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](http://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*.

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](http://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.

## Hazard perception test

All learner drivers are required to pass the hazard perception test before they can take the practical driving test. You can take the hazard perception test once you have held your learner licence for six months.

To pass the hazard perception test you need to demonstrate your ability to identify hazards through watching and reacting to situations in a series of high-quality 3D computer generated clips. The hazards you will be tested on are the most challenging for novice drivers based on road crash data.

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

If you pass the test, you will not be required to sit it again.

There is also a motorbike hazard perception test for learner motorbike riders. Just like the car hazard perception test, you have to demonstrate your ability to identify hazards by watching and reacting to situations in a series of high-quality 3D computer generated clips. The hazards in this test are depicted from the perspective of a motorbike rider and are the most challenging for novice riders based on road crash data – see *Getting a class RE provisional or open licence*.

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

## 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.

All drivers can also use their phone when stopped to pay at a drive through, gain access to/from a car park or similar area, or present a digital driver licence.

## 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. You don't want to just pass. You want to be the best driver you can be.

## Q-Safe practical driving test

You must pass the hazard perception test before you can undertake a practical driving test – see *Hazard perception 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](http://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 will not be able to take the practical driving test if you have not passed the hazard perception test. You can book and pay for your practical test online at [www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://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](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au), or check the information in your logbook.

**Note:** For information about getting a motorbike licence see Motorbikes. See Heavy vehicles for information about getting a heavy vehicle licence.

### Test vehicles

The standard test vehicle for a class C licence is a vehicle (other than a motorbike) 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*.

## 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* for information on where to buy P plates or how to download them from [www.qld.gov.au](http://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](http://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 have not passed the hazard perception 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 have not passed the hazard perception test when you present for your practical driving test
- 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 no 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*.
- 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*.
- 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*.
- 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](http://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 hazard perception test and the 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 motorbikes)
- 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*
- 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*
- are not allowed to drive high-powered vehicles – see *High-powered vehicles*
- must drive with a zero BAC – see *Alcohol and drugs*
- 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.

If you got your P1 licence before the hazard perception test was moved to the learner licence phase, you will have to complete the test before you upgrade your P1 licence.

### 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 motorbikes)
- drive with a zero BAC – see *Alcohol and drugs*
- 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.

## 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](http://www.qld.gov.au). If you are a P1 or P2 licence holder, you must not drive a car or ride a motorbike unless a P plate can clearly be seen from:

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

## 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.

You can drive a high-powered vehicle if you are learning to drive with a different transmission and you are appropriately supervised.

## 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 2021*.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads 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](http://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 holding a mobile phone in their hand or having it rest on any part of their body, such as their lap, while driving. The phone does not need to be turned on or in use for it to be an offence. You will get a fine and four demerit points if you are caught – see *Mobile phones*.

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. Your supervisor and any passengers are also banned from using a mobile phone on loudspeaker function – see also *Double demerit points*. All drivers can use their phone when stopped to pay at a drive through, gain access to/from a car park or similar area, or present a digital driver licence.

## 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 caught.

## 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*.

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?**

- 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?**

- 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?**

- 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, or stopped to pay at a drive through, to gain access to/from a car park or similar area, or to present a digital driver licence.

**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 get how many demerit points?**

- 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.

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*.

### 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*.

# 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 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*
- 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*.

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*.

**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](http://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*
- 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*.

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

For further information about restricted licences, visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

# Motorbikes

## Getting a class RE motorbike learner licence

To be eligible for a class RE motorbike 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 motorbike 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 motorbike that is a learner approved motorbike. See *Getting a class R motorbike licence*, for information on when you can learn to ride a class R motorbike.

A learner approved motorbike is a production motorbike 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 motorbike in a list kept by the chief executive and published on the Queensland Government website at **[www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au)**.

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

For a full list of learner approved motorbikes and more information about the learner approved motorbike scheme visit **[www.qld.gov.au](http://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 motorbike 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 motorbike 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/motorbikelicence](http://www.qld.gov.au/motorbikelicence).

## Getting a class RE provisional or open licence

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

- pass the motorbike hazard perception test – see *Hazard perception test*
- hold a class RE learner licence and have held it for at least 90 days (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 must complete the motorbike hazard perception test before you can book in for the Q-Ride RE course or Q-Safe practical riding test. The motorbike hazard perception test is only available online at [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au). It is not available at driver licence issuing centres.

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 motorbike.

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/motorbikelicence](http://www.qld.gov.au/motorbikelicence).

## Getting a class R motorbike 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 motorbike 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 motorbike of any engine capacity including a learner approved motorbike 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/motorbikelicence](http://www.qld.gov.au/motorbikelicence).

**Note:** If you got your class RE provisional, probationary or open licence before 1 October 2016, you may learn to ride a class R motorbike 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 motorbike on a road.

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

## P plates on motorbikes

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 motorbike (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 motorbike

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 motorbike you are learning to ride
- only learn to ride a learner approved motorbike (for class RE learner licence holders)
- display an L plate on the back of the motorbike you are riding or on the back of a vest worn while riding – see *L plates*
- 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 motorbike licence will be for a class RE, which will allow you to ride a learner approved motorbike.

If you hold a P1 or P2 licence you need to display the appropriate P plate on the back of the motorbike 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 motorbike**

You are able to learn to ride a class R motorbike 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 motorbike, 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 motorbike scheme restrictions do not apply to holders of a class R motorbike licence. For more information about upgrading your class RE licence, visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

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

## Special rules about mopeds

A moped is a motorbike 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 motorbike helmet that meets the *Australian Standard AS1698 or AS/NZS1698 or United Nations Economic Commission for Europe standard (UN ECE 22.05 OR 22.06)* 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 motorbike riders*.

**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 passed the motorbike hazard perception test, and held your class RE learner licence for at least 90 days (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/motorbikelicence](http://www.qld.gov.au/motorbikelicence).

### Applying for Q-Ride training and assessment

To get your motorbike 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 have passed the motorbike hazard perception test, and held your RE learner licence for at least 90 days. 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 motorbike 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 motorbike 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 motorbike licence online. If you complete a pre-learner course you may be eligible to take the motorbike 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/motorbikelicence](http://www.qld.gov.au/motorbikelicence). 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 motorbike licence.

For further information about your local Q-Ride registered training providers, visit [www.qld.gov.au/motorbikelicence](http://www.qld.gov.au/motorbikelicence).

## Q-Safe practical driving test

You must pass the motorbike hazard perception test before you can undertake a Q-Ride RE Course or Q-Safe RE practical riding test – see *Hazard perception 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/motorbikelicence](http://www.qld.gov.au/motorbikelicence) and looking at the list of registered Q-Ride training providers.

See *Booking your Q-Safe practical driving test*, 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 motorbike that is a standard test vehicle for the class of licence you want.

Licence class	Vehicle requirement
<b>RE (restricted motorbike)</b>	A learner approved motorbike <b>Note:</b> You cannot take a test on a moped, conditionally registered motorbike, motorbike with a sidecar attached or motortrike.
<b>R (motorbike)</b>	A motorbike not stated on the learner approved motorbike list, which is published on the Queensland Government website <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au">www.qld.gov.au</a> . <b>Note:</b> You cannot take a test on a moped, conditionally registered motorbike, motorbike 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 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 motorbike 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 motorbikes*.

## Clothing requirements

The Department of Transport and Main Roads recommends that you wear the following clothing when you take your motorbike 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 motorbike helmet that meets the *Australian Standard AS1698* or *NZ/NZS1698*, or the *United Nations Economic Commission for Europe standard (UN ECE 22.05 or 22.06)* when riding a motorbike, 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*
- 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 motorbike 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 motorbike 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 motorbike – 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*
  - emergency stop – stop the motorbike 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 motorbike rolling backwards.

## Additional road rules for motorbike riders

As a motorbike 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 motorbike, the following road rules also apply:

- You must wear an approved motorbike helmet securely fastened at all times other than when the motorbike is parked or being pushed with the engine turned off.
- You must always display an L plate on the back of the motorbike you are learning to ride or on the back of a vest worn by you while learning to ride – see *L plates*.
- If you hold a provisional licence (P1 or P2) you need to display the appropriate P plate on the back of the motorbike at all times.
- You must be astride the rider's seat.
- Before carrying a passenger on a class RE motorbike, you must have held your class RE provisional, probationary or open licence for at least one year. For a class RE motorbike, you can carry a passenger as soon as you get your class R licence.
- You may ride side-by-side with another motorbike 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 and personal mobility device riders or other motorbike riders already in or entering the area.
- If you hold an open class RE or R motorbike 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 motorbike

- You must not carry a pillion passenger when you are learning to ride a class RE or R motorbike and during the first year of holding your class RE provisional, probationary or open licence.
- Each of your passengers must wear an approved motorbike helmet securely fastened at all times other than when the motorbike is parked.

- Your pillion passenger on a moving motorbike 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 motorbike'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 motorbike.
- Your pillion passenger must not ride on the motorbike unless it has a suitable pillion seat and suitable passenger footrests.
- Your passenger must not interfere with your effective control of the motorbike.

## **Parking**

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

## **Preparing to get on the road**

You and your passengers (both pillion and sidecar) must wear a motorbike helmet that meets the *Australian Standard AS1698* or *NZ/NZS1698*, or the *United Nations Economic Commission for Europe standard (UN ECE 22.05 or 22.06)* when riding, unless the motorbike 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 motorbike with the headlight on at all times.

Before riding on the road, check the following safety equipment on your motorbike 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 motorbike is registered to carry a pillion
- muffler
- horn

- chain guard – if the motorbike is chain driven, an appropriate chain guard must be fitted
- chain – if the motorbike 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 motorbike 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.motorbikesafety.qld.gov.au](http://www.motorbikesafety.qld.gov.au).

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

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

## Sample questions – motorbikes

### 1. As a learner motorbike rider, you:

- A. Must display one L plate so that it can be seen clearly from the back of the motorbike.
- 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 motorbike can be ridden under a class RE licence?

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

### 3. Motorbike riders must ride:

- 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 motorbike helmet?

- A. Yes.
- B. Only if the motorbike has an engine capacity of more than 250mL.
- C. No, only the person controlling the motorbike 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*, 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
<b>LR (light rigid)</b>	A bus or truck more than 4.5 tonnes GVM but not more than 8 tonnes GVM.
<b>MR (medium rigid)</b>	A bus or truck more than 8 tonnes GVM with not more than two axles.
<b>HR (heavy rigid)</b>	A bus or a truck more than 15 tonnes GVM with at least three axles. <b>Note:</b> The test cannot be taken in a bobtail prime mover.
<b>HC (heavy combination)</b>	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.

Often at crashes or breakdown sites, you will see an Emergency Response Vehicle providing aid to those involved. See *Move Over Slow Down*, for information about the rules you need to follow.

## 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 six month period. Please visit **[www.qld.gov.au/mcvehiclelicence](http://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*.

# General provisions

## Renewing your licence

To apply for, or renew, your licence visit a licence issuing centre. If you hold a learner, 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, or a three year fixed term for learner licences.

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*.

## 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](http://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](http://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*
- 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*
  - 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*.

### **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

- pay a fee.

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 PrepL or road rules test fee and pass PrepL or the road rules 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](http://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*.



## Road rules

- Signs and signals
- Speed limits
- Making turns
- Roundabouts
- Indicating and signalling
- Giving way
- Road markings and positioning
- Hazardous localities
- Alcohol and drugs
- Heavy vehicles
- Other rules and responsibilities
- Rules for other road users

# Signs and signals

## Signs

Traffic signs and signals are an essential part of the road traffic system. Paying attention to traffic signs helps you move around safely and efficiently.

There are three common types of traffic signs:

- regulatory signs
- warning signs
- guide signs and information signs.

## Regulatory signs

You must obey the instructions on these signs.



### Stop

Come to a complete stop and obey the give way rules.



### Give way

Slow down or stop if required and obey the give way rules.



### Roundabout

Slow down or stop and give way to all vehicles on the roundabout.



### No U-turn

Do not make a U-turn on a length of road where this sign applies.



### Wrong way – go back

This sign tells you that you are driving in the wrong direction.



### No turns

Do not turn right or left or make a U-turn at the intersection – you must only drive in the direction indicated by the arrow.

**No left turn**

Do not turn left at the intersection.

**Keep left**

You must drive to the left of this sign.

**No right turn**

Do not turn right or make a U-turn at the intersection.

**Two way**

Vehicles travel in both directions on this road.

**No entry**

Do not drive onto the road beyond this sign.

**One way**

You must drive only in the direction indicated by the arrow.

**No overtaking or passing**

Overtaking or passing another vehicle is not allowed from the NO OVERTAKING OR PASSING sign to:

- a distance past the sign indicated on the sign
- the end of the bridge, if the sign applies to a bridge
- the end of a narrow length of road, if the sign applies to a narrow length of road
- an END NO OVERTAKING OR PASSING sign.

**Trucks and buses use low gear**

Trucks and buses must drive in a gear low enough to limit their speed without relying on the primary brake. This sign is used on steep routes.

**Keep left unless overtaking**

When you drive past this sign on a multi-lane road, you must not drive in the right lane unless overtaking, turning right, making a U-turn, avoiding an obstacle or driving in congested traffic.

For more regulatory signs – see *Hazardous localities*.



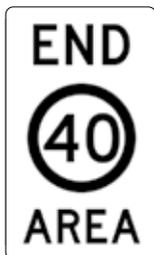
You must not drive faster than the km/h speed shown in the circle. In poor conditions, it is safer to drive slower than the speed limit –see *Bad weather*.



The (speed limit) AREA sign indicates the speed limit within the area you are about to enter.



The END (speed limit) sign indicates that the previous speed limit has ended and the general default speed limit applies.



The END (speed limit) AREA sign indicates you are leaving the area covered by the area speed limit and re-entering a general speed limit area.



School zone speed limits only apply on school days between the hours shown on the sign. At any other time, the speed limit shown on the last speed limit sign before you enter the school zone will apply. School zone hours and speed limits may differ between schools, so read the sign, read the time and read your speed.



A variable speed zone has different speed limits applying in the zone at different times of the day or days of the week. These different speed limits may be shown by special speed limit signs that may be electronically controlled.

When an electronic variable speed limit sign is blank you must follow the speed limit shown on static signs.



### Shared zone

A shared zone is an area where pedestrians have total priority over all other traffic. Do not drive faster than the km/h speed shown in the circle between this sign and the next END SHARED ZONE sign.



### End shared zone

You have reached the end of a shared zone. If there is no sign indicating a different speed limit, the default speed limit applies. Standard rules for giving way to pedestrians apply.

## Warning signs

These signs warn you of hazards.



Steep descent or steep downgrade



Railway level crossing ahead



Railway level crossing – flashing signal ahead



Roundabout ahead



GIVE WAY sign ahead



STOP sign ahead



Traffic lights ahead



Side road intersection



Crossroad intersection



T-intersection ahead



Divided road



End divided road



Road narrows



Merging traffic



Added lane



ONE  
LANE

One-lane bridge



Arrows indicate direction of traffic  
Traffic travels in each direction



Turn



Reverse turns



Curve



Reverse curves



Winding road



Sharp depression in road



Water flows across road



Raised area on road



Road hump



Advisory speed limit



Sharp bend ahead with recommended maximum safe speed in good conditions



School



Pedestrian crossing ahead



Pedestrian crossing



Children could be on the road



Children getting on and off buses



School bus turning



People on bicycles may be using the road



Pedestrians may be using the road



Trucks crossing or entering



Beware of kangaroos



Low clearance ahead



Low-flying aircraft ahead



Hazard ahead. Be prepared to take action



Slippery road

## Hazard markers

You will see these signs on hazards on the road. They show you the direction to take when driving past the hazard. You must obey these signs. The points of the V-shaped bars are the direction you must drive.

### Unidirectional hazard markers



Drive to the left of the hazard.



Drive to the right of the hazard.



### Bidirectional hazard marker



Driver either side of the hazard.

## Width markers

These signs are normally used in pairs. They show the width of a bridge, stock grid crossing or a narrow section of road.



Drive to the right of the sign.



Drive to the left of the sign.

## Guide and information signs

These signs give you information about safe road use, routes, directions, destinations and points of interest.



### Form one lane

The number of marked lanes for vehicles travelling in the same direction has been reduced to one. Form a single lane with other drivers.



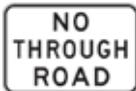
### Turn left at any time with care

This sign indicates the presence of a slip lane. A slip lane is a lane for left turning traffic that is separated from the rest of the road by a traffic island.



### Slow vehicles use left lane

You may see this sign at the beginning of a long or steep climb where a slow-moving vehicle may delay other vehicles. If you are driving a slow-moving vehicle, use the left lane and leave the other lane clear for passing vehicles.



### No through road

The road you are about to enter is a dead end.



### Reduce speed now

The motorway you are on is ending. Slow down from the motorway speed limit to the much slower speed limit on the next section of road.



### Services

The services shown on this sign are available on the road ahead or on a side road, and include first aid, tourist information, caravan parks or meals. The sign may also show your distance from these services.



### Local traffic only

The road past the sign is not intended for through traffic. The sign may be at the entrance to a local area or at detours where local traffic is allowed to enter the work area.



### Tourist drive information

A scenic drive or route, which connects a number of tourist attractions, goes this way. The route may be identified by a particular number.

## Traffic lights

Traffic lights control the flow of traffic and pedestrians to improve safety and access to roads. You should be prepared to react if the traffic lights change.

If you disobey a red or yellow traffic light, you may receive an infringement notice from a police officer. If you disobey a red traffic light, you may be sent a *Photographic Detection Device Offence* notice in the mail – see *Red light cameras*.

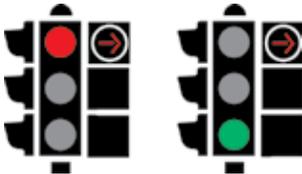
For information about how pedestrians, bicycles and personal mobility device riders should respond to traffic lights – see *Rules for other road users*.

### Obeying traffic lights

#### Stop



You must not drive past the STOP line at the red traffic light/red traffic arrow or, if there is no STOP line, the traffic light.



You must not drive past the STOP line at the yellow traffic light /yellow traffic arrow or, if there is no STOP line, the traffic light.

**The yellow light is the beginning of the red light phase, NOT the end of the green light phase.** You must STOP on a yellow light, unless it is unsafe to do so.



If it is unsafe to stop, for example if you are very close to the light when it changes from green to yellow, you may proceed through the yellow light.

## Drive with caution

If you face a flashing yellow traffic light or arrow, you may drive past it. Apply give way rules and caution to avoid a collision with other vehicles and pedestrians.



### Drive past the light

Drive past the green traffic light or arrow, as long as the intersection is clear.



### Traffic lights showing a white B light

If you are driving a bus, taxi, limousine, emergency vehicle or a bicycle, you may drive past the white B light.



### Turning right at traffic lights

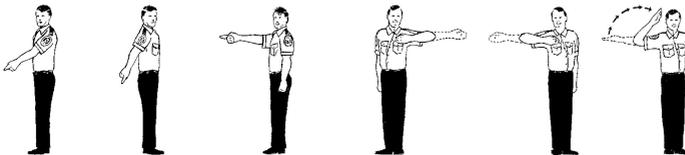
If the light is green and there are vehicles approaching from the opposite direction, you should move forward into the intersection past the STOP line if you can do so safely. If there is a safe gap in oncoming traffic, you may complete the turn. If you are in the intersection and the oncoming traffic continues until the lights turn yellow or red, you must complete the turn on the yellow or red light.

## Obeying lawful directions

### Police officers and Department of Transport and Main Roads inspectors

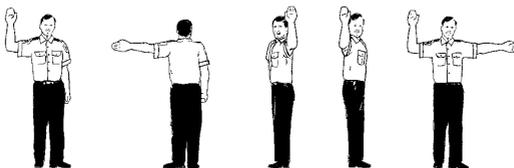
Police officers and Department of Transport and Main Roads inspectors may direct road users with hand signals. A direction given by a police officer overrules a GIVE WAY or STOP sign, or a traffic light.

You must obey these signals and any directions given.



Stop where indicated and wait

Go as directed



Stop

## Traffic controllers

A traffic controller may direct traffic at a worksite, an event where a road closure is necessary, or where traffic control is otherwise required. You must obey a lawful direction or signal given by a traffic controller within a designated worksite.



Stop



Go slow



Go slow

## Sample questions – signs and signals

### 1. What does this sign mean?

- A. Danger – road bends sharply to the right.
- B. You must not turn right.
- C. Speed zone ends.
- D. No sharp right-hand bends ahead.



### 2. When a traffic light turns from green to yellow, you must:

- A. Speed up and go through the lights before they turn red.
- B. Stop, even if you must stop on the intersection and then reverse back to the stop line.
- C. Stop, even if you are in the intersection.
- D. Stop if you can do so safely before reaching the STOP line, or if no stop line, the traffic light.

### 3. What does this sign mean?

- A. U-turns allowed.
- B. No right turn.
- C. Give way to vehicles on the roundabout.
- D. Turning area for heavy vehicles ahead–give way.



### 4. What does this sign mean?

- A. Vehicles travel in both directions on this road.
- B. No right or left turn.
- C. No parking.
- D. No U-turns allowed.



### 5. What does this sign mean?

- A. Crossroad intersection ahead.
- B. Helicopter landing pad ahead.
- C. Ambulance station ahead.
- D. Hospital emergency entrance ahead.



# Speed limits

## Speed limit sign



A speed limit sign has a number in a circle on it showing the maximum speed in km/h that you may drive your vehicle on the road in good conditions. In poor weather or hazardous conditions, you should drive at a lower speed to suit those conditions. You must not exceed the signposted speed limit even when overtaking.

Electronic variable speed limit signs allow the displayed speed to be reduced to respond in real time to the road and traffic conditions, for example congestion, crash or adverse weather. To indicate the speed limit has changed, the lights surrounding the speed limit flash. Responding to the displayed speed will help keep traffic flowing and minimise stop-start driving.

## Learner and provisional licence holders

There are no specified reduced speed limits in Queensland for learner or provisional licence holders. You should drive according to the speed limit and the conditions for the road on which you are driving.

## In a built-up area



The default speed limit on a road in a built-up area is 50km/h. This means you may only drive at a maximum speed of 50km/h in a built-up area, unless you see a speed limit sign on the road showing a different speed limit.

Not all roads in a built-up area will have a speed limit sign on them. In that case, you should only drive at a maximum speed of 50km/h until you pass a speed limit sign showing a different speed limit.

A built-up area includes any area where there are buildings on land next to a road, or street lighting, at intervals of not more than 100m for a distance of 500m. If the road is less than 500m long, it includes the whole road.

This includes roads in residential, commercial and industrial areas.

## Outside a built-up area

The default speed limit on a road outside a built-up area is 100km/h unless otherwise signed. On a small number of higher standard roads, you may be allowed to drive at a maximum speed limit of 110km/h, but only if a speed limit sign on the road shows that speed limit.

Heavy vehicles over 12 tonnes GVM or buses over 5 tonnes GVM are restricted to travelling at a maximum speed of 100km/h, regardless of any higher speed limit that may be shown – see *Speed limiters*.

## Area speed zones



The speed limit area sign shows you the speed limit you must travel within in the zoned area.

A speed limited area is a network of local roads with these signs placed at the entry and exit of the area.

An end speed limit area sign will tell you when you have left the speed limited area.

## Variable speed zones



A variable speed zone has different speed limits applying in the zone at different times of the day or days of the week. These different speed limits may be shown by special speed limit signs that may be electronically controlled.

A variable speed limit zone may also be applied on a motorway, long bridge or in a tunnel to allow the speed to be changed if required. A variable speed limit zone is shown through the use of electronic variable speed limit signs and selected static signs. If an electronic variable speed limit sign is blank you must follow the speed limit on static signs.

See also *Regulatory signs*.

## School speed zones



School zone speed limits only apply on school days between the hours shown on the sign. School zone hours and speed limits may differ between schools, so read the sign, read the time and check your speed.

## Warning sign with advisory speed limit



This sign tells you the recommended speed limit through the curves ahead in good driving conditions. It is placed where extra caution is needed and where the speed of your vehicle should be reduced temporarily.

See also *Warning signs*.

# Sample questions – speed limits

## 1. What does this sign mean?

- A. You must travel more than 60km/h.
- B. You must not travel more than 60km/h.
- C. You are on Highway 60.
- D. The next town is 60km away.



## 2. Can you legally drive over the speed limit?

- A. Yes, as long as you do not go over the speed limit by 10 km/h.
- B. Yes, when you are overtaking a slower moving vehicle.
- C. No.
- D. Yes, when you have a good excuse.

## 3. Speeding is dangerous because:

- A. The faster you drive, the more time and space you need to stop.
- B. Increasing speed also increases the severity of crashes.
- C. Driving too fast around a corner can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- D. All of the above.

## 4. What is the maximum speed limit (unless otherwise signposted) in a built-up area?

- A. 70km/h.
- B. 80km/h.
- C. 50km/h.
- D. 60km/h.

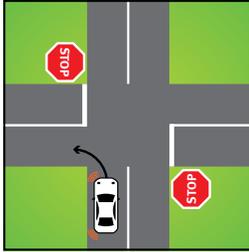
## 5. What does this sign mean?

- A. 40km/h is the advised maximum speed to travel around the curve ahead under good conditions.
- B. Winding road for next 40km.
- C. 40km/h is the legal maximum speed limit for the curve ahead when the road is wet.
- D. You can only turn left for the next 40km.

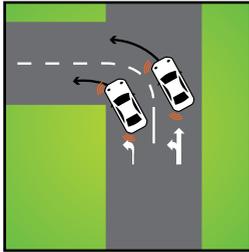


# Making turns

## Left turns



- If turning left at an intersection, position your vehicle so you are close to the far left side of the road.
- If there is a slip lane, the left turn must be made from the slip lane.

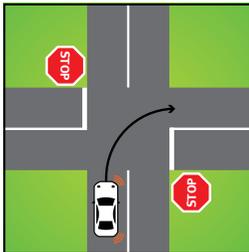


Turning left on a multi-lane road with traffic arrows.

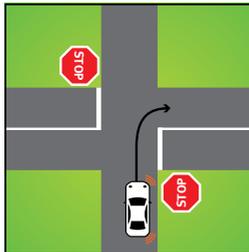
When you turn left at an intersection from a multi-lane road, you must approach and enter the intersection from within the left lane unless:

- there is a slip lane for left turns
- there is an obstruction in the left lane
- road markings allow the turn to be made from another lane
- your vehicle is showing a DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE sign - see *Long Vehicles*.

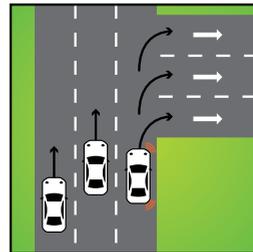
## Right turns



When turning right into a two-way road, keep left of the centre of the road you enter. If the road is marked with turn lines to show the path to take when turning, follow the turn lines.



When turning right from a one-way street, drive up to the intersection, keeping your vehicle close to the right and parallel to the side of the road.

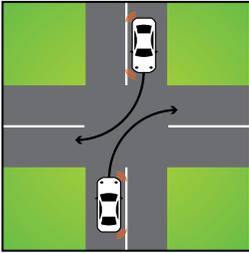


When turning right from a one-way street, you must make the turn as indicated by the arrows.

## Turning from a single lane road into a multi-lane road

You can choose which lane to turn into—unless there are marked turning lines to indicate a particular path. You must give way to vehicles in the lane you are turning into. You must also give way to any pedestrians, bicycle and personal mobility device riders that are crossing the road you are entering.

## Turning right at unmarked intersections



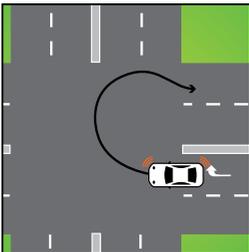
When you turn right from a two-way road at an unmarked intersection, pass to the right of the centre of the intersection unless turn lines indicate differently. Give way rules apply.

### Tips – turning

When turning:

- check your road position
- check the position of approaching traffic
- check the road markings
- check traffic signs
- check the direction of traffic
- obey the give way rules
- give way to pedestrians, bicycle and personal mobility device riders crossing the road you are turning into
- make sure your entry position is correct.

## U-turns

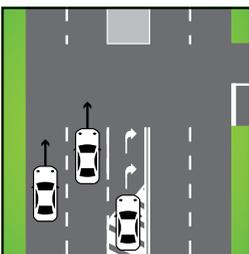


You must only make a U-turn when necessary. You can make a U-turn if:

- you have a clear view of approaching traffic
- you give way to all vehicles, pedestrians, bicycle and personal mobility device riders, including traffic that is facing STOP or GIVE WAY signs
- you can safely make a U-turn without obstructing the free movement of traffic
- there are no signs or road markings prohibiting a U-turn.

Do not make a U-turn at traffic lights or crossings unless there is a sign that states you can.

## Turning across painted traffic islands



You may drive on or over a painted island surrounded by one continuous line for up to 50m to enter or leave the road or to enter a turning lane that begins immediately after the painted island.

You must not drive on or over a painted island surrounded by one continuous line if the island is at a merge point and separates vehicles travelling in the same direction or if the island separates parts of a road to create a slip lane.

# Roundabouts



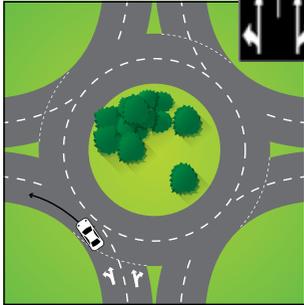
This sign means that you are approaching a roundabout.



This sign means that you must give way to all vehicles on the roundabout.

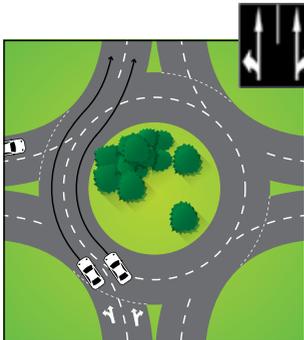
- Indicate, if necessary, as you approach and enter the roundabout.
- Drive clockwise around the roundabout.
- Follow the road arrows and direction signs.
- Drive within marked lanes.
- Indicate when you are going to change lanes.
- Indicate, unless impractical, before exiting the roundabout.

## Driving on a roundabout with marked lanes



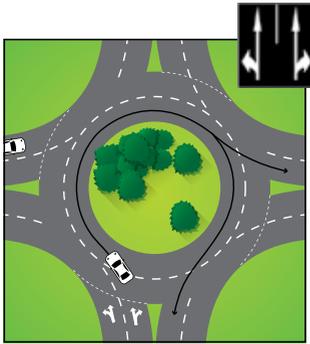
To make a left turn at the roundabout:

1. signal left as you approach and enter the roundabout
2. approach and enter the roundabout from the left marked lane or line of traffic
3. give way to vehicles, bicycle and personal mobility device riders already on the roundabout
4. if traffic lane arrows apply to the lane, drive in the direction of the arrows. If the arrows indicate two or more directions, you may drive in any of the directions indicated
5. continue to signal left as you exit the roundabout
6. turn off your indicator after you have left the roundabout.



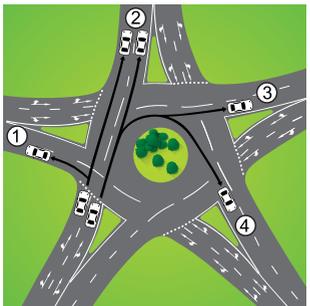
To drive straight ahead at the roundabout:

1. approach and enter the roundabout from the left or right lane or line of traffic (do not use your indicator as you enter the roundabout when going straight ahead)
2. give way to vehicles, bicycle and personal mobility device riders already on the roundabout
3. if traffic lane arrows apply to the lane, drive in the direction of the arrows. If the arrows indicate two or more directions, you may drive in any of the directions indicated
4. if practical, signal left as you exit the roundabout
5. turn off your indicator after you have left the roundabout.

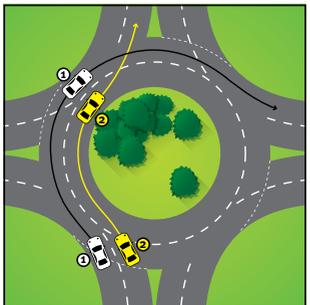


To make a right or U-turn at the roundabout:

1. signal right as you enter the roundabout and continue to signal right while driving on the roundabout
2. approach and enter the roundabout from the right marked lane or line of traffic
3. give way to vehicles, bicycle and personal mobility device riders already on the roundabout
4. if traffic lane arrows apply to the lane, drive in the direction of the arrows. If the arrows indicate two or more directions, you may drive in any of the directions indicated
5. if practical, signal left as you exit the roundabout
6. turn off your indicator after you have left the roundabout.



1. **Left turn** – Signal left on your approach to the roundabout and continue to signal left as you exit the roundabout.
2. **Straight ahead or second left exit** – You are not required to signal on the approach to the roundabout, but if practical, signal left as you exit the roundabout (this is the same for both lanes).
3. **Right turn** – Signal right on the approach to the roundabout and if practical, signal left as you exit the roundabout.
4. **Right turn** – Signal right on the approach to the roundabout and if practical, signal left as you exit the roundabout.



Lane changes are permitted on roundabouts as long as they are conducted legally and safely.

Bicycle riders may travel on a roundabout in either lane to exit more than halfway around but when in the left lane must give way to vehicles exiting the roundabout.

Only use the left lane to leave the roundabout halfway around or earlier, unless traffic lane arrows indicate otherwise. In this diagram, the path taken by vehicle 1 is illegal.

## Giving way at roundabouts



When entering a roundabout, you must give way to any vehicles, bicycle and personal mobility device riders already on the roundabout.

In this situation, vehicle 2 must give way to vehicle 1, because vehicle 1 is already on the roundabout.

### Tips – roundabouts

Keep a special lookout for motorbike, bicycle and personal mobility device riders, as they can be hard to see. Also watch out for large trucks as they may need more space to complete their manoeuvre.

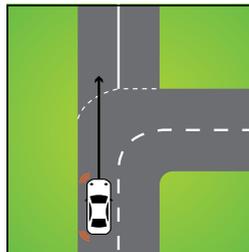
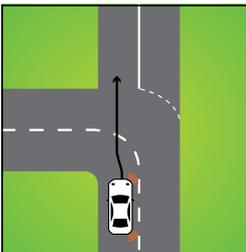
## Indicating and signalling

You must signal your intention to:

- stop or slow down – use brake lights or a hand signal
- turn right, move right or make a U-turn – use indicators or hand signal
- turn left or move left – use indicators only (there is no left hand signal).

You must give the change of direction signal for long enough to give sufficient warning to other road users, bicycle and personal mobility device riders and pedestrians. Turn off your indicator after you have completed the manoeuvre. You must signal for at least five seconds when moving off from a parked position.

If the continuing road at a T-intersection bends to the left or right, you must indicate if you are turning off the continuing road and going straight ahead.



Vehicle must indicate right if the continuing road curves to the left.

Vehicle must indicate left if the continuing road curves to the right.

## Hand signals

There are two official hand signals.



About to stop or slow down.



About to turn, move right or make a U-turn.

Using hand signals is the only time when part of your body may protrude outside the vehicle. Do not use hand signals to tell drivers behind to overtake – this can be dangerous.

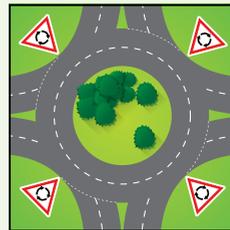
## Using your horn

You may only use the horn of your vehicle to warn other road users or animals of your approach or the position of your vehicle.

# Sample questions – turns, roundabouts and signalling

**1. You are driving your vehicle towards a multi-lane roundabout. You want to travel straight through the roundabout to the road opposite. What lane must you take?**

- A. You must enter and leave the roundabout in the left lane.
- B. You may enter and leave the roundabout in either lane.
- C. You must enter and leave the roundabout in the right lane.
- D. You must move to the left lane before the roundabout, then leave by the right lane.

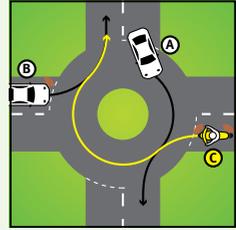


**2. You can do a U-turn at an intersection with traffic lights:**

- A. Between 9 pm and 6 am.
- B. If there is no oncoming traffic.
- C. When there is a U-TURN PERMITTED sign.

**3. You are riding vehicle C. You must give way to:**

- A. Both vehicle A and B.
- B. Vehicle A only.
- C. Neither vehicle A or B.



**4. When are you allowed to sound your horn?**

- A. Only in a built-up area.
- B. To say goodbye to friends.
- C. At any time.
- D. To warn others of your approach.

## Giving way

Give way for a driver or pedestrian means:

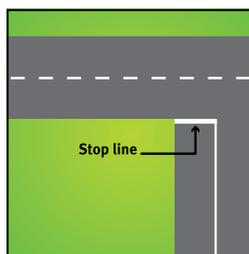
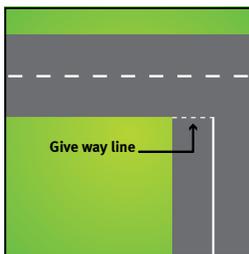
- if a driver or pedestrian is stopped—remain stationary until it is safe to proceed
- in any other case: slow—down and, if necessary, stop to avoid a collision.

Learners will be tested in detail about giving way, so it's important to know all the rules. Give way rules are designed to allow road users and pedestrians to move predictably without the danger of a crash. Drivers who don't give way are dangerous to themselves and other road users.

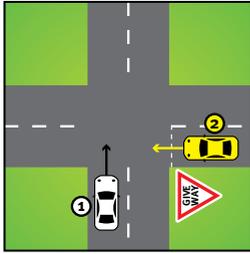
### GIVE WAY and STOP

GIVE WAY and STOP signs are placed at intersections where extra care is needed because of limited visibility, or where vehicles on the other road have priority.

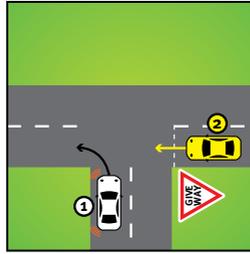
STOP lines and GIVE WAY lines on the road have the same meaning as STOP signs and GIVE WAY signs. They are used in case a sign is missing, for example stolen or knocked down. This also applies at railway level crossings.



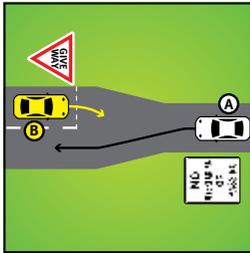
## GIVE WAY signs



Vehicle 2 must give way to vehicle 1.



Vehicle 2 must give way to vehicle 1.

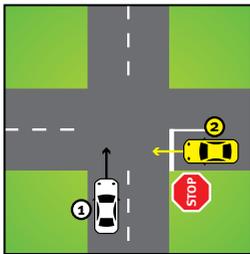


When you face a GIVE WAY sign or GIVE WAY line at an intersection, you must slow down or, if necessary, stop.

You must then give way to vehicles approaching, entering or on the intersection. If you turn at the intersection, you must also give way to any pedestrian, bicycle or personal mobility device rider, crossing the road you are entering.

Do not drive past a GIVE WAY sign on a narrow section of road when a vehicle is approaching.

## STOP signs

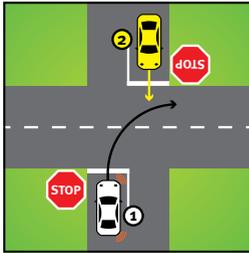


Vehicle 2 must stop and give way to vehicle 1.

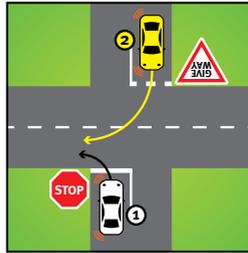
When you face a STOP sign or STOP line, you must bring your vehicle to a complete stop just behind the STOP line. You must give way to vehicles approaching, entering or on the intersection. If you turn at the intersection, you must also give way to any pedestrian, bicycle or personal mobility device rider, crossing the road you are entering. If there is no STOP line, you should stop where you have a clear view of the intersection before entering it.

## Giving way at GIVE WAY and STOP signs

When two or more drivers face each other at STOP or GIVE WAY signs at an intersection, they must first give way to all other vehicles. The drivers must also give way to all pedestrians, bicycles and personal mobility device riders, on the road they are entering. They then apply the give way rules – see also *Giving way to the right* below.



After both vehicles have stopped and given way to all other vehicles, vehicle 1 must give way to vehicle 2 because vehicle 1 is turning right across vehicle 2's path.

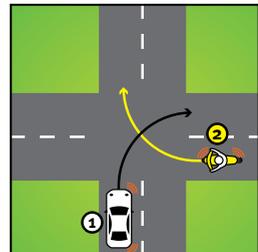
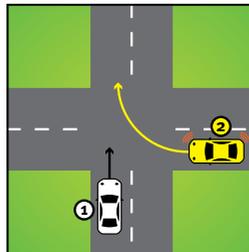
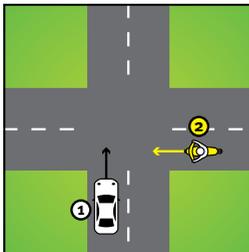


After both vehicles have given way to all other vehicles, vehicle 2 must give way to vehicle 1 because it is turning right across vehicle 1's path.

## Giving way when changing lanes

When you are changing lanes, you must give way to the traffic already in the lane you are moving to.

## Giving way to the right



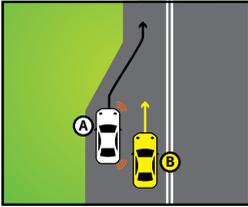
In all these situations, vehicle 1 must give way to vehicle 2.

When you come to a crossroad intersection without any signs or lines, you must give way to all vehicles on your right if they are approaching, entering or on the intersection.

However, you do not have to give way to vehicles:

- coming from the opposite direction and turning right at the intersection
- making a U-turn.

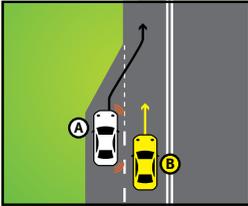
## Giving way when merging



### Example 1

When lines of traffic merge, you must give way to any vehicle that is ahead of you.

In example 1, vehicle B gives way to vehicle A.

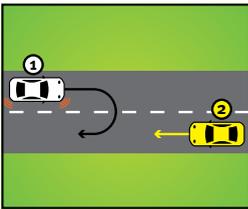


### Example 2

If your lane comes to an end, you must give way to traffic already in the lane you are moving to.

In example 2, vehicle A gives way to vehicle B.

## Giving way when making a U-turn



You must give way to all vehicles and pedestrians when you make a U-turn, including traffic that is facing STOP or GIVE WAY signs – see *U-turns*. Vehicle 1 must wait for vehicle 2 to pass before making the U-turn.

## Giving way to emergency vehicles

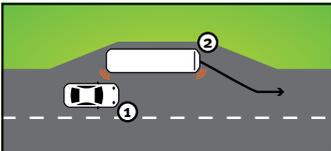
You must do everything practical to give way to an emergency vehicle sounding a siren, bell or flashing warning lights – see also *Emergency vehicles*.



### Giving way to buses

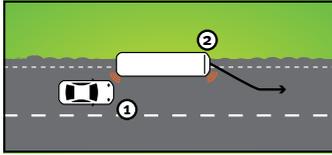
You must give way to a bus ahead of you with this sign on its right-hand rear side, when you are in a built-up area where the speed limit is not more than 70km/h, if the bus is signalling to enter traffic from:

- a bus stop bay



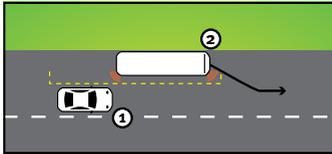
Vehicle 1 gives way to a bus leaving a bus stop in a specially constructed bus bay.

- the shoulder of the road



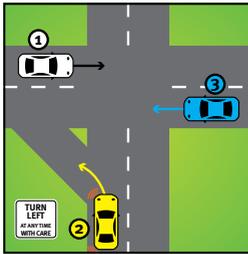
Vehicle 1 gives way to a bus moving away from the road shoulder or the left side of the road.

- the bus zone or bus stop.



Vehicle 1 gives way to a bus leaving a bus zone or a bus stop.

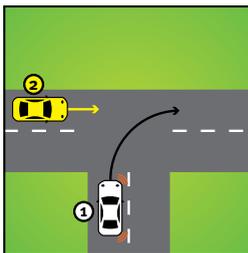
## Giving way from a slip lane with or without a **TURN LEFT AT ANY TIME WITH CARE** sign at the intersection



When you drive onto a road from a slip lane with or without a **TURN LEFT AT ANY TIME WITH CARE** sign on it, you must give way to all pedestrians, bicycle and personal mobility device riders on or entering the slip lane and all vehicles (except vehicles making a u-turn) on the road you are entering.

Vehicle 2 must give way to vehicle 3. Vehicle 1 may continue without giving way.

## Giving way at a T-intersection

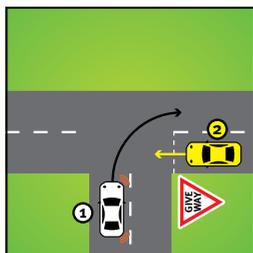


A T-intersection consists of two roads where one road continues through the intersection and the other road ends at the intersection.

If you are driving on the road that ends at a T-intersection, you must give way to all vehicles travelling on the road continuing through the intersection if they are approaching, entering or on the intersection.

You must also give way to all pedestrians, bicycle and personal mobility device riders crossing the road you are entering.

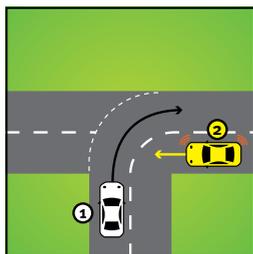
Vehicle 1 must give way to vehicle 2.



If you are on the road that ends at a T-intersection and a vehicle on the road continuing through the T-intersection faces a STOP or GIVE WAY sign, you do not have to give way to that vehicle.

However, you must give way to all pedestrians, bicycle and personal mobility device riders crossing the road you are entering.

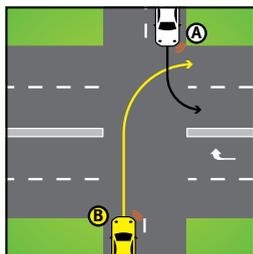
Vehicle 2 must give way to vehicle 1.



At this T-intersection, the continuing road (marked with broken white lines) goes around a corner. If you are leaving the continuing road to go straight ahead on the terminating road, you must give way to a vehicle going through the intersection on the continuing road – you should also signal right in this scenario.

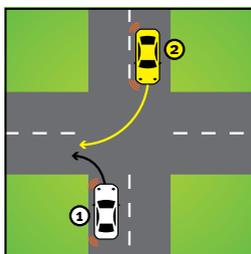
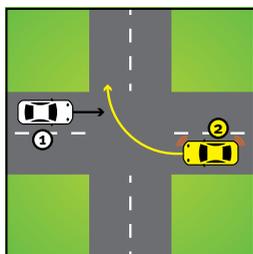
The road vehicle 1 is travelling on is a continuing road. Vehicle 2 is turning off the continuing road and must give way to oncoming vehicles travelling on the continuing road.

## Giving way when turning right



If you are turning right into a multi-lane road from a single lane road you must give way to the oncoming vehicle that is turning left.

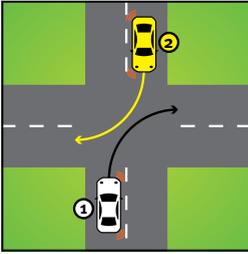
Vehicle B must give way to vehicle A.



If you are turning right at an intersection, you must give way to vehicles coming from the opposite direction if they are approaching, entering or already on the intersection and are:

- not turning at the intersection
- turning left at the intersection.

In both cases, vehicle 2 must give way to vehicle 1.



However, you don't have to give way to a vehicle if it is:

- oncoming, and it is also turning right
- driving on to the road from a slip lane
- making a U-turn
- facing a STOP or GIVE WAY sign.

You must give way if you are turning across the path of a vehicle.

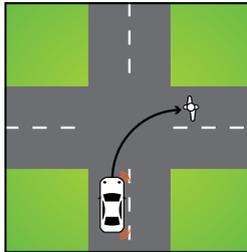
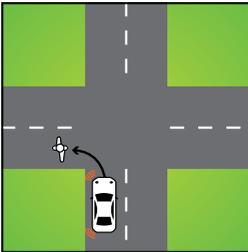
## Reversing

You may reverse, only when it is safe to do so and only as far as is reasonable. This includes reversing out of a driveway, but once again, only when it is safe to do so.

### Tips – reversing

You should take extra care when reversing near intersections or reversing out of driveways.

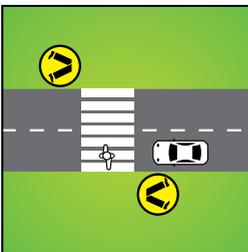
## Giving way to pedestrians, bicycle and personal mobility device riders



When you turn at an intersection, you must give way to pedestrians crossing the road you are entering.

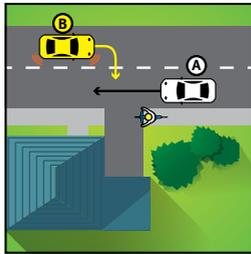
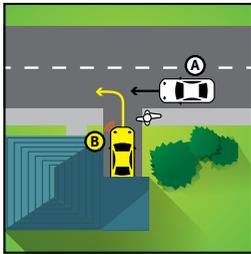
In both situations, the vehicle must give way to the pedestrian before turning.

## Giving way at pedestrian and children's crossings



You must give way to pedestrians, bicycle and personal mobility device riders who are on or entering a pedestrian or children's crossing. If a vehicle has stopped to give way at a pedestrian or children's crossing, you must not overtake the stopped vehicle. For more information about sharing the road with pedestrians, see *Sharing the road safely with pedestrians*.

## Giving way when entering or leaving a road

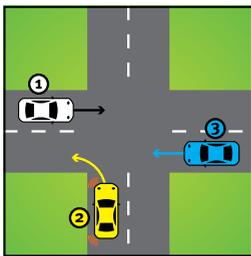


You must give way to vehicles, pedestrians, bicycle and personal mobility device riders when entering or leaving a road-related area or adjacent land.

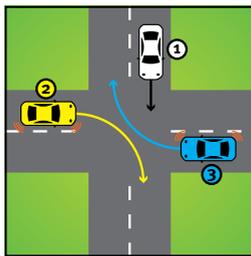
In both cases, vehicle B must give way to vehicle A as well as the pedestrian and bicycle rider before turning.

## Giving way when there are multiple vehicles

When there are more than two vehicles at an intersection, you must combine the give way rules.



Vehicles 1 and 3 are not required to give way to any other vehicle. Vehicle 2 must give way to vehicle 3 coming from the right.



Vehicle 1 must give way to vehicle 2 on the right. Vehicle 2 does not have to give way to any other vehicle. Vehicle 3 must give way to vehicle 1 on the right. Vehicles 2 and 3 are not required to give way to one another as their paths will not cross.

## Giving way from a parked position

Give way to all other vehicles when you drive out of a parking area on the side of the road or in a median strip. You must signal for at least five seconds – see *Indicating and signalling*.

## Giving way at a railway level crossing

When you face a GIVE WAY or STOP sign or line at a level crossing, you must give way to a train approaching the level crossing – see *Railway level crossings*.

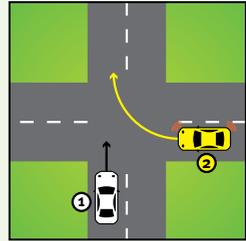
## Giving way to horses

When a person in charge of a horse that appears to be hard to control gives a signal – by raising a hand and pointing to the horse – you must give way. You should drive to the side of the road, stop your vehicle and turn off the engine. Keep the engine off and the car stopped until there is no reasonable chance that the noise of the engine or movement of your vehicle will further upset the horse.

# Sample questions – giving way

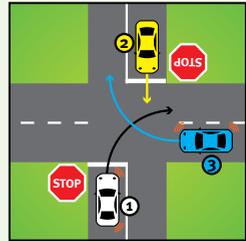
## 1. Which car must give way?

- A. Vehicle 1.
- B. Vehicle 2.



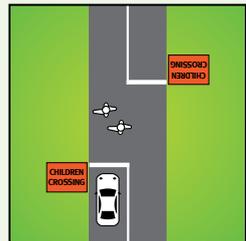
## 2. In what order should the vehicles go through the intersection?

- A. Vehicle 1, then vehicle 2, then vehicle 3.
- B. Vehicle 2, then vehicle 3, then vehicle 1.
- C. Vehicle 3, then vehicle 2, then vehicle 1.
- D. Vehicle 3, then vehicle 1, then vehicle 2.



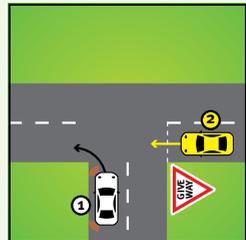
## 3. You are stopped at a children's crossing displaying orange flags. You can drive on when:

- A. Pedestrians are not in your vehicle's path.
- B. Pedestrians have left the crossing and there is no one about to enter the crossing.
- C. Pedestrians are about to enter the crossing.



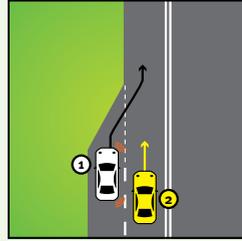
## 4. Which vehicle goes first?

- A. Vehicle 1.
- B. Vehicle 2.



**5. You are driving vehicle 1 (white car). Your lane ends and you need to change lanes (there are line markings). Which is correct?**

- A. You have to give way to vehicle 2 as you are moving into its lane.
- B. Vehicle 2 has to give way to you as you are travelling ahead of it.
- C. Vehicle 2 has to give way to you as it is in the right lane.



## Road markings

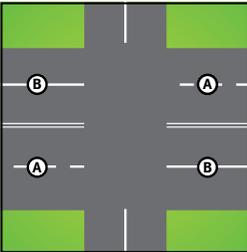
### Lanes

#### Lane markings

There are four types of lane markings that indicate where you must travel on the road:

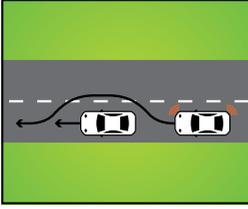
- lane lines
- dividing lines or centre lines
- edge lines
- arrows.

#### Lane lines

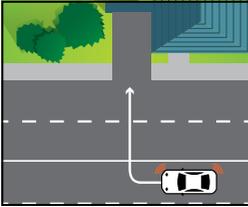


Lane lines are usually broken (A). You can cross broken lines to turn or overtake when safe to do so. However, lane lines are continuous (B) close to a controlled situation, such as traffic lights or a STOP sign. You must not cross continuous lane lines to turn or to overtake another vehicle. You are allowed to cross or straddle continuous lane lines to safely pass a bicycle rider. A motorbike rider may cross continuous lane lines when lane filtering.

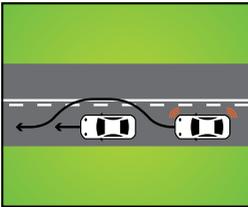
## Dividing lines or centre lines



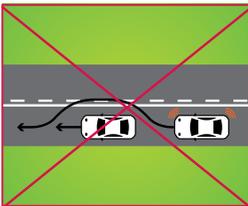
You are allowed to cross a single broken dividing line to overtake a vehicle, to do a U-turn or to enter or leave a road.



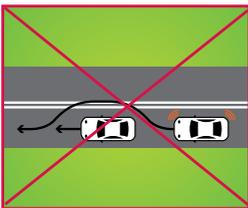
You are allowed to cross a single continuous dividing line to enter or leave a road or property, or to safely pass a bicycle rider. You must not cross a single continuous dividing line to overtake another vehicle or to do a U-turn.



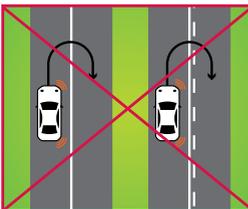
You are allowed to cross a dividing line that has a broken line to the left of a continuous line to overtake a vehicle, to do a U-turn or to enter or leave a road.



You are allowed to cross a dividing line that has a continuous line to the left of a broken line to enter or leave a road or property, or to safely pass a bicycle rider. You must not cross a continuous line to the left of a broken line to overtake another motor vehicle or to do a U-turn.



You must not cross a dividing line that has two continuous lines, unless you are safely passing a bicycle rider.



You must not cross a dividing line that has a continuous line or a continuous line to the left of a broken line to do a U-turn.

## Edge lines

You must not drive on or over a continuous white edge line unless you are:

- overtaking a vehicle that is turning right or making a U-turn from the centre of the road
- driving a slow-moving vehicle
- driving a vehicle that is too wide or long to fit within the marked lane
- riding a bicycle or personal mobility device
- riding a motorbike and riding on a road shoulder or in an emergency stopping lane.

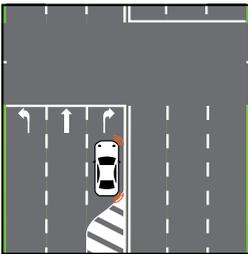
In addition to the above, there are certain times when you can drive on or over a continuous white edge line for up to 100m only.

These are:

- turning at an intersection
- entering or leaving the road
- stopping at the side of the road.

**Note:** A driver turning left from a multi-lane road must turn from within the marked lane (or lanes in the case of a long vehicle). If there is a slip lane, the left turn must be made from the slip lane.

## Arrows



In a lane marked with arrows, you must drive only in the direction of the arrows.

## Overhead lane control

You must not travel in a lane marked with a red cross above it or pass a traffic sign above a lane displaying a red cross.



A flashing red cross means that you must leave the marked lane as soon as it is safe to do so.

A white, green or yellow arrow, or a speed limit sign above the lane, means that you may drive in that lane.

A LANE CONTROLS END sign means that you may use any lane as you pass the sign even if there were red crosses showing above a lane or lanes.

## Special purpose lanes

Some lanes can only be used by certain vehicles.

### Bus lane



You must not drive in a bus lane unless you are driving a bus, taxi or limousine, or riding a bicycle.

### Bus only lane



You must not drive in a bus only lane unless you are driving a bus.

### Transit lane



You must not drive in a transit lane during the hours of operation (the hours will be marked on the transit lane sign) unless you are driving a vehicle with the minimum number of people specified by the sign (including the driver), or you are driving a bus, taxi or limousine, or riding a bicycle or motorbike:

- Transit lane T<sub>2</sub> – you can drive in the transit lane if you have at least two people in the vehicle.
- Transit lane T<sub>3</sub> – you can drive in the transit lane if you have at least three people in the vehicle.

### Bicycle lane



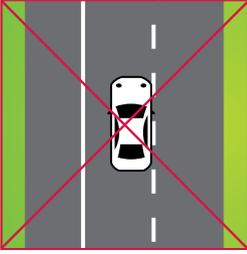
Bicycle lanes are intended for use by bicycle and personal mobility device riders. You may stop or park in a marked bicycle lane unless there are signs or road markings prohibiting you from doing so. You must give way to bicycle and personal mobility device riders when moving into a bicycle lane.

## Exemptions for driving in special purpose lanes

You may drive in a bicycle lane for up to 50m and all other special purpose lanes for up to 100m to:

- enter or leave a road
- overtake a vehicle that is turning right or making a U-turn from the centre of the road
- enter a marked lane or line of traffic from the side of the road.

## Keeping left

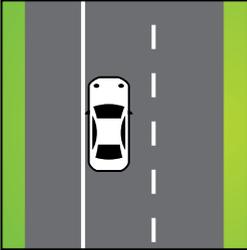


When you drive on a two-way road, the basic rule is to keep as close as practical to the left.

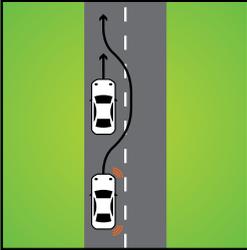
When you drive on a multi-lane road where the speed limit is 90km/h or more, you must not travel in the far right lane unless you are:

- overtaking
- turning right
- making a U-turn
- avoiding an obstacle
- entitled to drive in that lane because of an official traffic sign
- driving in congested traffic.

You could be fined for driving in the right-hand lane.



## Overtaking



### Overtaking on the right

You may overtake a vehicle only if you have a clear view of any approaching traffic and you can do so safely.

### If you are being overtaken

When you are being overtaken, and the overtaking vehicle is crossing the centre of the road, do not speed up.

### Follow these steps for safer overtaking

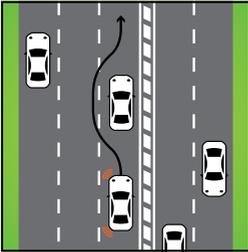
1. Keep a safe following distance behind – see *Safe following distance*.
2. Check ahead for approaching traffic and other vehicles.
3. Check behind for other vehicles.
4. Signal right to give sufficient warning to other road users.
5. Accelerate and move right but do not exceed the speed limit.
6. Turn off right indicator.
7. Signal left as you move ahead and clear of the vehicle you are overtaking.
8. Move back to the left lane or line of traffic as soon as it is safe.
9. Turn off left indicator.

Overtaking more than one vehicle at a time increases your risk of a crash.

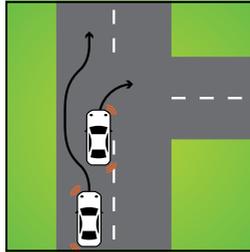
## Overtaking on the left

You can overtake a vehicle on the left if:

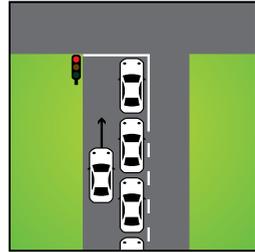
- you are driving on a multi-lane road and the vehicle can be safely overtaken in a marked lane to the left of the vehicle
- the vehicle is turning right or making a U-turn from the centre of the road and is indicating right
- the vehicle being overtaken is stationary and it is safe to do so
- you are riding a motorbike and lane filtering or riding on a road shoulder or in an emergency stopping lane.



You can overtake a vehicle on the left on a multi-lane road if it is safe to do so.



You can overtake a vehicle on the left if the vehicle is turning right and it is safe to do so.



You can overtake a vehicle on the left if the vehicle is stationary and it is safe to do so.

### Overtake correctly or the results could be fatal. Before overtaking, consider:

- Is it necessary?
- Could I wait?
- Is it safe?
- Is it legal?
- What are the road markings?
- What is my speed? (Remember you must never exceed the speed limit.)

## Overtaking or passing



### NO OVERTAKING OR PASSING:

- You must not drive past this sign when a vehicle is approaching from the opposite direction.
- You must not overtake another vehicle going in the same direction when you have passed this sign.



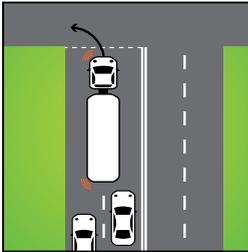
## NO OVERTAKING ON BRIDGE

You must not overtake any vehicle on a bridge where this sign appears.

### Overtaking long vehicles



You must not overtake a vehicle displaying a DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE sign if the vehicle is signalling its intention to turn left or right, unless you can do so safely.



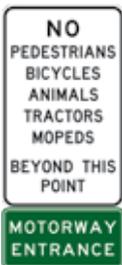
A long vehicle on a multi-lane road may use the left-hand lane or the marked lane next to the left lane to turn left – see *Sharing with other road users – Heavy vehicles*.

Similarly, a long vehicle on a multi-lane road may use the right-hand lane or the marked lane next to the right lane to turn right – see *Sharing with other road users – Heavy vehicles*.

### Overtaking bicycle riders

You must leave a safe distance between your vehicle and a bicycle rider when you are overtaking or passing – see *Sharing with other road users – bicycles*.

### Motorway and highway driving



Motorways are divided roads designed for fast-moving vehicles.

For safety reasons, slower vehicles and pedestrians are not allowed on these roads. Most motorway entrances list the vehicles not allowed to travel on the road.



If you face the sign, WRONG WAY – GO BACK, as you enter a motorway, stop and reverse back when it is safe to do so – you are on an exit ramp.

On a motorway you must:

- be prepared to give way to vehicles already on the motorway as you enter along the on-ramp
- not stop, except in an emergency or if you break down. If you must stop, use the emergency lane or bay and switch on your hazard lights
- not travel in the emergency lane (unless you are edge filtering on a motorbike, see *Additional rules for motorbike riders*)
- not make U-turns
- not drive in the right-hand lane unless overtaking, avoiding an obstruction or travelling in congested traffic
- check your mirrors and blind spots before changing lanes
- signal for long enough to give sufficient warning to other road users before you change lanes
- enter the exit lane and slow to the appropriate speed when you are about to leave the motorway.

#### Tips – motorway driving

- Plan your route before you enter a motorway.
- When entering the motorway, look for a gap between the vehicles in the closest lane and safely build up speed on the on-ramp so you enter at the speed of the motorway traffic.
- Watch for other vehicles entering the motorway from an on-ramp and adjust your speed to allow them to enter safely.
- Be ready and in the correct lane as your exit approaches.
- If you miss your exit, continue to the next exit.

## Sample questions – road markings and positioning

### 1. When entering a freeway using an on-ramp:

- A. Give way to vehicles on the freeway and adjust your speed accordingly.
- B. Vehicles on the freeway should give way to you.
- C. Stop and wait for a gap.

### 2. What distance are you allowed to drive in a special purpose lane, (not a bicycle lane) when entering or leaving a road?

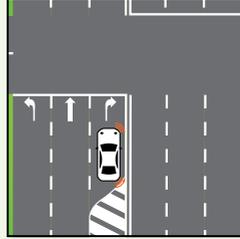
- A. Not at all.
- B. 25m.
- C. 50m.
- D. 100m.

**3. Where the road is marked with two continuous dividing lines, when may you cross the double lines?**

- A. To overtake a vehicle in front.
- B. To turn into a driveway.
- C. Only to safely pass a bicycle rider.
- D. To do a U-turn.

**4. You are driving the vehicle in the diagram. In what direction must you travel?**

- A. Turn right or go straight ahead.
- B. Turn right only.
- C. Straight ahead only.
- D. Turn left only.



**5. You are driving behind a truck that is signalling and starting to turn left. The truck is displaying a DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE sign and is in the second lane from the left side of the road. You also want to turn left. What must you do?**

- A. If it is unsafe to overtake, allow the truck to complete its turn before you turn left.
- B. Use the far left lane to pass the truck and turn left.
- C. Sound your horn and quickly pass the truck on the left before it turns.
- D. Indicate and quickly pass the truck on the right-hand side before it turns.



## Hazardous localities

### Roadwork sites

Roadworks improve the roads for everyone, ensuring a safer, more efficient and more convenient road network. For more information on safety at roadworks please visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

### Roadwork signs

Roadwork signs are provided to ensure everyone's safety and are enforceable and regulated by law. Disobeying roadworks signs means:

- you are committing an offence, which may lead to fines and demerit points
- you may be liable for damage caused to roadwork equipment and materials
- vehicles may be damaged by loose stones and gravel.



The ROADWORK AHEAD sign gives advance warning of roadwork sites.

Be prepared for changed road conditions and slow down if required.



The workers sign is a temporary sign that warns motorists that there are roadworkers ahead on or adjacent to the travelled path. This sign is only used while workers are in the area.

Drive with due care and attention for your own and roadworkers' safety.



This multi-message sign gives advance warning of roadwork sites, and imposes a speed limit that applies until the next speed limit sign.

You are required to reduce speed to, or below, the speed limit indicated.



This multi-message sign warns motorists that there are roadworkers ahead on or adjacent to the road, and imposes a speed limit that applies until the next speed limit sign.

You are required to reduce speed to, or below, the speed limit indicated.



The SPEED LIMIT sign is used at roadworks to create a temporary speed zone, and indicates the speed limit that applies until the next speed limit sign.

You MUST obey all speed limit signs.



The STOP/SLOW bat is used by a traffic controller.

**You must stop at a safe distance from the traffic controller and wait when facing a STOP bat. You may proceed with caution when faced with a SLOW bat.**



The TRAFFIC CONTROLLER AHEAD/PREPARE TO STOP sign gives advance warning that traffic may be required to stop in compliance with the directions of a traffic controller. It is only used when a traffic controller is on duty.



The PREPARE TO STOP and SIGNALS AHEAD signs give advance warning of temporary traffic signals.



The SIGNALS AHEAD sign warns that you are approaching traffic lights. You should be prepared to obey the traffic signals ahead.



The STOP HERE ON RED SIGNAL sign is used to indicate where traffic must stop when faced with a red light. There may or may not be a STOP line marked on the road.



The TRAFFIC HAZARD AHEAD sign is only used for emergency purposes to warn motorists of an unexpected hazard ahead. Take care and drive to the prevailing conditions.



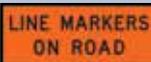
The SLIPPERY ROAD sign warns motorists of hazardous road surface conditions ahead. Take care and drive to the prevailing conditions.



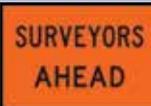
The LOOSE STONES sign warns motorists of hazardous road surface conditions ahead. Take care and drive to the prevailing conditions.



The LANE STATUS signs give motorists advance warning that one or more lanes of a multi-lane roadway are closed ahead. The bars indicate the closed lanes, while the arrows indicate lanes available to traffic.



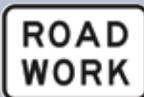
The LINE MARKERS ON ROAD and SURVEYORS AHEAD signs warn motorists that there are line markers or surveyors working ahead on or adjacent to the road. This sign is only used while workers are in the area.



Drive with due care and attention for your own and roadworkers' safety.



The ROAD PLANT AHEAD sign is used at work sites where machinery is working on the roadway. Take care and be prepared for plant being operated on the road without any form of delineation or traffic control.



The ROAD WORK supplementary plate may be used with a SPEED RESTRICTION sign at roadworks.



The END ROADWORK sign may be used to define the end of a work site. This sign does not cancel out any previous speed restriction. You should be aware that roadwork speed limits continue to apply until the next speed restriction sign.



This multi-message sign defines the end of a work site and reinstates the speed limit.

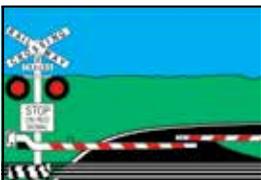
You may now travel in a safe manner up to the speed limit indicated.

## Reduced speed limits through roadworks

Reduced speed limits in and around roadworks are in place to protect the road user and roadworker because:

- Speeding vehicles are a very real threat to the safety of other drivers and roadworkers.
- The road condition may have changed but you may not be aware of this. While under construction or repair, the road surface may not be safe to drive on at the normal speed.
- Loose gravel on the road surface may cause damage to vehicles.
- The road surface may be uneven.
- The road lanes may have narrowed.
- Often hidden from view are kilometres of utilities such as drainage pipes, electrical and telecommunication lines. When roads are widened, many of these have to be relocated. Relocation takes time.
- Some roadwork activities are mobile, such as line markings, road patching and mowing. The roadworker may be moving through the zone and needs a reduced speed limit for safety reasons.
- Roadworkers may not always be visible when working in the road area.

## Railway level crossings



Disobeying the road rules near railway level crossings can be fatal.

Crashes at railway level crossings are generally more severe than other types of crashes because trains are heavy and fast.

Any yellow painted cross hatching at a level crossing is legally classed as being part of the crossing.



### Stopping and giving way at a level crossing

You must stop at a STOP sign or STOP line and give way to any trains approaching or entering the crossing.

You must give way at a GIVE WAY sign or GIVE WAY line to any train approaching or entering the crossing.



### Entering or leaving a level crossing

You must not enter a level crossing if:

- warning lights, warning bells or boom gates are operating
- you can see or hear a train approaching the crossing
- the road beyond the crossing is blocked or your whole vehicle cannot immediately clear the crossing.

You must get off the crossing as soon as you can do so safely.

**At a level crossing where boom gates or flashing lights are not installed, extra care should be taken.**

- Slow down, or stop if facing a STOP sign, and look both ways and listen for trains.
- Take extra care if the sun, fog, vegetation or buildings obscure your view of the train tracks.
- If you have stopped for a train, don't move off until warning lights (if installed) have stopped flashing, and you have checked that another train is not following or coming the other way.

## Alcohol and drugs

### Alcohol

#### Drink driving

Drinking alcohol impairs your ability to drive safely. Alcohol affects your judgment, vision, coordination and reflexes. It also increases your risk of having a crash.

If you have consumed alcohol, you must not drive a motor vehicle if the level of alcohol in your blood or breath is over the alcohol limit for the type of licence you hold or the type of vehicle that you want to drive.

#### When you are over the alcohol limit

There are four alcohol limits:

- ‘no alcohol’ limit – you will be over this limit if the concentration of alcohol in your blood or breath is more than 0.00 (zero)
- general alcohol limit – you will be over this limit if the concentration of alcohol in your blood or breath is equal to or more than 0.05
- middle alcohol limit – you will be over this limit if the concentration of alcohol in your blood or breath is equal to or more than 0.10
- high alcohol limit – you will be over this limit if the concentration of alcohol in your blood or breath is equal to or more than 0.15.

### What your alcohol limit should be

If you hold a learner, provisional or probationary licence and you are driving, or in charge of, any motor vehicle.	0.00 (zero)
If you do not hold a driver licence and you are driving, or in charge of, any motor vehicle.	0.00 (zero)
If you hold a restricted licence (see <i>Restricted licences</i> ) and you are driving, or in charge of, any motor vehicle.	0.00 (zero)
If you are a section 79E order driver and you are driving, or in charge of, any motor vehicle.	0.00 (zero)
If you are driving, or in charge of, a truck, bus, articulated motor vehicle, B-double, road train, public passenger vehicle (for example bus, taxi or booked hire vehicle), specially constructed vehicle, tow truck, pilot or escort 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.	0.00 (zero)
If you hold a class RE licence and you are riding or in charge of a motorbike during the first year of holding your class RE provisional, probationary or open licence.	0.00 (zero)
If you hold a class RE licence and are learning to ride a class R motorbike under the authority of your RE provisional, probationary or open licence.	0.00 (zero)
If you are participating in the Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program and you are driving or in charge of, any motor vehicle.	0.00 (zero)
If you hold an open licence and you are driving, or in charge of, any other motor vehicle.	Below 0.05

Police regularly carry out random breath tests to detect and deter drink drivers. Refusing to take a roadside breath test is an offence. For more information, see *Random breath testing*.

### If you drive when over your alcohol limit

If you drive when over your alcohol limit, you may be charged. If you are convicted, you face serious penalties and consequences:

- your licence will be cancelled
- you will be disqualified from holding or obtaining a further licence for a stated period
- you will be fined and may be jailed as well

- you may be required to complete a drink driving course or participate in the *Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program*.

If you crash your vehicle when driving with a level of alcohol in your blood or breath over your alcohol limit, your comprehensive insurance cover will not apply.

You will have to pay for any damage caused.

Your Compulsory Third Party insurance (CTP) may also be affected. Check with your CTP insurer.

## **Drinking Responsibly**

For information on drinking responsibly, please visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au)

### **Tip – how to avoid drink driving**

- If you are planning to drink, plan alternative travel – catch a taxi, booked hire service or public transport, get a lift with a non-drinking driver or plan to stay overnight.
- Discourage friends or family from driving when they have been drinking.
- Nominate one person in your group as the non-drinking driver.
- Serve non-alcohol and low alcohol drinks at parties. Let people ask for a refill rather than continually topping up their drinks.
- Do not mix drugs and alcohol.

## **Drink walking**

Many people assume walking is a safe alternative to drink driving. However, alcohol also impairs your ability to walk safely and judge traffic situations correctly.

If you are walking while drunk, take care to ensure you make it home safely:

- Plan travel arrangements to avoid walking or driving home.
- Catch public transport, a courtesy bus, a taxi, a booked hire service or get a lift home with a non-drinking driver.
- Walk with a sober friend or in a group, if possible. A group or a pair is more visible than one person.
- Always walk on the footpath rather than the road and, if there isn't one, walk on the left or right-hand side of the road, as close to the edge as possible, facing oncoming traffic.
- Cross at traffic lights, crossings or crosswalks.
- Don't expect drivers to see you at night. Carry or wear something light in colour. If possible, wear reflective clothing or reflective bands to increase visibility.
- Cross under a streetlight if there are no marked crossings, crosswalks or signals.

For more information about road rules for pedestrians – see *Rules for other road users – pedestrians*.

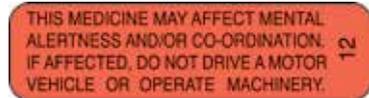
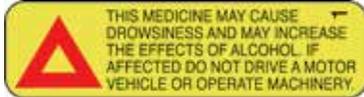
### Common myth

Walking when intoxicated is safe.

### Truth

Each year, around 17 intoxicated pedestrians are killed on Queensland roads.

## Drugs and driving



Many drugs can impair your ability to drive. It is important to be aware of the effects drugs can have on your driving ability. They can affect your vision, mood, judgment, muscle control, reflexes, coordination and level of alertness. This can increase your risk of having a crash. If you combine drugs with alcohol, the risk is even greater.

### Over-the-counter and prescribed medications

#### Common myth

If you can buy a medication without a prescription, or if you have been prescribed a medicine, then it must be okay to drive after taking it.

#### Truth

Many over-the-counter and prescription drugs can reduce your ability to drive safely. This can occur even if you take the recommended dosage.

- Always ask your doctor or pharmacist if the medication you take could impair your driving.
- Avoid driving if you are taking prescription or over-the-counter medications that could affect your driving ability.
- Always read the consumer medicine information and take note of the warning label.

### Illegal drugs

- Many other drugs (including illegal drugs such as ice, cannabis, speed, ecstasy and heroin) can affect your ability to drive safely.
- Never drive when you have consumed recreational or illegal drugs.

### Mix at your own risk

- Mixing drugs, or mixing drugs and alcohol, can seriously affect your ability to drive safely.

### If you are caught drug driving

Drug driving is treated as a serious offence. If a police officer reasonably suspects that your driving ability has been impaired by any drug (prescription or illegal), you may be required to provide a specimen of blood for analysis, and you may be charged.

Police also conduct random roadside saliva tests for illegal drugs such as marijuana, speed, ice and ecstasy. There is no legal limit for driving with any of these drugs in your system. If you are detected with a trace of these illegal drugs in your system, you will be penalised.

For more information – see *Random roadside drug testing*.

If you fail to provide a specimen as required or a drug is detected, you will be charged. If you are convicted you face serious penalties and consequences:

- your driver licence will be cancelled
- you will be disqualified from holding or obtaining a further licence for a stated period
- you will be fined and may be jailed as well.

If you crash while driving under the influence of drugs, your comprehensive insurance does not apply. You will have to pay for any damage.

Your CTP insurance may also be affected. Check with your CTP insurer.

For more information, visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

## Sample questions – hazardous localities, alcohol and drugs

### 1. What is the maximum breath or blood alcohol concentration (BAC) for a learner driver?

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

### 2. What does this sign mean?

- A. Roadworkers on the road. You must not travel any more than 60km/h.
- B. You can travel at the speed that normally applies to the road – it is only a warning sign suggesting that you slow down.
- C. You can travel at any speed – it only applies to road construction vehicles.
- D. You can travel at any speed if you are driving to or from work.



### 3. What does this sign mean?

- A. Left lane closed, right lane open.
- B. Left lane open, right lane closed.
- C. Trucks must use right lane.
- D. T-intersection ahead.



**4. At a railway crossing, when the boom gates are down and the red lights are flashing, you should:**

- A. Drive on once the boom gates begin to rise.
- B. Drive around the boom gates once the train has passed.
- C. Drive around the boom gates if you can see that the train is not close.
- D. Wait until the red lights stop flashing before driving on.



**5. Can a police officer stop you and require you to undergo a random breath test for alcohol when you are driving?**

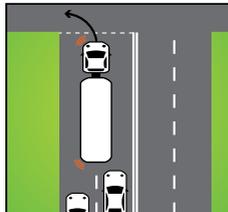
- A. No.
- B. Yes.
- C. Only after a crash.
- D. Only if you cannot walk in a straight line.

## Heavy vehicles

### Maximum vehicle dimensions

<b>Height</b>	4.3m (except as specified below) 4.6m (vehicles built to carry cattle, sheep, pigs or horses) 4.4m (double-decker bus) 4.6m (loaded height of a multi-deck car carrier only when loaded with vehicles on the upper deck)
<b>Length</b>	12.5m (rigid vehicles) 18m (articulated bus) 19m (combination vehicles such as a rigid vehicle and trailer. Does not include B-doubles and road trains, which operate under National Notices issued by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator)
<b>Width</b>	2.5m (the maximum width of a vehicle does not include any anti-skid device mounted on wheels, central tyre inflation systems, lights, mirrors, reflectors, signalling devices and tyre pressure gauges)

Vehicles exceeding these dimensions are required to operate under specific guidelines or permits.



### Long vehicles

Vehicles 7.5m or more in length (which would include a car towing a normal caravan) showing the sign DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE may turn left from, or partly from, the lane next to the left lane. These vehicles can also turn right from, or partly from, the lane next to the right lane.

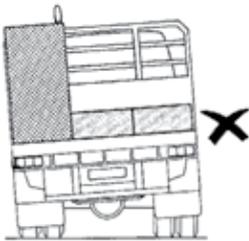
If driving a long vehicle (7.5m or longer):

- you must drive at least 60m behind another long vehicle in front of you, unless you are driving on a multi-lane road, or on a length of road in a built-up area, or overtaking
- you must drive at least 200m behind another long vehicle travelling in front of you, if you are driving a road train.

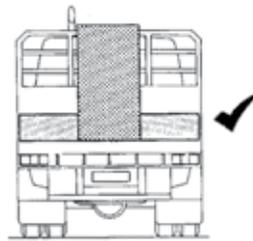
**Note:** Only vehicles 7.5m or more in length are allowed to show a DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE sign.

## Loading your vehicle

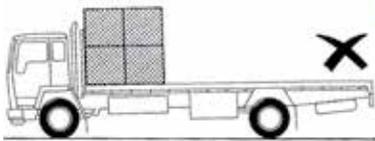
Drivers who fail to secure loads safely on a heavy vehicle risk injuring themselves and other road users, as well as running up a large damages bill.



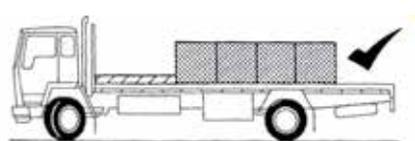
Incorrect positioning



Correct positioning



Incorrect positioning



Correct positioning

The diagrams above show examples of the incorrect and correct way of loading a heavy vehicle.

The load of a heavy vehicle must not be more than the regulated mass for an axle or axle group or the vehicle's GVM/GCM (whichever is the least), or the registered seating capacity.

If your vehicle has a GVM of more than 4.5 tonnes, you must enter a weighbridge checking station if the station is open, or if directed by an authorised officer.

All loading must be fastened safely and correctly. If you are carrying iron, timber, piping or similar material, it should be fastened so it will not flap or sway. It should be parallel with the sides of the vehicle as far as practical. If you are carrying a loose load such as gravel or quarry products, it must be loaded or covered so that no part of the load can fall or dislodge from the vehicle during transport.

If you carry freight containers, you should be aware of the difference in the height of some containers. The safest way to secure containers is by using twist locks.

All freight containers transported by road must be accompanied by a container weight declaration.

Load your vehicle so you have a good view of other vehicles to the front and on both sides and, using mirrors, behind.

If for any reason a load or equipment falls from your vehicle, you must remove this from the road as soon as possible.

Queensland law requires all loads to be restrained to the performance standards of the *Load Restraint Guide*. The guide outlines the safety principles that should be followed to ensure the safe carriage of loads, and all heavy vehicle drivers should have a copy. The guide can be downloaded from the National Transport Commission website at [www.ntc.gov.au](http://www.ntc.gov.au).

## Parking restrictions for heavy and long vehicles

If you drive a heavy vehicle (GVM of 4.5 tonnes or more) or a long vehicle (7.5m or more in length), you must not stop for more than one hour in a built-up area unless otherwise permitted to do so by signs, or you are actively dropping off or picking up goods.

Your local government may make provision for you to stop longer than this under a local law.

## Warning signs

If you are driving a vehicle that is required to display a sign with the words ROAD TRAIN, LONG VEHICLE, OVERSIZE, OVERSIZE LOAD AHEAD or SLOW VEHICLE because of a condition of a guideline, permit or authorisation, you must remove or cover any sign that is no longer required.

For information about vehicle dimensions and mass limits, please refer to the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation* by visiting the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator website at [www.nhvr.gov.au](http://www.nhvr.gov.au).

## Speed limiters

Heavy vehicles over 12 tonnes GVM or buses over 5 tonnes GVM are restricted to travelling at a maximum speed of 100km/h, regardless of any higher speed limit that may be shown on road signs.

Speed limiters are compulsory for trucks over 12 tonnes GVM built after 1 July 1991, and with engines up to 300hp (224kw) and for higher horsepower engines built after 1 January 1991.

Buses over 14.5 tonnes GVM or prime movers are to be fitted with speed limiters if they were manufactured after 1987.

Buses over 5 tonnes GVM and up to 14.5 tonnes GVM have speed limiters fitted from 1 July 1991.

If a heavy vehicle is required to be speed limited, it is an offence to use or allow others to use the vehicle without a properly functioning speed limiter. Penalties apply.

Any heavy vehicle driven in excess of 110km/h will be issued a defect notice requiring it to comply with Australian Design Rule (ADR) 65/00. The vehicle will not be allowed to operate on the road until all repairs or modifications have been completed and cleared by the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

## **Portable warning signs**

A vehicle (including a combination of vehicle and trailer) either carrying a placard load of dangerous goods or weighing more than 12 tonnes must carry three portable triangular, red, reflectorised warning signs.

### **If the speed limit on the road is less than 80km/h**

You must display portable warning signs if your vehicle has broken down or has lost some or all of its load, and your vehicle or load is not visible in all directions for 200 metres.

You must display the signs as follows:

- one triangle should be placed at least 50m but not more than 150m in front of the vehicle
- one triangle should be placed at least 50m but not more than 150m to the rear of the vehicle
- one triangle should be placed to the side of the vehicle, or fallen load, in a position that gives sufficient warning to other road users.

### **If the speed limit on the road is 80km/h or more**

You must display portable warning signs if your vehicle has broken down or has lost some or all of its load, and your vehicle or load is not visible in all directions for 300 metres.

You must display the signs as follows:

- one triangle should be placed at least 200m but not more than 250m in front of the vehicle
- one triangle should be placed at least 200m but not more than 250m to the rear of the vehicle
- one triangle should be placed to the side of the vehicle, or fallen load, in a position that gives sufficient warning to other road users.

## Driver fatigue

All drivers of fatigue regulated heavy vehicles or combinations (with a GVM of more than 12 tonnes) and buses of more than 4.5 tonnes GVM (with a seating capacity of more than 12 adults, including the driver) must comply with fatigue management legislation. Under the fatigue chain of responsibility provision parties in the logistics chain must take all reasonable steps to ensure that drivers don't drive while impaired by fatigue.

Signs of fatigue can include:

- lack of alertness
- inability to concentrate
- reduced ability to recognise or respond to external stimuli
- poor judgment or memory
- making more mistakes than usual
- drowsiness, or falling asleep at work (including micro sleeps)
- finding it difficult to keep eyes open
- needing more frequent naps than usual
- not feeling refreshed after sleep
- excessive head nodding or yawning
- blurred vision
- mood changes, increased irritability or other changes to the person's mental health
- changes to the person's health or fitness.

If you experience any of these signs of fatigue, you should rest until the sign is no longer present.

## The national driver work diary

All drivers of fatigue regulated heavy vehicles must record work times and rest times in their national driver work diary during any trip that takes them further than 100km \*(A) from their driver base.

The national driver work diary is available from any Department of Transport and Main Roads Customer Service Centre, any of the agencies listed on the Department of Transport and Main Roads website at [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/about-us/contact-us](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/about-us/contact-us), or by phoning **13 23 80**.

When applying for a national work diary:

- present your current driver licence, and national driver work diary (if you have one)
- complete an application form provided in the front of the work diary in the presence of the issuing officer
- pay the application fee.

For further information, call **13 23 80** or visit [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/heavyvehicles](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/heavyvehicles).

## Standard hours

Time	Work	Rest
<b>In any period of...</b>	A driver must not work for more than a <u>maximum</u> of...	And must have the rest of that period off work with at least a <u>minimum</u> rest break of...
<b>5 ½ hours</b>	5¼ hours work time	15 continuous minutes rest time
<b>8 hours</b>	7½ hours work time	30 minutes rest time in blocks of 15 continuous minutes
<b>11 hours</b>	10 hours work time	60 minutes rest time in blocks of 15 continuous minutes
<b>24 hours</b>	12 hours work time	7 continuous hours stationary rest time*(B)
<b>7 days</b>	72 hours work time	24 continuous hours stationary rest time
<b>14 days</b>	144 hours work time	2 x night rest breaks*(C) and 2 x night rest breaks taken on consecutive days

## Basic fatigue management

Time	Work	Rest
<b>In any period of...</b>	A driver must not work for more than a <u>maximum</u> of...	And must have the rest of that period off work with at least a <u>minimum</u> rest break of...
<b>6 ¼ hours</b>	6 hours work time	15 continuous minutes rest time
<b>9 hours</b>	8½ hours work time	30 minutes rest time in blocks of 15 continuous minutes
<b>12 hours</b>	11 hours work time	60 minutes rest time in blocks of 15 continuous minutes
<b>24 hours</b>	14 hours work time	7 continuous hours stationary rest time*(B)
<b>7 days</b>	36 hours long/night work time*(D)	
<b>14 days</b>	144 hours work time	24 continuous hours stationary rest time taken after no more than 84 hours work time and 24 continuous hours stationary rest time and 2 x night rest breaks*(C) and 2 x night rest breaks taken on consecutive days

- \* (A) Under the fatigue provisions in the HVNL the distance from base is 100km. Drivers operating more than 100km (not 200km as previously) from their base are required to carry and complete a national driver work diary. Further information about these laws is available at [www.nhvr.gov.au](http://www.nhvr.gov.au).
- \* (B) Stationary rest time is the time a driver spends out of a regulated heavy vehicle or in an approved sleeper berth of a stationary regulated heavy vehicle.
- \* (C) Night rest breaks are 7 continuous hours stationary rest time taken between the hours of 10 pm on a day and 8am on the next day (using the time zone of the base of the driver) or 24 continuous hours of stationary rest break.
- \* (D) Long/night work time is any work time in excess of 12 hours in a 24 hour period or any work time between midnight and 6am (or the equivalent hours in the time zone of the base of a driver).

## Advanced fatigue management

In any period of...	Operating limits	Work maximum outer limits	Rest minimum outer limits
<b>24 hours</b>	Operator to propose	16 hours in Queensland 15 hours in New South Wales or Victoria	6 continuous hours or 8 hours in 2 parts
<b>14 days</b>	Operator to propose	154 hours	2 blocks of 7 hours continuous stationary rest taken between 10pm and 8am (night rest)
<b>28 days</b>	Operator to propose	288 hours	4 periods of 24 hours continuous stationary rest

Advanced fatigue management requires businesses to apply for accreditation under the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator on 1300 **MYNHVR** (1300 696487).

Normal operating limits are used to guide operators when developing everyday schedules and driver rosters, taking into account all foreseeable contingencies and reflecting the inherent fatigue risks (for example the amount of night driving balanced against longer rest breaks).

Outer limits represent the point at which further work poses an unacceptable fatigue risk. The maximum outer limit cannot be exceeded. This limit is set nationally and based on robust advice from fatigue experts and experience from current transport industry practices.

## Fatigue offence demerit points and penalties

Fatigue offences may attract demerit points and significant fines. Information on these offences can be found on the fatigue management page at [www.nhvr.gov.au/fatigue-management](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/fatigue-management). Generally, demerits apply to offences that have a potential impact on a driver's safety, including failing to record work and rest, or providing false information in a work diary, or falsely claiming to be in an accreditation scheme. There are no penalties for spelling mistakes or correcting your own incorrect entry in a work diary.

However, all pages with a correction must still be legible. If a page becomes too messy or difficult to read, the driver must cancel the page by drawing two parallel lines across it and writing the word 'CANCELLED' and rewrite the correct information on the next page.

## Passenger transport

Public passenger services are provided to transport members of the public for a fare or consideration, or in the course of a trade or business. Examples of public passenger services are:

- school services
- personalised transport services (taxis, booked hire and limousines)
- tourist services
- charter bus services
- community services
- scheduled services.

If you drive a vehicle that provides a public passenger service, you are required to hold the appropriate kind of driver authorisation issued by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, in addition to holding the appropriate kind of driver licence.

For further information about driver authorisation, contact your nearest Department of Transport and Main Roads Customer Service Centre or Passenger Transport office, visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

## School buses

School buses that provide a school service and operate outside or partly outside an urban area must have flashing yellow warning lights fitted to the front and rear of the bus. If you drive a school bus, you must flash its warning lights when children are being picked up or set down.

## Sample questions – heavy vehicles

**1. Does a school bus that operates outside or partly outside an urban area have to operate flashing warning lights when picking up and setting down passengers?**

- A. No.
- B. Yes.
- C. Only when road conditions are bad.

**2. What is the maximum speed allowed for a heavy vehicle over 12 tonnes GVM?**

- A. 60km/h.
- B. 10km/h under the signed speed limit.
- C. 100km/h.

**3. When travelling outside a built-up area on single-lane roads (but not in a road train area), what is the minimum distance to be maintained between long vehicles?**

- A. 60m.
- B. 100m.
- C. 10m for every 10 km/h you are travelling.

**4. If you are driving a heavy or long vehicle, you must not park for more than one hour in a built-up area unless:**

- A. No other vehicles are close by.
- B. It is after 5pm and before 8am.
- C. A sign permits it, or you are actively involved in loading or unloading.

**5. What is the minimum rest period for a solo driver of a fatigue-regulated heavy vehicle who has completed 12 hours work operating under standard work and rest arrangements?**

- A. 6 continuous hours.
- B. 7 continuous hours.
- C. 8 continuous hours.
- D. 12 continuous hours.

# Other rules and responsibilities

## Use of lights

When you drive at night (between sunset and sunrise) or in hazardous weather conditions, your vehicle's headlights, rear lights and rear number plate light must be switched on and clearly visible. You should turn your headlights on when you cannot clearly see people or vehicles.

While you may drive with your headlights on high beam in a built-up area, you must dip your headlights when:

- an oncoming vehicle is within 200m



- you are within 200m of the vehicle ahead.



You may only drive with fog lights on if you are in fog or hazardous weather conditions causing reduced visibility. If you are caught using fog lights where conditions are not hazardous, or where visibility is not reduced, you can be fined.

Driving lights are different to fog lights. Fog lights can be switched on and off independent of any other light, whereas driving lights are additional headlights and are only allowed to be on while your headlights are on high beam.

### Tips – headlights

- To see better at night, you may switch your headlights to high beam or drive more slowly so that you have time to react to traffic conditions.
- Wearing tinted glasses reduces your vision. Only wear tinted glasses at night when an eye specialist has prescribed them for night driving.

## Following distance

You must drive at a sufficient distance behind another vehicle so that you can, if necessary, stop safely to avoid a collision with the vehicle – see *Safe following distance*.

## Following other long vehicles

When towing a caravan or trailer, if your towing vehicle combined with the length of the caravan or trailer is 7.5m or longer, it is considered to be a long vehicle – See *Long vehicles*. You must leave at least 60m between your

vehicle and another vehicle 7.5m or longer in front of you on single-lane roads outside built-up areas.

If you tow a caravan in road train areas, leave at least 200m between your vehicle and another long vehicle. Vehicles towing caravans driving too close together make it hard for other motorists to overtake safely.

## Towline

If you are towing a car with a towline, the towline must not be more than 4m long.

# Parking

## Regulated parking

Parking on roads and in regulated parking areas is regulated and enforced by local governments. Parking is also enforced by the Queensland Police Service.

## How to park

You must obey an official sign or line marking telling you how to park. If there is no sign or line marking on the road, park the left side of your vehicle parallel to and as close to the left side of the road as you can safely. This is called parallel parking.

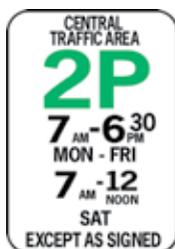
You must park facing the same direction as traffic in the adjacent lane or line of traffic.

If you are in a one-way street (not a divided road), you may park parallel to and as close to the left or right side of the road as you can safely.

Where parking spaces are marked on the road, you must not take up more than a single space, unless your vehicle is longer than the length of space.

You must not park closer than 1m to any other vehicle in front of or behind your vehicle.

## Parking signs



Official signs indicate where you can and cannot park. If these signs show hours or days, directions given by the signs apply during those hours and days. For example, this sign indicates you can park for up to two hours between 7am and 6.30pm Monday to Friday and between 7am and noon Saturday, but that there are no restrictions at other times. These signs may also state the types of vehicles that must not be parked in an area, for example heavy vehicles may be restricted.

Certain vehicles (for example those belonging to local residents) may be excluded from a sign's parking restrictions. These exceptions will be shown on the sign.

The letter P alone means there is no time limit. If there is a time limit, it is shown by the number in front of the P. For example, this sign indicates that motorbikes can park for up to two hours between 9am and 5pm.



Parking is free, except where there is a metered space. If certain hours and days apply to the meters, you can park in this section for free outside these times.

There are several different types of metered parking in Queensland, including:

- single meters – located at the front of individual parking bays
- multi-bays, controlling up to four parking bays – located on the footpath central to all bays
- pay and display, controlling up to 10 parking bays – coupons are dispensed from a machine located on the footpath near the bays and must be displayed on your vehicle's dashboard.

To operate a meter or coupon dispenser, follow the instructions.

Some metered parks become clearways during peak hours. Always check the traffic signs before leaving your vehicle – see *Clearway*.

## Unregulated (private property) parking

Parking in unregulated parking areas, such as in shopping centre car parks or in private car parks for entertainment or hospitality businesses, is controlled by the owner or occupier of the parking area. There is no general right to park on private property – if you park somewhere you are not authorised to park your vehicle may be towed. The owner or occupier can choose whether to apply and enforce parking conditions in their parking areas. This may include towing unauthorised vehicles from the car park. Private property owners and occupiers who want to enforce parking conditions by towing must ensure they have a legal basis to remove unauthorised vehicles from their parking area.

When parking your vehicle, it's important to remember:

- **Motorists** should not assume it is OK to park somewhere just because the business premises are vacant, it's outside business hours, you aren't going to be very long, there are plenty of vacant spaces, you have parked there before, or other people are parked there. You, as the motorist are responsible for determining if you are allowed to park somewhere and for complying with any terms and conditions of parking in that parking area.
- **Motorists** should read signs carefully before you leave your vehicle in a private parking area. If signs indicate parking is not permitted or if it's not clear whether you can park in that location, you should find somewhere else

to park. If parking is permitted under terms and conditions detailed on the signs, and you do not comply with these conditions, then your vehicle may be towed.

- **If you think your vehicle has been towed** you should contact the towing operator using the details on the signs in the parking area, or contact the Queensland Police Service via PoliceLink on 131 444 to find out where your vehicle has been taken. Towing operators are required to advise QPS when they tow a vehicle from private property. Towing operators are also required to enter into a contract with private property owners or occupiers that authorises the removal of vehicles in that area. You can request to see a copy of the *Towing Consent*, as evidence that the contract exists.

Under the *Tow Truck Regulation 2009* if a vehicle is towed from private property maximum fees apply for the following:

- a standard tow of a motor vehicle from private property
- the releasing of a motor vehicle that has been loaded on a tow truck but the driver returns to the vehicle before it is towed away from the private property
- daily charges for storing a motor vehicle at a tow truck holding yard

Tow truck operators cannot charge fees for taking steps to locate you, allowing you access to your vehicle at their holding yard or other incidental fees.

A list of the maximum fees that apply to private property towing fees is available at [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/business-industry/Accreditations/Tow-truck-licensing-scheme](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/business-industry/Accreditations/Tow-truck-licensing-scheme).

If you think that you complied with the parking conditions and your vehicle should not have been towed, you should seek independent legal advice. You may be able to pursue a civil action through the courts. If you feel that a tow truck operator or driver is not complying with the requirements, please ring 1800 681 636 to provide the Department with information so the matter can be investigated.

- Private property owners or occupiers who want to enforce parking conditions by towing must ensure they have a legal basis to remove unauthorised vehicles from their parking area. If you want to remove unauthorised vehicles from your carpark carefully consider your legal obligations.

## LOADING ZONES

You must not stop in a loading zone, unless you are:



- a bus that is dropping off or picking up passengers
- a truck that is dropping off or picking up passengers or goods
- a motor vehicle displaying a commercial vehicle identification label
- any vehicle that is dropping off or picking up goods (no longer than 20 minutes)
- any vehicle that is dropping off or picking up passengers (no longer than two minutes)
- any vehicle that is dropping off or picking up passengers with a disability (no longer than five minutes).

## NO PARKING



You are not allowed to park in this area at any time. You may stop only to pick up or set down passengers or goods for a maximum of two minutes, unless the sign allows a longer time. You must not leave the vehicle unattended.

## NO STOPPING



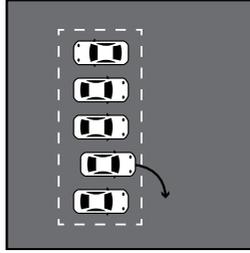
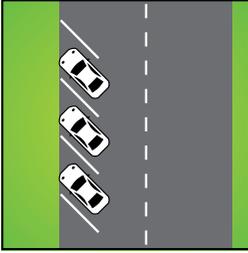
You must not stop your vehicle at any time where a NO STOPPING sign is placed, except when obeying an official direction. This includes a traffic light or if you have to stop or park for safety.

## CLEARWAY



Vehicles are not allowed to stop on this section of road, though buses, taxis and limousines may pick up or set down passengers. This sign usually applies in peak-hour traffic – the sign will show the hours that it applies. If you park or stop in a clearway, you may be fined and have your vehicle towed away.

## Angle or centre parking



You may only angle or centre park where there is an official traffic sign permitting it. Park at the angle shown by the road markings for the parking space. Park in the direction stated on the parking sign.

When moving out of a centre parking area, you must enter and leave the parking area by driving forward unless a traffic sign indicates otherwise.

### Leaving your vehicle

When you open your car door, you must check that there is no one on the road, such as a bicycle rider, close enough to hit your door.

Secure your vehicle before you leave it unattended and if you are going to be more than 3m away. You must:

- apply the parking brake
- switch off the engine
- remove the ignition key
- close the windows if possible (a gap of 5cm or less from the top of the window frame is permitted)
- lock the doors if possible.

However, if somebody over 16 years of age is staying in the vehicle, the doors do not need to be locked and the ignition key may be left with them. Never leave children younger than 16 years, or animals, unattended in a vehicle.

### Disability parking



The Australian Disability Parking Permit provides parking concessions in Queensland for people with severe mobility impairment allowing them easier access to services such as hospitals, shopping centres and entertainment venues.

The permit allows parking in any parking bay provided for a person with a disability in an on-street or off-street parking location.

The permit also allows parking in local government metered or regulated parking areas free of charge for the following periods:

- where the time limit specified by a sign is less than 30 minutes, permit holders will be able to park for 30 minutes
- where the time limit specified by a sign is 30 minutes or more, permit holders will be able to park for an unlimited time.

Holders of red disability parking permits may continue to access parking concessions. Red permit holders are entitled to park in any off-street parking bay (regardless of the colour of the signage) situated in areas such as shopping centres. Red permit holders may use their permit when travelling interstate and must park according to the conditions on their permit. Red permit holders are not permitted to park in on-street disability parking bays.

Temporary permits, once expired, are not valid and are not eligible for renewal. If you continue to experience severe functional mobility impairment, you will need to make a new application for an Australian Disability Parking Permit.

If you are caught misusing a disability parking permit or parking illegally in a disability parking space, you can be fined.

## Prohibited parking places

You must not park or stop:

- on a road with a yellow edge line
- on a painted island
- within 1m of another parked car
- where you would have less than 3m of road between your car and the other side of the road, or any continuous marked centre line or double lines
- where you would have less than 3m of road between your car and a vehicle parked on the other side of the road
- in a mail zone
- in a special purpose lane other than a bicycle lane
- between the centre of the road and another vehicle already parked (known as double parking), except when centre parking
- within 1m of a fire hydrant or fire plug indicator
- in an emergency lane on a motorway, unless this is necessary for safety
- on a safety ramp or arrester bed, unless necessary for safety
- in a disability parking space without a disability parking permit
- in a loading zone, unless you are permitted to do so – see *Loading zones*
- in between signs that mark a bus zone.

Unless there is an official sign saying you can, you must not park or stop:

- less than 10m from an intersection without traffic lights
- less than 20m from an intersection with traffic lights
- less than 20 m before and 10m after a children's crossing (when CHILDREN CROSSING flags are displayed)
- less than 20m before and 10m after a pedestrian crossing, unless a parking sign applies
- less than 20m before and 10m after a bus stop
- less than 20m from a level crossing
- on the crest of a hill or curve outside a built-up area unless the rear of the vehicle is visible for at least 100m.

Also, ensure your vehicle is not blocking or partly blocking:

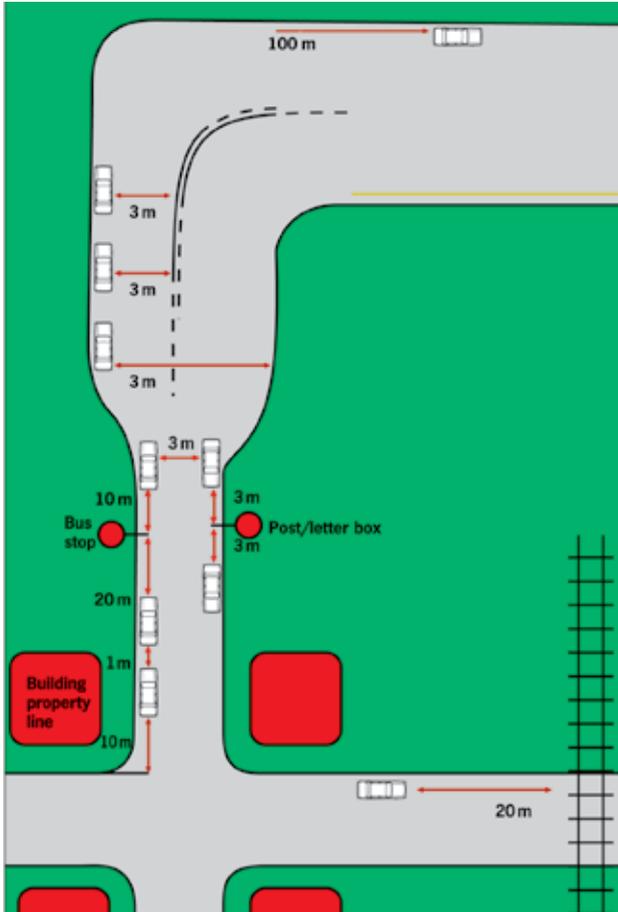
- an intersection
- a footpath
- a pedestrian crossing
- a traffic light-controlled crossing
- a railway level crossing
- a bicycle path
- a driveway or property entrance, except for up to two minutes when you are dropping off or picking up passengers or goods
- vehicles moving from one road to another road, ferry, wharf or driveway
- a tunnel or underpass.



You must ensure your vehicle is not blocking or partly blocking a driveway.

If your vehicle has a GVM of 4.5 tonnes or more, or is 7.5m or more in length, you must not park it in a built-up area for more than one hour unless otherwise signed, or if you are actively engaged in dropping off or picking up goods.

## Prohibited parking places



## Seatbelts and child restraints

Everyone in a vehicle must wear a fastened seatbelt at all times.

The only exceptions are if:

- you are the driver and are reversing the vehicle
- you carry a current medical certificate that states you cannot wear a seatbelt for medical reasons. The medical certificate must have an end date no later than 12 months from the date it was given
- you are required to get in and out of the vehicle frequently while engaged in door-to-door pick-up or delivery of goods, and you drive at no more than 25km/h

- the vehicle was originally manufactured without seatbelts fitted and passengers are seven years or older. Passengers under seven years are not permitted to travel in any vehicle without a correctly fitted child restraint.

Under Queensland law, if you are the driver, you are responsible for ensuring that every passenger – regardless of age – wears a correctly fitted child restraint or seatbelt. Passengers 16 years or older who fail to wear a seatbelt will also be fined (in addition to the driver) and get four demerit points.

If the driver or front seat passenger fails to wear their seatbelt, the driver may receive a *Photographic Detection Device Offence* notice in the mail – see *Mobile phone and seatbelt cameras*.

For further information, see *Correct seatbelt and child restraint use* and *Double demerit points*.

## Mobile phones

It is illegal to hold a mobile phone in your hand or have it resting on any part of your body when driving, even when you are stopped at traffic lights. The phone does not need to be turned on or in use for it to be an offence.

You can only hold your phone in your hand when stopped to pay at a drive through, to gain access to/from a car park or similar area, or present a digital driver licence. You must pull over and park in a safe place to pick up the mobile phone to make or receive a call, text message or operate the phone in another way. If you hold an open or P2 licence, or are a P1/learner licence holder 25 years or older, you may use your phone when it is in a mount or cradle if you maintain control of your vehicle and are not distracted.

If you are caught with a mobile phone in your hand or resting on any part of your body while driving, you will be given a ticket. Demerit points will be recorded against your traffic history.

### Tips – mobile phones

- Switch your phone to silent, do not disturb or flight mode and put it away as soon as you get behind the wheel.
- Phone home before you leave work and check if you need to pick anything up on the way home.
- Pull over and park safely before picking up your phone.

See *Learning to drive* and *Provisional licences* for special conditions relating to learner drivers and provisional licence holders.

## Animals

A driver must not have an animal in their lap while operating a vehicle. A person riding a motorbike must not carry an animal between their arms and the handlebars.

It is recommended that pets do not ride unrestrained in either the front or back seats of any vehicle. A special pet harness can be attached to your vehicle's seatbelt. Smaller pets can also be transported in pet carriers.

Pets can be put in the back of a station wagon with a cargo barrier that complies with Australian standards. Dogs should not ride unrestrained in the back of trucks or trailers. Special pet restrainers for dogs travelling in utes can restrain your dog safely.

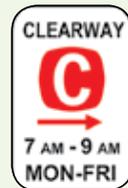
## Sample questions – other rules and responsibilities

### 1. As a driver, you must wear a seatbelt:

- A. When travelling over 60km/h.
- B. When the vehicle is moving or stationary in traffic, unless you are reversing.
- C. When the vehicle is parked.
- D. When convenient.

### 2. What does this sign mean?

- A. You cannot stop for more than five minutes to pick up or drop off passengers.
- B. You must not stop at any time.
- C. You cannot stop during the times and days stated.
- D. You can only stop during the times and days stated.



### 3. When towing a car with a towline, what is the maximum permissible length of the towline?

- A. 4m.
- B. 6m.
- C. 10m.
- D. 15m.

### 4. You can hold a mobile phone in your hand or have it resting on your lap when sitting in the driver's seat:

- A. At any time when you are driving an automatic vehicle.
- B. If the phone is turned off.
- C. When you are stopped at traffic lights or stopped in traffic.
- D. Only when your vehicle is legally parked or stopped to pay at a drive through, to gain access to/from a car park or similar area, or to present a digital driver licence.

### 5. Are you permitted to drive with your lights on high beam in a built-up area?

- A. Yes, but not within 200m of another vehicle.
- B. Yes, but not within 100m of another vehicle.
- C. No.

# Rules for other road users

## Bicycle riders

A bicycle is a legal vehicle and bicycle riders have the same rights and responsibilities as any other driver on the road. However, there are also some road rules just for bicycle riders.

As a bicycle rider, you are legally required to:

- wear an *Australian Standard AS2063 or AS/NZS2063* bicycle helmet, correctly fitted and fastened – helmets can be effective in reducing the risk of head and brain injuries
- fit your bicycle with a working bell, horn or similar warning device and at least one effective brake
- obey all traffic signs and lights – see *Signs and signals*
- be astride the seat and keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times
- use hand signals when turning right
- have a red reflector at the rear of your bike that can be seen for at least 50m. If riding at night, have a flashing or steady front white light and rear red light fitted to your bicycle that can be seen for at least 200m
- fasten any luggage safely and securely
- not carry other people unless the bicycle is designed to carry more than one person and each person wears a helmet
- never ride on the wrong side of the road (including in a bicycle lane) towards oncoming traffic
- stop before riding your bicycle across a children's crossing or zebra crossing
- give way to pedestrians on footpaths and shared use paths – keep to the left
- never ride on that part of a separated footpath designed for pedestrians.

You may ride your bicycle across a pedestrian crossing at traffic lights.

You may ride bicycles on roads and footpaths unless otherwise signed. Local governments may make local laws prohibiting the use of bicycles on specific footpaths within the local government area. These footpaths must be identified by NO BICYCLE signs.

When riding on roads with no marked lanes, you must ride as near as practical to the far left side of the road. However on a roundabout with no marked lanes you may take up any part of the road space you need to ensure your safety.

You must not ride closer than 2m to the rear of a moving motor vehicle continuously for more than 200m.

Two bicycle riders may legally ride beside each other as long as they are not more than 1.5m apart. If necessary, another bicycle rider can overtake these bicycle riders. On a multi-lane road you can occupy any part of a lane and travel in the right hand lane where necessary (for example to make a right turn).

As a bicycle rider, you can:

- ride in bus lanes, transit lanes and bicycle storage areas
- overtake a vehicle on the left, unless the vehicle is turning left and signalling to turn left
- travel in the left lane of a multi-lane roundabout if leaving more than halfway around a roundabout, but must give way to vehicles exiting from the roundabout.

### **Bicycle storage areas**

Bicycle storage areas may be provided at an intersection with traffic lights. A bicycle storage area has one or more bicycle symbols painted on the road between two parallel stop lines.

Special rules apply to you when using a bicycle storage area, including:

- you must give way to any vehicle that is in the bicycle storage area
- where there is a green or yellow light in front of the bicycle storage area, you must give way to any vehicle entering the area.

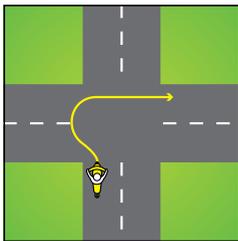
### **Penalties**

Infringement notices can be issued to bicycle riders. While you may be required to pay a fine for disobeying a road rule, you cannot accumulate any demerit points because they don't apply to bicycle offences.

It is an offence to ride a bicycle under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you are charged with this offence you will need to appear in court.

### **Optional hook turn by a bicycle rider**

You may turn right at an intersection on your bicycle using a hook turn.



To make the turn:

1. Approach and enter the intersection from as near as practical to the far left side of the road you are leaving.
2. Move forward until you are as near as practical to the far side of the road you are entering. Keep as near as possible to the far left side of the intersection. Keep clear of any marked foot crossings. Keep clear of any driver turning left from the intersection.

3. If there are traffic lights, wait until you are facing a green light before moving forward.
4. If there are no traffic lights on the intersection, give way to approaching drivers on the road you have just left, then move forward.

## Obeying traffic lights



### Stop

Do not ride past the red traffic light unless a green bicycle crossing light is also facing you. You can cross the road if another traffic light you are facing shows a green WALK, walking pedestrian or bicycle symbol.



### Stop if it is safe to do so

Do not ride past the yellow traffic light unless a green bicycle crossing light is also facing you or you are so close to the yellow traffic light when it changes from green to yellow that you can't stop safely.

If you face a flashing yellow traffic light or arrow, this is a warning to use caution near the traffic light when you enter the road and to follow the general give way rules.



### Go

Ride past the green traffic light if you can do so safely.

## Tips – bicycle riders

To stay safe, you should:

- Check your bicycle's tyres and brakes regularly.
- Be courteous to motorists and ride in a predictable manner so that road users know what you are doing.
- Be seen. Light coloured clothing can make you more visible to motorists. At night, use lights and reflectors on your bicycle and wear reflective clothing or reflective wrist and ankle bands to attract motorists' attention.
- Be mindful of heavy vehicle blind spots. Truck drivers may not be able to see you, particularly if you are alongside, directly in front of, or behind them.

## Electric bicycles

There are currently two types of power-assisted bicycles that can be legally ridden in public spaces, such as roads and paths.

The first type is a power-assisted bicycle with an electric motor that must not be capable of generating more than 200 watts of power. The pedals must be the main source of power and can only assist with pedalling. The motor can only operate without pedalling up to 6km/h and must cut out at 25km/h.

The second type is known as an Electrically Power-Assisted Cycle (EPAC) or 'pedalec', which must comply with the European Standard for Power Assisted Pedal Cycles (EN15194). This can have an electric motor up to 250 watts of power, however, the motor must also only operate without pedalling up to 6km/h and must cut out at 25km/h.

These requirements ensure that only bicycles that are considered safe, particularly in relation to interactions with pedestrians, are allowed to be used on roads and paths.

Your power-assisted bike is non-compliant and can't be ridden on public roads or paths if it has any of the following:

- a petrol-powered or internal combustion engine
- an electric motor capable of generating over 200 watts (that isn't an EPAC or pedalec)
- an electric motor that is the primary source of power.

Non-compliant bikes may only be ridden on private property with no public access.

You do not require a driver licence to ride an electric bicycle and they are exempt from registration and Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance. For more information on electric bicycles, please visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

## Personal mobility devices

### What is a personal mobility device?

A personal mobility device (PMD) is a small, electric device generally used by people to transport themselves short distances instead of walking or riding a bicycle.

A PMD in Queensland must:

- be designed for use by a single person only
- fit the following dimensions:
  - 1250mm in length by 700mm in width by 1350mm in height, or
  - 700mm in length by 1250mm in width by 1350mm in height



- have a maximum weight of 60kg—when not carrying a person or load
- be powered by an electric motor
- have 1 or more wheels
- if the device has handlebars, it must also have a working bell, horn or similar warning device
- have an effective stopping system controlled by using brakes, gears or motor control
- not have any sharp protrusions.

### **Where to ride**

PMD riders can ride on:

- paths (including footpaths, shared paths, separated paths and bike paths)
- local streets (with a speed limit of 50km/h or less and with no dividing line or median strip, or one-way streets with only 1 marked lane)
- some bike lanes, including:
  - bike lanes on roads with a speed limit of 50km/h or less
  - bike lanes that are physically separated from other lanes of traffic (for example, by bollards or raised median strip).

PMD riders can also ride on the road in some limited circumstances to:

- avoid an obstruction on a path or bike lane for up to 50m
- cross a road by the shortest safe route
- access a bicycle storage box at an intersection
- get out of the way of an emergency vehicle
- travel through an intersection between a road, bike lane or path that they are permitted to be in.

PMD riders must not ride on main roads or CBD streets.

### **Key rules**

To operate a PMD you must:

- be at least 16 years of age, or 12 with adult supervision
- wear an approved bicycle or motorbike helmet that is securely fitted (unless an exemption has been granted for medical or religious reasons)
- not carry passengers or ‘double’
- not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- not use a mobile device or have it resting on any part of your body while riding a PMD
- signal when turning right (either by using indicators or a hand signal)

- not lead an animal.

Specific speed limits apply to PMD riders:

- 25km/h is the maximum speed on bike paths, bike lanes and roads
- 12km/h is the maximum speed on footpaths and shared paths, unless signed otherwise
- Other speed signs apply, for example 10km/h shared zones.

When riding on a path, you must:

- only use the bicycle side of a path
- keep left and give way to pedestrians
- keep left of oncoming pedestrians, bicycles and other PMDs
- stop before riding across a marked crossing.

When riding on a road, you must:

- obey traffic lights and signals
- keep as far to the left side of the road as practicable
- not ride with more than 2 riders side by side unless you are overtaking another rider
- not ride more than 1.5m apart when riding side by side
- not overtake another vehicle on the left if that vehicle is indicating and turning left
- not cause a traffic hazard by moving into the path of a driver
- not be towed by another vehicle
- not hold on to the back of another vehicle.

You must not ride past a 'Personal mobility devices prohibited' sign—your local council or land owners may prohibit PMDs in areas like malls, esplanades or jetties.



*Example 'Personal mobility device prohibited' sign.*

### **Tips – parking**

Poor parking creates problems for other path users, particularly people with a disability. Follow these simple tips:

- Park in designated e-mobility parking areas, where available.
- If there isn't a designated parking area, always park on the kerbside, ensuring your PMD is upright and stable.
- Don't block paths:
  - In CBD areas, ensure sufficient space for a wheelchair to pass along the path.
  - In suburban areas, park PMD on the grass nature strip and not the paved footpath.
- Keep clear of:
  - Crossings and kerb ramps
  - Access points and emergency exits
  - Tactile ground surface indicators
  - Audio tactile push buttons at road crossings
  - Loading zones, taxi zones and bus stops
  - Fire hydrants and mailboxes.

### **Penalties**

You must follow the road rules if you want to ride on Queensland roads. In most cases, PMD riders who break the road rules will be given the same fines as motorists, but demerit points do not apply. If you ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs you will need to appear in court.

### **Pedestrians**

We are all pedestrians at some time. Pedestrians include people:

- walking
- using wheelchairs (including registered motorised mobility devices)
- on rollerblades, skateboards, rollerskates and other wheeled recreational devices.

### **Staying safe**

- Always cross at the safest possible point – at a crossing, lights, refuge or where you can see drivers and they can see you.
- When crossing a road, STOP, LOOK for traffic, LISTEN for approaching cars and WAIT until there is a safe break in traffic before crossing.
- Obey traffic signals.
- Cross the road by the most direct route.
- Allow yourself enough time to cross the road.

- Always walk on the footpath or nature strip. If there isn't one, you must walk as close to the edge of the road as practical, facing oncoming traffic.
- Do not travel on a dedicated bicycle path, or on that part of a separated path designated for bicycles, unless you are in or pushing a wheelchair, or you are using a wheeled recreational device – see *Rollerblades, skateboards and other wheeled recreational devices*.

#### Tips – pedestrians

- Take care if walking after drinking alcohol, – see *Drink walking*.
- You should always keep to the left when walking on a footpath.
- Cross the road with a group, if possible. A group or a pair is more visible than one person.
- Don't expect drivers to see you at night. Carry or wear something light in colour and cross under a streetlight if there are no marked crossings, crosswalks or signals.

#### Motorised mobility device

A motorised mobility device (MMD) is a motorised wheelchair or a mobility scooter. If you are using an MMD, extra rules apply to you.

- Use footpaths at all times or, if there is no footpath, travel as close as possible to the left-hand or right-hand side of the road. (**Note:** Be aware that your smaller size and slower speeds often make you less visible in traffic.)
- You must not go over 10km/h on a path.
- Cross the road by the most direct route.
- Pay attention to others' safety.
- Never use the device on a road in the same way you would drive a car.

MMDs can be registered to an individual or an organisation.

For more information about registering, see *Register a motorised mobility device (motorised wheelchair or mobility scooter)*, visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

#### Rollerblades, skateboards and other wheeled recreational devices

If you are using rollerblades, rollerskates, a skateboard or other wheeled recreational devices, extra rules apply to you. These rules also apply to children under 12 years of age using a wheeled toy such as a pedal car, scooter or tricycle.

- Do not travel on a road where the speed limit is 50km/h or more.
- Do not travel on roads with a white centre line or median strip or where there are marked lanes.
- Do not travel on a road at night (you may, however, travel on a footpath and cross a road by the most direct route at night).
- Do not use wheeled recreational devices where a sign prohibits their use.
- Give way to bicycle riders on a bicycle path or separated path.

- Keep to the far left side when travelling on a road or footpath.
- Give way to pedestrians on a footpath or shared path.
- Local council laws may affect wheeled recreational devices. Check the local laws in the local area.

### **Pedestrians obeying traffic lights**



#### **Stop**

If you face a red DON'T WALK or illuminated red pedestrian symbol, do not cross the road.



#### **Walk**

If you face a green WALK or illuminated green pedestrian symbol, start to cross the road with care.

#### **Caution**

If you face a flashing red DON'T WALK or flashing red illuminated pedestrian signal, complete the crossing if you have started – do not start to cross the road.

### **Quad bikes and utility off-road vehicles**

A quad bike is a four-wheeled motorbike designed to travel on four low-pressure tyres, with a seat designed to be straddled by the operator, and handlebars for steering control.

A utility off-road vehicle is a two to six person vehicle based on a quad bike but with a side-by-side bucket seating arrangement and steering wheel.

To operate quad bikes and utility off-road vehicles on a road or road-related area:

- the vehicle must be conditionally registered.
- the driver and passenger must at all times wear an approved motorbike helmet.

The driver must not allow children under the age of 8 to be carried as passengers, as well as any child of any age if they are unable to sit with their feet flat on the floor and hands on handholds.

Further information on the operation and conditional registration of quad bikes and utility off-road vehicles, including vehicle information sheets, please visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

**Intentionally left blank**



## Safe road use

- Sharing with other road users
- Driving safely in tunnels
- Stopping
- Hazards
- Driver fatigue
- Correct seatbelt and child restraint use
- Towing a trailer or caravan
- What to do at a crash

# Sharing with other road users

## Emergency vehicles

Police, fire and ambulance vehicles are emergency vehicles.

If an emergency vehicle is coming towards you and is sounding an alarm or showing flashing red or blue lights, you must move out of the path of the emergency vehicle as soon as you can do so safely – see *Giving way to emergency vehicles*.

You should:

- slow down
- move left to give the vehicle a clear run down the middle of the road. If you cannot move left safely, stay where you are and let the emergency vehicle overtake you
- not move your vehicle suddenly or make an illegal turn
- not drive into the path of the emergency vehicle.

You may drive onto the wrong side of the road or drive through a red traffic light to get out of the way of an emergency vehicle if it is safe to do so.

## Emergency vehicles at intersections

Emergency vehicles often stop or slow down when they enter intersections to check if they can pass through safely. You must give way to, and not drive into the path of, an emergency vehicle that is sounding an alarm or showing flashing red or blue lights, even if you are facing a green traffic light or arrow and the emergency vehicle appears to have stopped or slowed down.

Watch out for emergency vehicles by looking ahead and in your rear vision mirrors regularly.

## Move over, slow down laws - stationary emergency response vehicles

If a stationary *Emergency Response Vehicle* on a road (which includes a road-related area) is displaying a *flashing light*, you must leave at least one clear lane when passing.

You do not need to comply with the move over requirement if:

- it is not safe or practicable to leave a clear lane.
- when passing the *Emergency Response Vehicle* or person, there would not be sufficient distance to safely avoid a collision.
- there are roadworks on the length of the road.
- you are complying with a direction of an authorised officer, including police officers, transport inspectors and National Heavy Vehicle Regulator compliance officers.
- making a left or right hand turn on a multi lane road.

In these instances and on single lane roads, you must:

- ensure there is sufficient distance between your vehicle, the *Emergency Response Vehicle* and any person or vehicle in the immediate vicinity to avoid a collision
- drive at a safe speed that does not put anyone at risk.

You are not required to comply with the move over or slow down requirements if you are driving on the other side of the road to where the *Emergency Response Vehicle* is and you are separated by a median strip.

Bicycle riders present little danger to emergency workers so are not required to comply with this rule.

An *Emergency Response Vehicle* includes a vehicle being used (including while parked) for the following purposes:

- Transport Compliance
- Queensland Ambulance Service
- Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, including Rural Fire Brigade
- Queensland Police Service
- State Emergency Service
- National Heavy Vehicle Regulator
- motor breakdown service or tow truck.

## Heavy vehicles

You can share the road with heavy vehicles more safely by following a few simple tips.

### **Overtaking a heavy vehicle**

- Allow sufficient time to overtake.
- Stay back at the recommended minimum following distance, without crossing the centre line, when preparing to overtake – see *Safe following distance*.
- When it is safe to overtake, indicate, accelerate and overtake quickly, without exceeding the speed limit. Changing down a gear may give you enough engine power to get past.
- After overtaking, maintain your speed because slowing down too soon will force the heavy vehicle to brake.
- Do not overtake a heavy vehicle at an intersection when it is turning, unless it is safe to do so.

## Sharing the road safely with heavy vehicles

- Do not cut in front of a heavy vehicle because you will reduce the driver's braking distance.
- Be careful of blind spots, these are usually alongside, directly in front or behind a heavy vehicle – remember if you can't see their mirrors, they probably can't see you.
- Do not tailgate a heavy vehicle. You cannot see what is ahead of it and you won't be able to react in time.
- Remember that heavy vehicles accelerate slowly.
- When a heavy vehicle is turning, keep back from the intersection because the heavy vehicle needs more road space to turn than other vehicles.



- Give way to buses displaying this sign (left) when required to do so – see *Giving way to buses*.
- Heavy vehicles that show the sign DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE are allowed to take up more than one lane to turn – see *Overtaking long vehicles*.
- If a heavy vehicle wants to pass you, do not speed up. Allow the heavy vehicle to maintain speed and pass safely.

## Pilot vehicles

If a heavy vehicle is wider than 3.5m, a pilot or escort vehicle will precede or follow it along the road. A pilot vehicle has yellow flashing lights and an OVERSIZE LOAD AHEAD sign on its roof. An escort vehicle has yellow flashing lights and yellow and white wigwag lights and an OVERSIZE LOAD AHEAD sign on its roof. In general, the bigger the vehicle and its load, the more pilot or escort vehicles it will have.

When you see a pilot or escort vehicle approaching with its warning lights flashing:

- slow down
- move over if necessary
- respond to directions given by the driver of an escort vehicle
- give way to the oversize vehicle.

If you are following an oversize vehicle, wait until the rear escort vehicle operator signals you can overtake. Pass both pilot or escort vehicles and the oversize vehicle in one manoeuvre within the speed limit.

Guidelines containing pilot and escorts requirements are available from [www.nhvr.gov.au](http://www.nhvr.gov.au).

## Motorbikes

Motorbike riders have the same rights and responsibilities as other motor vehicle drivers. Apply the same road rules, such as giving way, when you share the road with motorbikes.

### Sharing the road safely with motorbikes

- Always scan the traffic and check your blind spot for motorbikes – front, rear, left, right – especially when changing lanes and at intersections.
- Look out for motorbike riders lane filtering or riding on a road shoulder.
- Use your lights in poor visibility – it helps motorbike riders see you.
- Be aware that motorbikes can accelerate quickly.
- Motorbike riders may take up an entire lane. You must overtake a motorbike as you would overtake any other vehicle.
- Give motorbikes plenty of room – in good driving conditions, keep a two second gap between you and the vehicle ahead. For more information about maintaining a safe following distance – see *Safe following distance*.

#### Common myth

Motorbike riders must ride single file.

#### Truth

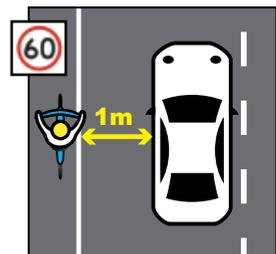
Two motorbike riders may ride side-by-side in one marked lane, as long as they are not more than 1.5m apart.

## Bicycles

Bicycle riders are legitimate road users with the same rights and responsibilities as other motorists. In the event of a crash, the limited protection offered by a bicycle means they could be seriously hurt or killed. For this reason you should take care around bicycle riders.

Remember, every person riding a bicycle means one less car on the road, which means reduced traffic and pollution.

- The give way rules apply to bicycle riders. You must give way to bicycle riders at intersections, just as you would give way to a car, and to bicycle riders riding across crossings.
- Bicycle riders can legally ride on the road and are not required to use a bicycle lane – only overtake when you can do it safely and leave the minimum passing distance.
- Leave a safe distance between your vehicle and a bicycle rider when passing or overtaking – you must leave at least 1 metre in a 60km/h or less speed zone and 1.5 metres if the speed zone is over 60km/h.



- Check for bicycle riders at intersections.
- Signal your intentions by indicating when required so bicycle riders can react.
- Check your blind spot for bicycle riders – look in mirrors and over your shoulder, especially when turning.
- Check for bicycle riders before opening your car door.
- Do not sound your horn at bicycle riders – it may startle them and make them fall.
- Anyone can legally bicycle on the footpath, so look for bicycle riders when entering or leaving a driveway.

#### Common myth

Bicycle riders must ride single file.

#### Truth

Two bicycle riders may legally ride beside each other on the road, as long as they are not more than 1.5m apart.

## Personal mobility devices

Personal mobility device (PMD) riders are legitimate road users. In the event of a crash, the limited protection offered by a PMD means they could be seriously hurt or killed. For this reason, you should take care around PMD riders.

### Sharing the road safely with personal mobility devices:

Drivers must give way to PMD riders crossing the road at an intersection or on or entering a slip lane.

Drivers should expect to see PMD riders using some bike lanes. These will include bike lanes on roads with a speed limit of 50km/h or less and all bike lanes that are physically separated from other lanes of traffic (for example, by bollards or raised median strip), regardless of speed.

Drivers must leave the minimum passing distance when overtaking a PMD rider on a road in the same way as currently applies to bike riders. The minimum passing distance is:

- 1m on roads with a speed limit of 60km/h or less
- 1.5m on roads on road with a speed limit of 70km/h or more.

Passing a PMD rider means that you (as a motorist) and the PMD rider are travelling in the same direction. This rule will apply regardless of whether the PMD rider is permitted to be on the road.

### Common myth

Personal mobility device riders must ride single file.

### Truth

Two personal mobility device riders may legally ride beside each other on the road as long as they are not more than 1.5m apart.

## Pedestrians

Always be aware of pedestrians. Pedestrians include people:

- walking
- using wheelchairs (including registered motorised wheelchairs)
- using rollerblades, skateboards, rollerskates and other wheeled recreational devices.

### Sharing the road safely with pedestrians

- When driving a vehicle or riding a bicycle or personal mobility device, you must give way to pedestrians when they're on or entering pedestrian crossings, children's crossings or marked foot crossings – see *Giving way at pedestrian and children's crossings*.
- When you are turning at an intersection, you must give way to pedestrians crossing the road you are turning into.
- You must give way to pedestrians in shared zones.
- Allow more time for people with a disability and senior pedestrians to cross the road.
- Lower your speed at night and be alert for people suddenly walking out on the road, especially around where alcohol may be served.
- Take care driving in areas where there are children, especially near schools and playgrounds. Watch out for children running out onto the road.
- If you see another vehicle stop or slow down near a pedestrian or children's school crossing, prepare to stop because pedestrians may be crossing.
- You must give way to pedestrians on or entering a slip lane.

### Common myth

At traffic lights, drivers who are turning on a green light do not have to give way to people crossing at a pedestrian crossing.

### Truth

Drivers turning must give way to pedestrians crossing the road that they are entering, even when the driver is facing a green traffic light or arrow.

## Schools

### School zones



You can identify school zones by signs near the school. Speed limits are lower in school zones on school days, generally in the morning and the afternoon. Lower speed limits reduce the risk of death or injury to pedestrians using the roads at these times. Speeds and times depend on the area, so you must always check the sign carefully.

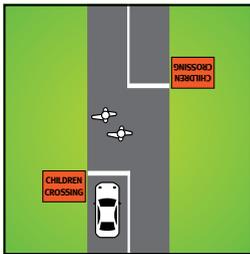
School zones at split campus schools generally apply for the duration of school hours.

For more information about speed limits in school zones, see *School speed zones*.

### Crossings at schools

There are two types of school crossings:

- single or dual children's school crossings with CHILDREN CROSSING flags
- zebra or pedestrian-activated signal crossings.



Some children's crossings are supervised by the Department of Transport and Main Roads crossing supervisors. Children's crossings are temporary, and are only in operation at certain times of the day when the CHILDREN CROSSING flags are displayed. Where supervised, a crossing supervisor will step onto the road and display the STOP sign.

You must wait until pedestrians and bicycle and personal mobility device riders have crossed the road and the crossing supervisor has returned to the

footpath.

If you come to a children's crossing, you must stop before the STOP line and wait while any pedestrian or bicycle rider is on or entering the crossing. You must not begin to accelerate until all pedestrians and bicycle riders are safely on the footpath on either side of the road. If a vehicle has stopped to give way to pedestrians or bicycle riders at a crossing, do not overtake the vehicle while it is stationary.

### School buses

Transporting children safely in school buses is part of school life.

Buses used only or primarily for taking children to or from school display either the words SCHOOL BUS or an image of two children. The signs have black letters or images on a yellow background.

School buses have flashing yellow warning lights fitted to the front and rear of the bus. The driver of a school bus must flash its warning lights when children are being picked up or set down.

You should slow down when approaching a school bus, especially when the yellow lights are flashing, and pass with care. Watch for children who may run across the road from in front of or behind the bus.

### Trams

A light rail (tram) system known as G:link operates on the Gold Coast. The area the trams run on is classed as part of the road and the Queensland Road Rules apply. Signs will show where the tramway begins and ends.



As a driver, it is important that you:

- obey all signs and traffic signals around tram tracks
- must not stop on the tram tracks or yellow painted cross hatching as this is classed as being part of the tram tracks
- only drive on or over the tracks at intersections that are controlled by traffic lights or signs
- do not queue across the tram tracks at any time.

Pedestrian access to tram stations is provided at signalised crossings. Pedestrians should use these facilities for their own safety.

## Sample questions – sharing with other road users

**1. If you are turning at an intersection, must you give way to pedestrians that are crossing the road you are turning into?**

- A. Yes.
- B. Only if the pedestrians are under 16 years of age.
- C. Only if the pedestrians are over 16 years of age.
- D. No.

**2. Which one of the following statements is true?**

- A. The speed limit in school zones does not apply if there are no children around.
- B. The speed limit in school zones only applies to children from within that school.
- C. The speed limit in school zones applies on weekends only.
- D. The speed limit in school zones applies on school days during designated times.



**3. An emergency vehicle (for example, ambulance or fire engine) is sounding its siren and quickly approaching your vehicle from behind. You must:**

- A. Immediately turn on your vehicle's hazard lights.
- B. Immediately sound your horn to warn other vehicles of the approaching emergency vehicle.
- C. Immediately accelerate.
- D. Move out of the path of the emergency vehicle as soon as you can do so safely.

**4. You may be faced with this sign, held by a school crossing supervisor, as you approach a school crossing. What should you do?**

- A. Slow down until all pedestrians are clear of your vehicle.
- B. Stop and remain stopped until the supervisor has returned to the footpath.
- C. Stop and remain stopped for children only.



**5. You are at a cross intersection without signs, road markings or traffic lights. A bicycle rider is approaching from your right. Which one of the following statements is true?**

- A. The bicycle rider must slow down so you can continue.
- B. The bicycle rider must give way to you.
- C. You must give way to the bicycle rider.
- D. If you wave the bicycle rider on, you should wait for them to pass, otherwise the bicycle rider must wait for you.

## Driving safely in tunnels

Things you need to be aware of when driving in tunnels:

- Remove sunglasses (except prescription) before entering a tunnel.
- Turn on your head lights, so that your vehicle is more visible.
- Turn your car radio on. Tunnels have re-broadcast systems that convey safety and traffic information to drivers via their radio and the tunnel public announcement system.
- Lane changing causes many crashes on busy arterial roads. Avoid lane changing and overtaking while travelling through tunnels.
- Stay out of closed lanes (signified by red crosses). Even if you can't see the problem, always obey signs and controller instructions.
- Do not stop in a tunnel except in an emergency or if directed by the tunnel controller. Try to drive out of a tunnel even if your vehicle is damaged or has a mechanical malfunction.
- Do not reverse in a tunnel.
- Check and obey variable message and lane control signs that provide important information about safety and traffic conditions.
- Tunnels usually have variable speed limits. Lower limits apply when traffic is congested or when an incident has occurred (e.g. a crash or broken down vehicle). Look for speed limit signs and stay within the limit in accordance with conditions. If Emergency Response Vehicles are in attendance, see *Move Over Slow Down* for information about the rules you need to follow.
- Do not enter a tunnel if your vehicle is very low on fuel.
- If you really need to overtake another vehicle (e.g. it is broken down) make sure you are clear of all other traffic and it is safe. Always use your indicators to show your intention to merge or change lanes.

# Stopping

## Safe following distance

If you drive too close to the vehicle in front of you, what will you do if they brake suddenly? You are likely to crash. Keep far enough back so that you can stop in time.

### How far should you travel behind?

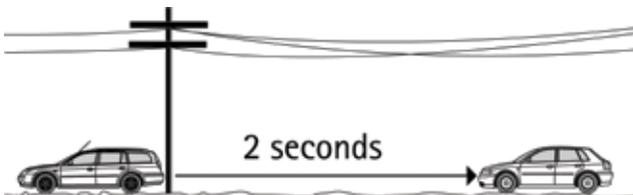
- A car should drive at least two seconds behind the vehicle in front in ideal conditions.
- A heavy vehicle should drive at least four seconds behind the vehicle in front.
- A vehicle towing a trailer or caravan should allow two seconds, plus one second for each 3m of trailer.

Double this following distance in poor conditions.

### Time-lapse method

Use the time-lapse method to keep a safe distance behind the vehicle in front.

1. Pick a mark on the road or an object close to the left-hand side of the road, such as a power or light pole.
2. When the rear of the vehicle ahead passes the object, count 'one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two' (this takes about two seconds). If the conditions are bad, count 'one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three, one-thousand-four' (this takes about four seconds).
3. If the front of your vehicle passes the object before you finish counting, you are too close, so leave more room.



## Braking

How quickly could you stop your vehicle in an emergency? The time for you to see and react (reaction distance) plus the time for you to apply the brakes to stop your vehicle (braking distance) may not be enough to avoid a crash.

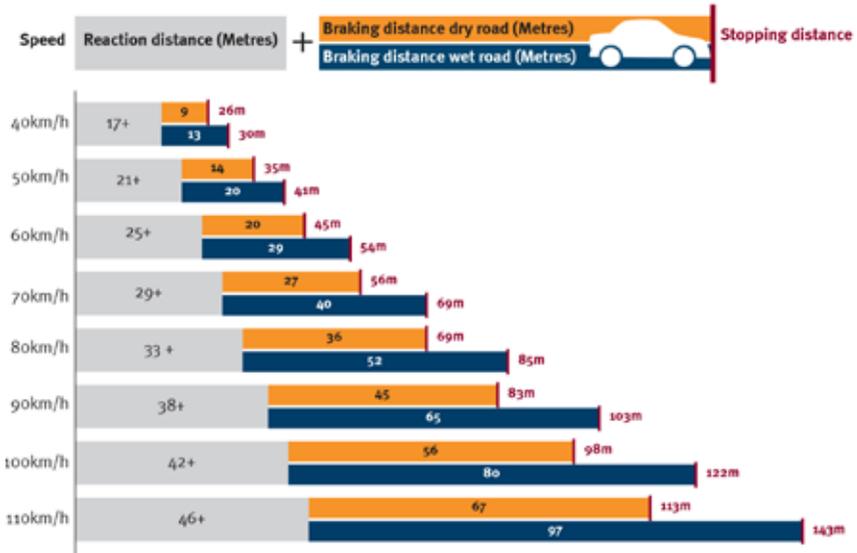
**Reaction distance + braking distance = total stopping distance.**

## Total stopping distance

The faster you go, the further you travel before you stop. The following graph shows how much quicker you stop if you travel at lower speeds and how much longer it takes to stop in wet weather conditions.

By the time a car travelling at 50km/h has stopped, a car braking from 60km/h would still be travelling at about 40km/h. If you hit a pedestrian at this speed, they have an almost 60 per cent chance of being killed.

### How long it takes to stop (driving an average family car)



This graph is a guide only.

Your vehicle's stopping distance is also affected by:

- your reaction time (average of 1.5 seconds)
- your experience and age
- average deceleration of your car
- physical condition of your car
- braking capacity of your car
- condition of the tyres
- nature of the road
- weather conditions
- your behaviour at the time of the incident.

Your stopping distance will increase when the road is wet, muddy, slippery, has a loose surface, or if you are travelling downhill, so always ensure you drive to the conditions.

**Note:** If your vehicle is fitted with an anti-lock braking system (ABS), you should refer to the owner's handbook to familiarise yourself with how the system operates.

# Hazards

## Approaching hazards

A hazard can be a physical feature or a situation such as an intersection, roundabout, or pedestrians or animals near a roadway.

Young and novice drivers do not detect hazards as well as experienced drivers. That is why the hazard perception test was introduced for novice drivers.

For information about the *Hazard perception test*.

Young drivers also react more slowly to avoid a hazard. However, if you follow the system of vehicle control, you will always be in the correct position on the road, travelling at the correct speed and in the correct gear so you can deal with any hazard safely.

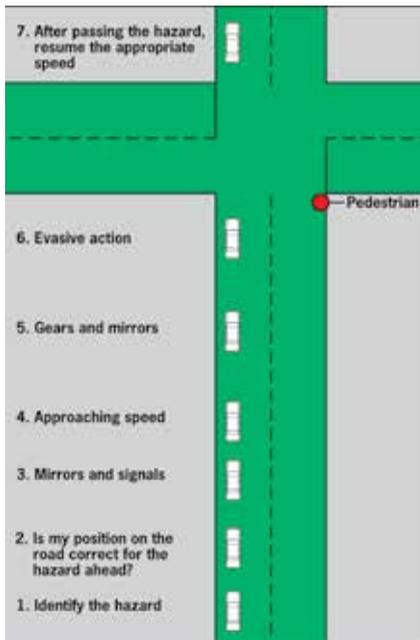
As a driver you should:

- recognise the hazard (scan continuously)
- know what action to take (system of vehicle control)
- act in time (give other drivers behind you ample warning).

## System of vehicle control

Use the following system when approaching any traffic situation.

- 1. Identify the hazard** (for example, an intersection or a pedestrian).
- 2. Ask**, 'Is my position on the road correct for the hazard ahead?'
- 3. Mirrors and signals** — check the rear vision mirrors to see where other vehicles are. If you need to indicate, do it now.
- 4. Approaching speed** — check your speed is appropriate. Reduce or increase your speed as necessary.
- 5. Gears and mirrors** — if you change speed, you may need to change gears. Check the rear vision mirrors again to see what other vehicles are doing.



**6. Evasive action** – just before you come to the hazard, check to see if it is still safe to drive in the way and direction you planned. Ask, ‘Do I have to take some action?’ This may mean stopping, slowing down or sounding the horn.

7. After passing the hazard, **resume** the appropriate speed.

### Hazardous situations

A hazardous driving situation includes, animals or debris on the road, tyre blowouts, skidding or aquaplaning.

In a hazardous situation, apply the system of vehicle control described above.

### Skidding

To prevent a skid, follow the ABC plan:

- accelerate smoothly
- brake smoothly
- corner smoothly.

Skidding is caused by one or a combination of these factors:

- driving too fast for the circumstances
- too much acceleration
- sudden or too much braking or faulty brakes
- turning the steering wheel too sharply or too much so that the tyres lose traction and the vehicle skids.

Wet surfaces, gravel roads and inadequate tyre grip increase the risk of skidding. Reduce your speed when driving in wet weather or on rough surfaces and always ensure your tyres are in good condition and have at least 1.5mm of tread depth all over the tyre’s tread.

## **Aquaplaning**

Aquaplaning or hydroplaning occurs when there is enough water on the road's surface to cause your vehicle to lose contact with the road. Reducing your vehicle's speed can assist in reducing the risk of aquaplaning.

## **Bad weather (rain, fog, dust)**

Only use your hazard lights if you are driving in hazardous weather conditions and you are driving slowly and likely to obstruct other vehicles, or your vehicle is stopped and is obstructing the path of other vehicles or pedestrians.

When driving in bad weather:

- keep your windscreen and all lights clean
- turn your headlights on when you cannot clearly see people or vehicles
- keep headlights on low beam – in fog you can see better on low beam than high beam
- during the day, you may drive in fog or other hazardous weather conditions without your headlights on if you turn on your front fog lights (if fitted)
- you may only drive with fog lights on if you are in fog or hazardous weather conditions causing reduced visibility
- use your air conditioner or demister to keep the windscreen clear
- slow down – remember the signed speed limit is the maximum safe speed for good conditions
- double your following distance to allow for longer reaction time and subsequent greater stopping distance – see *Safe following distance*.

## **Road closures due to flooding and wet weather**

- Flood waters can be fast moving. For your safety, don't drive on roads covered by water. If it's flooded, forget it.
- Plan your journey by checking [qldtraffic.qld.gov.au](http://qldtraffic.qld.gov.au) or by downloading the QLD *Traffic* App for current traffic conditions and road closures. Alternatively call **13 19 40** to check road conditions or report a road issue.
- Be alert for changed road conditions, especially any loose debris from surrounding vegetation and river banks.
- When floodwater starts to go down, don't drive over roads or bridges until they have been declared open again by the authorities.
- Due to increased driver concentration when driving in poor conditions, plan regular rest stops, especially on your longer journeys.
- Follow directions from roadworkers, transport inspectors and emergency service personnel.
- Do not ignore ROAD CLOSED signs. They are there for a reason. Penalties apply.

## **Tyre blowouts**

If a tyre blows out, your vehicle will pull to the side of the damage for a front tyre and sway to the sides for a rear tyre.

If this happens:

- do not panic
- grip the steering wheel firmly and compensate for any pull to one side
- do not immediately apply the brakes.

Once the vehicle is under control:

- let the vehicle slow down gradually
- look for a safe place to pull over and stop. If you are on a highway try to exit the highway before stopping — if you have to stop, stop in the emergency stopping bay or lane and move as far left as possible.

It is important to remember that different vehicles may behave differently depending on the conditions, so this advice should be used as a guide only.

## **Animals at night**

Animals can be hypnotised by the glare of your headlights. If an animal is on the road:

- slow down
- apply the system of vehicle control
- be prepared to brake
- flash your headlights
- sound your horn (if necessary)
- keep control of the vehicle and do not swerve.

**Note:** Watch for animals on the side of the road because they may cross the road without warning.

# Driver fatigue

Fatigue is a hidden killer – it creeps up on drivers who ignore their body's warning signs. Driving while tired is a factor in one in six crashes that result in serious injury or death. Driving without sleep for 17 hours is the same as driving with a breath or blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.05. Driving without sleep for 24 hours is the same as driving with a BAC of 0.10.

Fatigue related crashes are often on open roads at high speeds and occur during the hours of 1pm–3pm and midnight–6am, with a higher incidence on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Whether you travel long or short distances, stay alert at all times.

## How to avoid driving tired on long trips

- Take regular breaks – at least 15 minutes every two hours and an additional 30 minutes every five hours is recommended.
- Pull into rest areas, tourist spots and Driver Reviver sites when you can – see *Driver reviver sites*.
- Avoid drinking alcohol before and during the trip.
- Check with your doctor if any medications you're taking affect your driving ability.
- Eat properly – not too little, not too much. Big meals can make you drowsy.
- Get plenty of sleep before your trip – not getting enough quality sleep before your trip is dangerous.
- Don't drive for more than 8–10 hours in a day. If driving a heavy vehicle, demerit points and fines apply if you commit a fatigue offence.
- Get fresh air in the car and during breaks.
- Share the driving.
- Plan ahead – arrange stops and rest overnight.
- Check for warning signs of tiredness – see below.
- As soon as you feel tired, stop and rest.

## How to avoid driving tired on short trips

- If you feel tired before you start, consider not driving.
- Ask someone to drive you home or pick you up.
- Collect your car later when you are not tired.

## Warning signs

Wake up to the signs. Do not keep driving if you show these signs of tiredness:

- tired eyes
- yawning
- drowsiness
- loss of concentration
- your car wanders across the road
- fumbling gear changes
- daydreaming
- squinting
- blurred vision
- reduced concentration
- unintentional increases or decreases in speed
- dim or fuzzy vision
- sore or heavy eyes.

## Driver reviver sites



Driver reviver sites operate along major Queensland highways during busy holiday periods. You can rest while enjoying free tea, coffee and refreshments.

For operating times, visit the *Driver Reviver* section at [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

# Correct seatbelt and child restraint use

A seatbelt is your defence against serious injury or death in a crash. Without a seatbelt, you are almost 9 times more likely to lose your life if involved in a crash. You never know when a crash will happen, so why take the risk?

## Wearing seatbelts

Always wear your seatbelt correctly. An incorrectly worn seatbelt could cause neck, chest or abdominal injuries in a crash.

- Wear your belt with the buckle low on the hip, the sash running from the shoulder across the chest and above the stomach, and the lap part sitting across the pelvis and hips.
- Pregnant women must wear the seatbelt with the lap part sitting over the thighs, across the pelvis and below the baby. The sash should be above the stomach and between the breasts.
- Check the seatbelt is not twisted, frayed or loose.
- Everyone in the car must have their own seatbelt – do not share a seatbelt.
- Replace the entire seatbelt assembly if the vehicle is involved in a severe crash.

## Child restraints

It is a driver's responsibility to ensure that a child is restrained in an appropriate approved child restraint. A child could easily be killed or injured in a crash if they are not in a correctly fitted, Australian Standards approved child restraint.

You must ensure that a child is secured in an approved child restraint until the child turns seven years of age. Once a child turns seven, you must ensure that the child uses a properly fitted adult seatbelt. The type of approved child restraint that you must use will depend on the age and size of the child.

The rules recognise that some children may be too small or too large for a specific type of restraint. If your child is too small to move into the next level of restraint, you should keep your child in the lower level of child restraint for as long as necessary. If your child is too large to fit into a restraint specified, you may move your child into the next level of restraint. A child is too tall for a booster seat when the level of the child's eyes is above the level of the back of the booster seat.

The following table, *A guide to child restraints*, specifies the type of approved child restraint required for each age group.

## A guide to child restraints

It is the law for all children up to seven years old to be correctly restrained according to their age and size.

Age	Standard AS/NZS 1754	Child restraint
<b>0 to 6 months</b>	If your child has reached this age, they should still use the appropriate restraint until their shoulders reach the upper shoulder height marker.	Rearward facing infant restraint 
<b>6 months to 4 years</b>	If your child has reached this age, they should still use the appropriate restraint until their shoulders reach the upper shoulder height marker.	Rearward facing infant restraint  Forward facing child restraint with built-in harness  
<b>4 to 7 years</b>	If your child has reached this age, they should still use the appropriate restraint until their shoulders reach the upper shoulder height marker.	Booster seat with lap-sash H-harness or a booster seat with a secured adult seatbelt  

No restraint will work properly or prevent injury unless it is fitted in accordance with the manufacturer's directions. For information about child restraint standards, please visit [www.qld.gov.au/childrestraints](http://www.qld.gov.au/childrestraints).

A child under four years of age must not sit in the front row of a vehicle that has more than one row of seats, even if the child is three years of age and large enough to be seated in a booster seat.

A child four years old, but less than seven years of age must not sit in the front row of a vehicle that has more than one row of seats unless all the other seats

are occupied by children under seven years of age.

For example, if there are three children aged four to six years in a vehicle with two rows of seats and all the child restraints cannot fit across the back seat, the eldest child can sit in the front seat. They must all be appropriately restrained.

A child of any age can sit in the front seat if the vehicle has only one row of seats, for example a utility, and the child is properly restrained. If the vehicle has a passenger airbag fitted, a rearward facing child restraint should not be used.

Further information about child restraints is available at [www.qld.gov.au/childrestraints](http://www.qld.gov.au/childrestraints).

### **Children with a disability or medical condition**

If your child has a disability or medical condition and cannot be safely restrained under the Australian Standard - AS/NZS 1754, you may be prescribed a restraint under the AS/NZS 4370 *Restraint of children with disabilities, or medical conditions, in motor vehicles*.

The AS/NZS 4370 provides a safe restraint guide for children with disabilities and/or medical conditions who are required to use modified approved child car seats, imported speciality seats, postural harnesses, behavioural harnesses, or harnesses allowing children to lie across the back seat to travel safely in a vehicle.

To use a restraint approved under AS/NZS 4370, you will need to obtain a prescriber's certificate. A prescriber's certificate may be issued by a medical practitioner (general practitioner or specialist), occupational therapist, psychologist, physiotherapist or biomedical engineer. A prescriber's certificate may be issued for up to a seven year period, however, a 12 month review will be required.

Once you have the prescriber's certificate, you may have the restraint fitted in your vehicle and transport your child as instructed. You must carry the prescriber's certificate in the vehicle with the child and be able to present it to a police officer on request. An example of a prescriber's certificate may be found under appendix B in the AS/NZS 4370.

The rules for restraining a child in compliance with AS/NZS 4370 are specific to Queensland. If you are using this method to restrain your child in a vehicle and intend to travel interstate, you should enquire with the interstate jurisdiction(s) as to the legal requirements to restrain your child when driving in their state or territory.

For more information about AS/NZS 4370, please visit [www.qld.gov.au/](http://www.qld.gov.au/)

## **childrestraints.**

If your child is under seven years and has a disability or medical condition that prevents them from safely travelling in a rear or middle row of seats in your vehicle, you may obtain an exemption from complying with the road rules by getting a certificate from a health professional to verify this. A health professional may be a medical doctor (general practitioner or specialist), occupational therapist or physiotherapist.

The certificate must have an issue and expiry date and state how your child should travel or be restrained in the vehicle. When transporting your child, the driver of the vehicle must carry the certificate and be able to present it to a police officer on request.

The necessity to require a child under four years to travel in the front seat of a vehicle that has two or more rows of seats is a very rare occurrence. Therefore, the health professional's certificate should not be issued until the specific circumstances applying to the child have been considered and all other reasonable alternatives have also been considered.

For more information about child restraint exemptions, please visit [www.qld.gov.au/childrestraints](http://www.qld.gov.au/childrestraints).

## **The driver's responsibility**

The driver is responsible for ensuring that all people travelling in their vehicle are correctly restrained. If the driver or their passengers are not restrained correctly, the driver risks a fine and four demerit points. The driver will also be fined and get demerit points for each unrestrained or incorrectly restrained child in the vehicle.

Exemptions:

- Taxi, limousine, booked hire and tow truck drivers are exempt from ensuring passengers under the age of one year are restrained providing there is no suitable child restraint available, the passenger is seated in the lap of another passenger who is 16 years of age or older, and they are not seated in the front row of seats (where there are no alternative rows available).
- Taxi, limousine and booked hire drivers are exempt from ensuring passengers between one and seven years of age are restrained in a child restraint providing there is no suitable child restraint available and they are not seated in the front row of seats (where there are no alternative rows available). In the absence of a child restraint, the passenger must still wear a seatbelt.
- Bus drivers are exempt, child restraints are not required on buses.
- On medical grounds where a certificate is provided by a doctor.

# Towing a trailer or caravan

Towing a trailer or caravan requires extra concentration and skill. You should gain experience before trying to tow at high speed or in confined spaces.

## Before you start

Ensure your vehicle and trailer or caravan are safe to drive or tow. Check:

- tyres and tyre pressure
- wheel bearings and suspension
- brakes – an efficient braking system is needed for all trailers with a loaded weight of more than 750kg
- trailer coupling, including lights and safety chain. Couplings must be strong enough to take the weight of a fully loaded trailer and must be marked with the manufacturer's name or trademark and the rated capacity
- safety chains should be short enough to stop the front of the trailer hitting the ground if the couplings break
- loading – distribute the bulk of it over the axles.

Check the manufacturer's towing rating for your vehicle to ensure it can legally tow the weight of the trailer or caravan.

## How to tow safely

- When turning, allow additional space for the extra length and width of the trailer.
- Steer smoothly to avoid swaying, especially in wet or slippery conditions.
- Allow for a greater stopping distance and look ahead for any changes in road or traffic conditions.
- Avoid braking unnecessarily even if the trailer begins to sway or snake. Continue at a steady speed or accelerate slightly until the swaying stops.
- Keep left – don't hold up traffic unnecessarily.

See *Long vehicles*; *Parking restrictions for heavy and long vehicles*; *Following other long vehicles*; and *Towlines*, for road rules specific to towing trailers and caravans.

For more information about towing visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

## Restraining your load

As a driver, you have a legal responsibility to your passengers, other road users and yourself to ensure that all loads carried by your vehicle are securely restrained.

This is how you carry loads safely.

1. Choose a suitable vehicle to carry the load.
2. Position the load correctly, ensuring the load does not affect the vehicle's stability, steering or braking performance.
3. If your load is light material, for example bark chips or leaves, secure it properly. This may mean covering your load with a tarpaulin.
4. Use suitable restraints that are strong enough and in good condition.
5. Provide adequate load restraint to prevent movement of the load.
6. Drive carefully – be prepared for changes in the vehicle's stability, steering and braking capacity.
7. If your load overhangs at the front, back or sides, check the overhang is legal.

Further information about carrying loads is available in the *Load Restraint Guide*. The guide can be downloaded from the National Transport Commission website at [www.ntc.gov.au](http://www.ntc.gov.au).

## What to do at a crash

### What to do

You must stop if you are involved in a crash.

You must report a crash to the police immediately if:

- a vehicle involved needs to be towed away
- any driver involved in the crash does not give his or her particulars to any other drivers involved in the crash
- any person involved is killed or injured.

If the crash cannot be reported immediately, it must be reported within 24 hours of the crash occurring. There are additional obligations that apply if a person is seriously injured or killed in a crash.

If Emergency Response Vehicle/s are in attendance, see *Move Over Slow Down* for information about the rules you need to follow.

For more information visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

## Tow trucks

There are laws governing tow truck licence holders, and it is important you know your rights when having your vehicle towed.

Queensland's tow truck regulations applies to towing from crashes, police seizures, and private property parking in regulated areas. Most major populated areas of Queensland are regulated areas. For a full list, see the *Tow Truck Regulation 2009*.

Tow truck licence operators must be licensed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads to tow any vehicle from a crash, police seizure or private property parking. The tow truck licence holder's name, business address and telephone number must be clearly marked on their vehicle.

### Organising your vehicle to be towed

- The accredited tow truck driver is the only person who is allowed to approach you about towing your vehicle from the crash. If you are injured and unable to make your own decisions, another person who is with you or an authorised person such as a police officer may act on your behalf as your agent.
- The tow truck driver must show you their certificate, even if you do not ask to see it.
- You or your agent must sign a towing authority form before your vehicle can be towed from the crash.
- Make sure the towing authority form is fully completed before you sign it. The form should include full details of the cost of the tow, the cost of any storage and the address of where you want the vehicle to be towed.
- A police officer or Department of Transport and Main Roads authorised officer may sign the towing authority form if you or your agent cannot sign the form. In this case, the tow truck licence holder must inform the department where your vehicle was towed within seven days.
- A tow truck licence holder must not charge more than the regulated towing fee for a standard tow. A standard tow includes:
  - loading and moving the vehicle to a place of storage (includes the first 50km from the incident scene – a fee per kilometre may be charged for each kilometre over 50km)
  - up to 60 minutes working time
  - cleaning the scene of the incident
  - storing the vehicle for up to 72 hours.
- If your vehicle is covered by comprehensive insurance, your insurance company may pay for the towing of the vehicle from the crash. Confirm this with your insurance company.

- In the case of a minor crash where your vehicle has not sustained any significant damage you may refuse to sign the towing authority if the vehicle is in a suitable condition to be driven or you wish to make other arrangements.
- It is important to note that the crash site be cleared quickly in the interest of public safety.
- A tow truck driver or assistant must not threaten, intimidate harass, insult or abuse you. They must not wilfully injure you, damage your property or hinder the delivery of first aid or medical treatment.
- Once your vehicle is in storage, it cannot be moved again without your permission.
- A tow truck licence holder must not charge you to view your vehicle during business hours when it is held at the storage yard, or to move your vehicle near the entrance of the yard for collection.
- A tow truck licence holder must keep a record of all property in your vehicle and keep the property in storage for you.
- A tow truck licence holder, must not disclose any personal information about the owner of the vehicle they have towed unless it is to be disclosed to the vehicle owner, their agent or to an authorised officer.

For more information about tow truck legislation, see the *Tow Truck Act 1973* and the *Tow Truck Regulation 2009* by visiting the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel website at [www.legislation.qld.gov.au](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au).

For more information on regulated towing fees, visit [www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au) or call **13 23 80**.



## Offences and penalties

- Enforcement
- Licence sanctions
- Disqualified and unlicensed driving

# Enforcement

## Speed cameras

Fixed speed cameras are installed at locations that have a history of road crashes, are difficult or unsafe to monitor by other enforcement methods, and where there is a strong crash potential.

A point-to-point (or average) speed camera system uses a number of cameras over a length of road to measure a vehicle's average speed. The system uses the time it takes for a vehicle to travel between the two points to calculate the average speed of the vehicle:  $\text{speed} = \text{distance}/\text{time}$ .

The point-to-point camera system determines the average speed between the two points and compares this speed to the speed limit of the road to establish if an offence has occurred.

Mobile speed cameras operate at sites that have been approved following a strict selection procedure, which considers:

- the site's history of crashes
- validated complaints about high-risk speeding behaviour
- workplace health and safety issues for roadworkers and police officers operating speed cameras
- that the speed limit for the road has been set in compliance with the state's speed control guidelines.

Further information about the operation of speed cameras in Queensland can be found at [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

For more information about speed limits – see *Speed limits*.

## Red light cameras

Red light cameras are installed at intersections that have a history of crashes caused by red light running. The cameras operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

A red light camera is activated when the traffic light turns red. Any vehicle that crosses the STOP line and enters the intersection after the light has turned red will be photographed. After a vehicle is photographed, a second photograph is taken one second later. The second photograph is used to check whether the vehicle continued through the intersection or stopped just past the STOP line.

There are two types of red light cameras in Queensland – red light cameras and combined red light and speed cameras. Combined red light/speed cameras are placed at signalised intersections and detect both the failure to obey the red traffic signal and speeding.

The speed detection component of the camera can operate on the red, amber and green signal. The camera can detect red light running and speeding at the same time.

Further information about the operation of red light cameras in Queensland can be found at [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

For more information – see *Traffic lights*.

## **Mobile phone and seatbelt cameras**

Mobile phone and seatbelt cameras can be fixed or portable and can be located anywhere, anytime.

When vehicles pass the camera, a photograph of the vehicle’s cabin is taken, mainly the front seats. Artificial Intelligence software filters the images and detects if there was possible illegal use of a mobile phone by the driver or failure to wear a seatbelt by the driver or front seat passenger.

Further information about the operation of mobile phone and seatbelt cameras in Queensland can be found at [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

For more information about mobile phone use - see *Mobile phones*.

For more information about seatbelts and child restraints – see *Correct seatbelt and child restraint use*’.

## **Automatic number plate recognition (ANPR)**

ANPR technology can instantly verify the registration details of vehicles on the road, which includes vehicles parked on the roadside. ANPR technology assists enforcement officers in accurately identifying unregistered vehicles, as well as ensuring that vehicles are compliant with other vehicle and transport laws.

ANPR also allows a police officer to intercept vehicles of interest such as those with stolen or false plates, as information is checked against both the Department of Transport and Main Roads registration and driver licence information and also other records held by the Queensland Police Service.

ANPR is also used as an additional measure to enhance the current road safety functions already performed such as roadside interceptions and random vehicle inspections.

## **Random breath testing**

Random breath testing helps to detect drink drivers and reduce the number of drink driving crashes by deterring motorists from driving when they are over their alcohol limit. Police regularly conduct random breath testing and, as a driver, you should expect to be intercepted for a random breath test at any time.

If you are to be breath tested, a police officer will ask you to provide a preliminary breath test by blowing into a roadside breath testing device.

If you are over your alcohol limit for the type of licence you hold, the conditions of your licence or the type of vehicle that you are driving, you will be detained for further testing. If it is confirmed that you are over your alcohol limit, you will be charged with the offence of drink driving. Depending on your breath or blood alcohol concentration (BAC), your licence may be suspended for 24 hours or until the charge is dealt with by a court – see *Licence sanctions*.

Refusing to take the roadside breath test is an offence, and you will be detained and taken for a further breath or blood test. If you again refuse to take this breath or blood test, you will be charged with a second offence of refusing to supply the specimen of breath or blood.

### **Random roadside drug testing**

Drug driving, like drink driving, is a serious offence. Roadside drug testing allows police to conduct saliva testing in conjunction with random breath testing (RBT) or as a stand-alone check. The roadside drug testing process operates in a similar way to RBTs.

Saliva tests are able to detect the active ingredients in cannabis (THC), speed and ice (methylamphetamine) and ecstasy (MDMA). There is no legal limit for these drugs – you must not have these drugs in your system when driving.

The preliminary saliva test is simple and painless and takes between three and five minutes. If a negative result is returned, you are free to go. If the test is positive (which means a drug has been detected), you will be taken to a police vehicle or police station for a second saliva test.

If the second saliva test is positive for drugs, your driver licence will be suspended for 24 hours and the remainder of the saliva sample will be sent for laboratory analysis.

If this test also comes back positive, you will be charged and required to appear in court – see *Drugs and driving*, for more information.

### **Vehicle impoundment**

Police have the power to impound vehicles.

Your vehicle can be impounded if you commit any of the following offences:

- dangerous driving involving a speed trial, race or burn out
- careless driving involving a speed trial, race or burn out
- starting or driving a vehicle in a way that makes unnecessary noise or smoke, involving a speed trial, race or burn out
- organising or promoting a speed trial, race, or attempt to set or break a speed record.

Your vehicle can also be impounded if you are caught more than once for the following offences:

- driving a vehicle that is both unregistered and uninsured
- driving while unlicensed or disqualified
- driving with a BAC of 0.15 or higher
- failing to supply a specimen of breath, saliva or blood
- driving while under a 24 hour suspension
- driving an illegally modified or non-compliant vehicle.

Vehicle impoundment laws apply to the driver and the vehicle that is used while committing the offence. Even if you don't own the car you are driving, it will still be impounded and you will be responsible for the cost of the impoundment.

As an owner of a vehicle, it is your responsibility to ensure that your vehicle is roadworthy and drivers of your vehicle are licensed and drive safely. Even if you are not the driver that committed the offence, your vehicle can still be impounded.

The only exception is where the vehicle was stolen. In this case, it will be returned to the owner as soon as possible.

For further information about impoundment laws, refer to the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* at the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel website [www.legislation.qld.gov.au](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au).

## Transport inspectors

Transport inspectors play a major role in ensuring the safety of drivers and protecting our road infrastructure and environment.

Transport inspectors have broad powers relating to intercepting and examining vehicles, and you must assist them.

You must pull over when a transport inspector indicates for you to stop. An inspector in a patrol vehicle can also stop you by activating the patrol vehicle's magenta lights or electronic horn.

Transport inspectors will identify themselves and tell you why they have stopped you. They may ask you for identification or your work diary or any other documents that assist them. You must allow them to examine your vehicle.

Transport inspectors can issue substantial on-the-spot fines for a range of offences. They can also report other matters for court action.

# Licence sanctions

## Immediate suspension

Your licence will be immediately suspended if you are charged with:

- driving with a BAC of 0.10 or higher
- driving when you are under the influence of liquor or a drug
- failing to provide a specimen of breath, saliva or blood
- drink or drug driving when an earlier, similar drink or drug driving charge has not been dealt with by a court, or withdrawn or otherwise discontinued
- drink or drug driving when you are subject to a section 79E order (see below)
- dangerous driving while affected by an intoxicating substance.

Your licence will remain suspended until the charge is dealt with by a court, or withdrawn or otherwise discontinued.

## Section 79E order

You may be eligible to apply for a court order allowing you to continue to drive until the charge that resulted in your immediate suspension is dealt with by a court, or withdrawn or otherwise discontinued. You will need to complete a *Section 79E Order Application* (form F4395) and lodge it with the Magistrates Court within 21 days after the date of the immediate suspension.

There are restrictions on who is eligible for a section 79E order. For more information on section 79E orders, including eligibility requirements, visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

## 24 hour suspension

Your licence may be suspended for 24 hours if you are charged with drink driving while over your legal limit but under 0.10 BAC.

When this suspension period has ended, you may resume driving until a court decides your case.

If convicted of drink driving, drug driving or failing to provide a specimen of breath (other than a roadside test), saliva or blood, you will be fined and disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence for a stated period.

For more information about drink and drug driving laws and how to avoid drink and drug driving – see *Alcohol and drugs*.

## High speed suspension

If you are found driving at a speed more than 40km/h over the speed limit, you will generally be given an infringement notice for the offence. As soon as you pay the fine, have it dealt with by a court, or if it is referred to the State Penalty Enforcement Registry for non-payment you will be sent a *Notice of Driver Licence Suspension for Speeding Offence*, stating that your licence will be suspended for six months from a stated date.

In addition, eight demerit points will be recorded against your traffic history for this offence. If these points cause you to accumulate too many demerit points, you will also be dealt with under the demerit points scheme – see below.

## Accumulation of demerit points – Queensland licence holders

If you commit a demerit point offence, you will generally be given an infringement notice for the offence. As soon as you pay the fine, have it dealt with by a court or it is referred to the State Penalty Enforcement Register for non-payment, the number of demerit points for the offence are then recorded against your traffic history. These points are taken to have been allocated on the day the offence was committed. Demerit point offences committed anywhere in Australia may be recorded on your traffic history.

The number of demerit points varies according to the type of offence. For more information on demerit points, visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

## Learner licences

If you accumulate four or more demerit points in a continuous one year period while you hold your learner licence, you will be sent an *Accumulation of Demerit Points – Notice of Driver Licence Suspension* and your licence will be suspended for a mandatory three month period.

If your licence is suspended or you are disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence during the learner licence period, this time will not contribute to the minimum period you must hold your learner licence.

## Provisional licences

If you accumulate four or more demerit points in a one year period while you hold your provisional licence, you will be sent an *Accumulation of Demerit Points – Notice to Choose*. You will have the choice between:

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

You may also have a one year late night driving restriction imposed – see *Late night driving restrictions*.

If your licence is suspended or you are disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence during the provisional licence period, this time will not contribute to the minimum period you must hold your provisional licence.

## Open licence

If you accumulate 12 or more demerit points in a three year period and you hold an open licence, you will be sent an *Accumulation of Demerit Points – Notice to Choose*. The notice will require you to choose between having your licence suspended for a specific period or agreeing to continue driving on a good driving behaviour period for one year.

You may receive a warning letter when you accumulate at least seven demerit points in a three year period.

## Open licence suspension periods

Demerit points	12 to 15	16 to 19	20 or more
Suspension periods	3 months	4 months	5 months

## Driving on a good driving behaviour period for one year

If you choose to continue driving on a period of good driving behaviour for one year, you may keep your current licence provided that you do not accumulate more than one demerit point during the one year period. If you accumulate two or more demerit points during this period, your licence will be suspended for double the suspension period that would have applied had you originally chosen the licence suspension.

## Accumulation of demerit points – interstate and foreign licence holders

If you commit a demerit point offence, you will generally be given an infringement notice for the offence. As soon as you pay the fine, have it dealt with by a court or if is referred to the State Penalty Enforcement Registry for non-payment, the number of demerit points that are set for the offence are then recorded against your traffic history. These points are taken to have been allocated on the day the offence was committed.

If you accumulate too many demerit points, you will be sent a notice from the Department of Transport and Main Roads advising that your authority to drive in Queensland on your interstate or foreign licence is withdrawn for the stated period. The length of the suspension period will depend on the type of licence you held when the demerit point offence was committed and the number of demerit points you accumulate during the period.

You cannot appeal against the withdrawal of your authority to drive in Queensland.

## **Double demerit points**

### **Mobile phones**

Double demerit points are recorded on your traffic history for second or subsequent mobile phone offences committed within one year of a previous mobile phone offence. Double demerit points apply to the following offences:

- any driver holding a mobile phone in their hand or resting it on a part of their body while driving
- any mobile phone use by a learner or P1 provisional licence holder under 25 years of age
- any mobile phone use by a P1 probationary or P1 restricted licence holder.

The one year period starts from the date when the first offence was committed and will not end until one year has passed from the date of the last mobile phone offence.

### **Speeding**

If you are caught driving or riding more than 20km/h above the speed limit more than once within a one year period, you will accumulate double the amount of demerit points (based on the second offence) for the following speeding offence brackets:

- 21–30km/h above the speed limit – four demerit points will be doubled to eight demerit points
- 31–40km/h above the speed limit – six demerit points will be doubled to 12 demerit points
- 41km/h or more above the speed limit – eight demerit points will be doubled to 16 demerit points.

The one year period starts from the date when the first offence was committed and will not end until one year has passed from the date of the last speeding offence.

## Seatbelts, child restraints and helmets

Double demerit points are recorded on your traffic history for additional driver-related seatbelt, child restraint or motorbike rider (including quad bikes and utility off-road vehicles) helmet offences committed within one year of a previous offence. The double demerit points relate to the following offences:

- driver of a vehicle failing to wear a seatbelt when driving a vehicle fitted with a seatbelt for the driver – four demerit points will be doubled to eight demerit points
- driver of a vehicle failing to ensure that a passenger under 16 wears a seatbelt or child restraint – four demerit points will be doubled to eight demerit points
- rider of a motorbike, quad bike or utility off-road vehicle failing to wear a motorbike helmet – three demerit points will be doubled to six demerit points
- rider of a motorbike, quad bike or utility off-road vehicle failing to ensure a passenger wears a motorbike helmet – three demerit points will be doubled to six demerit points.

The one year period starts from the date when the first offence was committed and will not end until one year has passed from the date of the last offence.

For more information on demerit point offences, visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

## Special hardship orders

If the suspension of your licence will cause extreme hardship to you and your family (such as depriving you of the means to earn a living) you may apply for a special hardship order if:

- you accumulated two or more demerit points while on a good driving behaviour period for one year
- your licence has been suspended for six months for driving more than 40km/h over the speed limit.

Once your provisional or open licence is suspended you may lodge an application. Your application must be lodged in the Magistrates Court district that you reside in.

There are restrictions on who is eligible for a special hardship order. For more information on special hardship orders, including eligibility requirements, visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

## Late night driving restrictions

If you are a provisional or probationary licence holder under 25 who commits a high speed offence or accumulates too many demerit points that results in:

- a licence suspension period
- a good driving behaviour period

you will be prohibited from driving between the hours of 11pm and 5am for one year.

This restriction will begin the day after your suspension period ends, or on the day you begin your good driving behaviour period.

**Please note**, if you apply for a *Special Hardship Order*, the start date of your restriction may change.

If you are a provisional, probationary or open licence holder under 25 who commits an offence that results in a court ordered disqualification, you will also be prohibited from driving between the hours of 11pm and 5am for at least one year.

For more information on late night driving restrictions, please visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

## Drink driving courses

If you are convicted of a drink driving offence you will need to complete a short online course before you can get your driver licence back.

If you commit two or more drink driving offences within a five year period you will need to complete the repeat drink driving course before you can complete the *Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program*. For more information about drink driving courses, please visit [www.qld.gov.au/DrinkDriving](http://www.qld.gov.au/DrinkDriving)

## Alcohol ignition interlock program

An alcohol ignition interlock is a breath-testing device that is connected to a vehicle's ignition. An interlock stops a vehicle from being started if the driver has been drinking alcohol.

You will be part of the interlock program if you have committed and are convicted of any of the following drink driving offences:

- a drink driving offence recording a BAC of 0.10 or more, driving under the influence of liquor, or failing to provide a blood or breath specimen for analysis
- dangerous driving while affected by alcohol
- two or more drink driving offences in a five year period.

You will need to participate in the interlock program for a minimum of 12 months and will be responsible for all costs. If you do not follow the rules of the program, your minimum time in the program can be extended.

While you are in the interlock program you can only drive a nominated vehicle that has an interlock fitted by an approved interlock provider. You must have a zero BAC at all times when driving.

You may be eligible for an exemption from fitting an interlock into your vehicle but exemptions are considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with strict guidelines.

If you decide not to participate in the interlock program, you will not be allowed to drive for five years from the end of your disqualification period.

For further information on the alcohol ignition interlock program, visit **[www.qld.gov.au/InterlockProgram](http://www.qld.gov.au/InterlockProgram)**.

## **Cumulative disqualifications**

A cumulative disqualification period applies when you have been convicted and disqualified for:

- two or more drink or drug driving offences
- a drink or drug driving offence and at the same time you commit the offence of driving without a valid licence.

This means that if you are convicted and disqualified for these offences the disqualification periods will be served one after the other (cumulatively). You will start the first disqualification period on the date of the court conviction. The second disqualification period will not start until your first disqualification period has been served.

A full list of offences can be found at the Department of Transport and Main Roads website **[www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au)**.

If you receive a cumulative disqualification, you will not be able to apply for a restricted (work) licence.

After serving your cumulative disqualification, you will need to contact your nearest licence issuing centre to get your licence back.

# Disqualified and unlicensed driving

## Driving while disqualified by a court

You will be disqualified from holding or obtaining a driver licence for a stated period by an order of an Australian court if you have been convicted of:

- a drink or drug driving offence
- a dangerous driving offence
- a criminal offence involving driving a vehicle.

If you are found driving a vehicle while you are still disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence because of a court order, you will be charged with disqualified driving.

If the court finds you guilty of disqualified driving, the court must further disqualify you from holding or obtaining a licence for a period of at least two years up to a maximum period of five years. You may also be given a fine in excess of \$7500, and you could be jailed for up to 18 months.

## Driving while your Queensland driver licence or your authority to drive is suspended

Your Queensland driver licence will be suspended or your authority to drive in Queensland under your non-Queensland driver licence will be withdrawn for a stated period if you have:

- not paid any fines imposed on you
- accumulated too many demerit points on your traffic history – see *Accumulation of demerit points – Queensland licence holders*, and *Accumulation of demerit points – interstate and foreign licence holders*
- been convicted of driving more than 40km/h over the speed limit – see *High speed suspension*
- been charged with an offence that is subject to an immediate licence suspension – see *Immediate suspension*.

If you are found driving a vehicle while your licence is suspended or your authority to drive in Queensland under your non-Queensland driver licence is withdrawn because of any of the above reasons, you will be charged with unlicensed driving.

If the court finds you guilty of the unlicensed driving offence, the court will disqualify you from holding or obtaining a licence. You may also be given a fine in excess of \$5000, and you could be jailed for up to one year.

## Driving while your authority to drive is withdrawn

Your authority to drive in Queensland under your non-Queensland driver licence is also withdrawn if:

- the Department of Transport and Main Roads reasonably believes that you have a mental or physical incapacity that adversely affects your ability to drive safely
- the three months residency rule applies to you – see *When the three months residency rule applies*
- you fail your Q-Safe practical driving test.

If you are found driving a vehicle when your authority to drive has been withdrawn because of any of the above reasons, you may be given an infringement notice, or be dealt with by a court, for unlicensed driving.

If the matter is dealt with by a court and you are found guilty of the unlicensed driving offence, you may be fined in excess of \$5000 and you could be jailed for up to one year.

## Driving when you do not hold a driver licence

You are taken to not hold a valid licence if:

- your licence is suspended
- your licence is cancelled as a result of a court disqualification
- your licence has expired
- you have voluntarily surrendered your licence
- your licence has been suspended or cancelled because you have a mental or physical incapacity that adversely affects your ability to drive safely
- you do not hold the class of licence for the vehicle you are found driving
- you have never held a licence
- after completing a period of disqualification, you do not obtain a further licence before starting to drive again.

If you are found driving a vehicle and you do not hold a licence because of any of the above reasons, you may be given an infringement notice for the offence, or be dealt with by a court, for unlicensed driving.

If the matter is dealt with by a court and you are found guilty of the unlicensed driving offence, you may be fined in excess of \$5000 and you could be jailed for up to one year.

For more information about court-imposed fines, contact the State Penalties Enforcement Registry on **1300 365 635** or visit **[www.sper.qld.gov.au](http://www.sper.qld.gov.au)**.



## Your vehicle

- Buying a vehicle – safety considerations
- Registering your vehicle

# Buying a vehicle – safety considerations

Making good choices when it comes to buying a new or used vehicle can make a big difference to your chances of avoiding a crash in the first place. It can also improve your chance of survival if you are involved in a crash. It's important to make sure you don't compromise on safety when it comes to buying a car. Before you buy a car, check the *SafeCars App* to find the safest and most affordable car models in your price range.

## Safety features checklist

To help you avoid a crash in the first place and minimise the possibility of a fatal or serious injury in a crash that could not be avoided, always ask the following questions when buying a vehicle.

- *What is the safety rating?* At least a four but preferably a five star safety rating is recommended for both new and used vehicles.
- *Are airbags fitted for both side and front impacts?* Make sure that side curtain airbags are fitted as they provide valuable protection to your head and torso in side impacts. They may also provide some protection in rollover type crashes.
- *Does it have an electronic stability control system?* Electronic stability control systems have been recognised to significantly reduce crash rates by helping drivers maintain control of their vehicles in difficult driving situations.
- *What restraints does the vehicle have?*
  - three-point (lap-sash) seatbelts for all seats
  - adjustable head restraints for all seats – look for active head restraints that reduce the distance your head moves during an impact
  - pre-tensioning seatbelts – actively tighten in a crash and remove slack just before a crash
  - load-limiting seatbelts – minimise the force on the body during a crash
  - child restraint anchor points – sufficient for the number of child seats required
  - seatbelt reminder – sound or dashboard light warning when seatbelts are not worn.

## Environmentally friendly vehicles

To help choose the best 'green' car for you, the Commonwealth Government's *Green Vehicle Guide* ([www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au](http://www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au)) provides information on vehicle fuel consumption for both new and used vehicles and greenhouse and air pollution ratings for new vehicles. It also includes a fuel consumption database for vehicles manufactured between 1986 and 2003, plus more

‘greener’ motoring information about how to drive and maintain any vehicle efficiently.

A Department of Transport and Main Roads transport inspector may pull over your vehicle anywhere, anytime in Queensland to test your vehicle’s pollution levels. Your vehicle will be given a good, fair or poor pollution rating.

For more information about Aircare, the Department of Transport and Main Roads’ program for promoting clean air practices, visit [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/environment](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/environment).

## Buyer’s checklist for a registered vehicle

- The vehicle has a current Queensland safety certificate.
- The safety certificate is displayed on the vehicle.
- The issuing approved inspection station’s name is on it.
- The safety certificate is still valid.
- An independent mechanic has inspected the vehicle.
- The seller has a registration certificate or vehicle registration notice in their name – although this is not proof of legal ownership.
- You should use the search function on the Personal Property Securities Register, by visiting [www.ppsr.gov.au](http://www.ppsr.gov.au) or by calling **1300 007 777**, to make sure that the vehicle you are buying does not have a security interest over it. For example, if you buy a vehicle that still has money owing on it, the vehicle could be repossessed by the person who lent money against it. **Note:** this search will also advise whether the vehicle has been reported as stolen or written-off.
- If the vehicle runs on gas or has gas fittings or systems, it may require a gas certificate.
- Ensure a transfer application is completed and signed by yourself and the seller and lodge it with the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

## Registering your vehicle

A vehicle must be registered before you can use it on the road, including driving and parking. Registration fees help fund the development and maintenance of the road network. Registration includes the cost of compulsory third party (CTP) insurance, which covers the owner and driver of a motor vehicle for legal liability arising from the use of the vehicle causing injury to another person.

CTP insurance does not cover damage to property, including vehicles.

The person in whose name a vehicle is registered is the ‘registered operator’.

This person is responsible for its operation on the road. The registered operator must be a person or other legal entity. If the vehicle is a heavy vehicle, the person must be 18 years or older. The Department of Transport and Main Roads will currently allow two individual registered operators to be recorded. However, further transactions for this vehicle may be authorised by either operator. Registration is not proof of legal ownership.

You can only register a vehicle in Queensland if its garage address (where it is based or from where it regularly operates) is in Queensland. You must provide evidence of a Queensland garage address when registering a vehicle. You must notify any change of address within 14 days.

If you have a vehicle registered in another state and you are living in Queensland, you must register the vehicle in Queensland within 14 days of Queensland becoming the vehicle's garage address.

For more information including how to register a motor vehicle, visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

### **Transferring registration**

If you have acquired a registered, second-hand vehicle you will need to transfer the registration to your name within 14 days.

For more information on transferring registration, visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

### **Renewing registration**

A vehicle registration notice will be sent to you about four weeks before your registration expiry date. You can sign up for e-notices and e-reminders to receive your notice by email instead of by postal mail. If you sign up you will also be sent an e-reminder three days before your registration expiry date and on the day the registration is due to expire.

If you do not receive a vehicle registration notice, you are still responsible for paying the registration fee and CTP insurance by the expiry date. If you do not renew your registration by the expiry date, your registration lapses and a reinstatement fee will be payable. Once the registration lapses, the vehicle is unregistered and cannot be used on a road.

For more information on renewing registration, visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).



## Organ donation

# Organ donation

## Being a donor

Call the Australian Organ Donor Register on **1800 777 203** for a brochure and form, or pick one up from a Department of Transport and Main Roads customer service centre, Medicare offices, Queensland Government Agent Program offices or your local police station if you are in a rural area.

For more information on organ donation, visit the Medicare Australia website **[www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)**.

Once you have registered, it is important to tell your family and friends about your decision.

ISSN 1443-4172



**13 QGOV (13 74 68)**

[www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au) | [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au)