Your keys to driving in Queensland

Summary
This summary is only an interpretation of the Department of Transport and Main Roads document ‘Your keys to driving in Queensland’ which itself is only an interpretation of the law made easy to understand by using plain English.

Relevant laws change frequently so make sure you have the most recent handbook when preparing for your test.
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1. INTRODUCTION

This summary provides important information about the licensing system and road rules in Queensland for drivers of all ages and levels of experience.

2. LICENCES

Obligations of licence holders

The Queensland Government has introduced secure, durable and reliable licences, authorities and proof of age cards including:
- Driver licence
- Heavy vehicle driver licence
- Proof of age card
- Marine licence indicator
- Industry authority

Applying for a card

Applying in person and providing additional information

To obtain a card, you must apply in person at a licence-issuing centre so you can have your photo and signature captured digitally.

Receiving your card

Cards are produced at a secure location and mailed to you within 14 days of your application. An interim Driver Licence Receipt will be issued and will act as proof you hold a licence until you receive your card in the mail.

It is illegal to try to bribe people. Penalties include fines and imprisonment.

Licence types

To drive legally, you must hold a current licence allowing you to drive that class of vehicle on a road in Queensland. Types of Queensland driver licences are:
- Learner licence
- Provisional licence
- Probationary licence
- Restricted licence
- Open licence

Learner licence

You must hold a learner, provisional, probationary or open licence that allows you to drive a class of vehicle before learning to drive that class of vehicle.

 Provisional licence

After holding your learner licence for 1 year, you may sit a Q-Safe practical driving test. Depending on your age when you pass, you will get either a P1 (red Ps) or P2 (green Ps) provisional licence, which must be held for a minimum period before progressing.
Probationary licence
A probationary licence is for people disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence by a court who have served their disqualification period.

Restricted licence
People convicted of drink driving who need a licence for work may be eligible to request the court for a restricted licence (also known as a ‘work’ licence).

Open licence
If you have held your provisional or probationary licence for the required period you may graduate to the open licence.

Graduated licensing system
Statistically, drivers aged 17-24 have the highest risk of being involved in crashes that result in death or injury. The Queensland graduated licensing system aims to give inexperienced drivers more supervised driving experience to decrease this risk.

Learner drivers aged 23 and under must complete six steps before the open licence:

1. Written road rules test
2. Learner licence
3. Q-Safe practical driving test
4. P1 provisional licence
5. Hazard perception test
6. P2 provisional licence

Open licence
If all steps are completed on time (starting with the written road rules test when you become eligible at 16) you may get your open licence when you are 20.

For a learner licence
A car learner licence can be obtained when you are over 16 and pass a written road rules test. Learner licences are issued for 3 years and you must hold your learner licence for 1 year (of the previous 3 years) to be eligible to take the Q-Safe practical driving test and progress to a provisional licence.

While learning to drive, at all times:
- Your learner licence (or Driver Licence Receipt) must be with you.
- L plates must be clearly displayed at the front and back of the vehicle.
- You must be accompanied by a supervisor who has held an open licence for that class of vehicle for at least 1 year. Supervising drivers must not be on a provisional, probationary, restricted, suspended, cancelled or expired licence.

To progress to your P1 or P2 licence:
- If you are under 25, you must complete and record 100 hours of supervised on-road driving (including at least 10 hours of night driving) in your logbook.
- You must pass the Q-Safe practical driving test.
Learner licence restrictions include:

- A zero (0.00) blood alcohol concentration (BAC)
- A car supervising driver must have a BAC below 0.05
- A heavy vehicle supervising driver must have a 0.00 BAC
- Learners under 25, their supervisor and passengers have additional restrictions on mobile phone use
- If you accrue 4 or more demerit points over a continuous 1 year period your learner licence will be suspended for 3 months

For a P1 provisional licence

A P1 provisional car licence can be obtained when you are over 17 and under 25, have held your learner licence for 1 year (of the previous 3 years) and pass the Q-Safe practical driving test. You must hold your P1 licence for 1 year to be eligible to take the Hazard Perception Test and progress to a P2 provisional or open licence.

While on your P1 licence, at all times:

- Your P1 licence (or Driver Licence Receipt before it arrives) must be with you.
- Red P plates must be clearly displayed at the front and back of your car.

P1 licence restrictions include:

- A zero (0.00) BAC
- If you accrue 4 or more demerit points over a continuous 1 year period you will have to choose a 3-month suspension or 1-year good driving behaviour period.
- If your licence is suspended/cancelled or you are serving a good driving behaviour period, late night driving restrictions that prohibit you from driving between 11pm and 5am may apply.

Additional P1 licence restrictions for drivers under 25:

- Mobile phone restrictions apply to you and your passengers.
- Restrictions apply to driving high-powered vehicles (e.g. vehicles with 8 or more cylinders, and turbo, super-charged or modified engines).
- Peer passenger restrictions apply.

For a P2 provisional licence

A P2 provisional car licence can be obtained when you are 18 or over.

- If you are under 25, you must have held your P1 licence for at least 1 year and have passed the Hazard Perception Test.
- If you are 25 or over, you must have held your learner licence for at least 1 year and passed your Q-Safe 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 2 years. In any other case you are required to hold your P2 licence for at least 1 year.

While on your P2 licence, at all times:

- Your P2 licence (or Driver Licence Receipt before it arrives) must be with you.
- Green P plates must be clearly displayed at the front and back of your car.
P2 licence restrictions include:
- A zero (0.00) BAC.
- If you accrue 4 or more demerit points over a continuous 1 year period you will have to choose a 3-month suspension or 1-year good driving behaviour period.
- If your licence is suspended/cancelled or you are serving a good driving behaviour period late night driving restrictions that prohibit you from driving between 11pm and 5am may apply.

Additional P2 licence restrictions for drivers under 25:
- Restrictions apply to driving high-powered vehicles (e.g. vehicles with 8 or more cylinders, and turbo, super-charged or modified engines).

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 2 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 1 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 1 year to progress to an open licence.
- If you were 25 or over when you passed your practical test, you would’ve been issued with a P2 licence which you must hold for at least 1 year. To progress to an open licence you are not required to undertake the Hazard Perception Test.

If you accrue 12 or more demerit points in a continuous 3 year period you will have to choose between a licence suspension or a 1 year good driving behaviour period.

Learner licence for motorcycle
Only drivers who have held their class C provisional, probationary or open licence for at least 1 year can apply for a class RE learner licence. On your motorcycle learner
- An L plate must be displayed at the back of your motorcycle or on the back of a vest worn while riding.
- You may only learn on a learner approved motorcycle.
- You must always ride with a zero (0.00) BAC.
- Restrictions apply to pillon passengers.

Minimum period for licence types
If you are required to hold your licence for a stated minimum period, any period during which your licence is expired, suspended (including State Penalties Enforcement Registry suspensions) or you are disqualified from holding a licence by a court will not count towards the stated period.

Returning drivers
If you previously held a class of licence that has not been valid for more than 5 years (e.g. expired, surrendered or cancelled), you may apply for that that class or a lower class of licence without the requirement to hold any other licence.
Licence classes, codes and conditions

Licence class determines the vehicles you can drive. Licences show only the highest class of authorised vehicle and the code for any required conditions. Motorcycle classes RE or R and class UD appear separately on licences.

Authority to learn

If you hold a provisional, probationary or open licence, you are authorised to learn in vehicles of that class with either an automatic or manual transmission or with a synchromesh gearbox and higher classes of vehicle (see table). When learning another class of vehicle, you must be accompanied by a person who has held an open licence for that class of vehicle for at least 1 year. Fines apply for driving unaccompanied or with a person not appropriately licensed. L plates must be displayed.

Driver licence classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licence class</th>
<th>Class of vehicle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RE (motorcycle)</td>
<td>You may ride a learner approved motorcycle:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- that is a moped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- other than a moped, with/without a trailer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R (motorcycle)</td>
<td>You may ride a motorcycle:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- of class RE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- with unlimited engine size, with/without a trailer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C (car)</td>
<td>You may drive a:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- moped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- car, with/without a trailer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- vehicle no more than 4.5t gross vehicle mass (GVM), built or fitted to carry no more than 12 adults (including driver)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- specially constructed vehicle with/without a trailer (not including mobile cranes of more than 4.5t GVM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>You may learn to drive a class LR, MR, or HR vehicle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR (light rigid)</td>
<td>You may drive a:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- class C vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- bus of no more than 8t GVM, with/without a trailer of no more than 9t GVM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- truck (including a prime mover) of no more than 8t GVM, with/without a trailer of no more than 9t GVM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>You may learn to drive a class MR, or HR vehicle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MR (medium rigid)</td>
<td>You may drive a:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- class LR vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- bus of more than 8t GVM, with no more than 2 axles, with/without a trailer of no more than 9t GVM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- truck (including a prime mover) of more than 8t GVM, with</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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### HR (heavy rigid)
You may drive a:
- class MR vehicle
- bus of more than 8t GVM, with more than 2 axles, with/without a trailer of no more than 9t GVM
- articulated bus
- truck (including a prime mover) of more than 8t GVM, with more than 2 axles, with/without a trailer of no more than 9t GVM

You may learn to drive a class HR, or HC vehicle.

### HC (heavy combination)
You may drive a:
- class HR vehicle
- truck (including a prime mover) of more than 8t GVM, with a trailer of more than 9t GVM

You may learn to drive a class HC, or MC vehicle.

### MC (multi-combination)
You may drive a:
- class HC vehicle
- B-double
- road train

### UD
You may drive a specially constructed vehicle, with or without a trailer. **Note:** From 1 January 2014 no new class UD licences will be issued. Mobile cranes of more than 4.5t GVM can be driven on a class UD until 1 January 2016.

### Licence codes and conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Licence condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>You may only drive the class of vehicle with automatic transmission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>You may only drive the class of vehicle with synchromesh gearbox.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>You may only drive a nominated vehicle fitted with a prescribed interlock, or while carrying an interlock exemption certificate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>You may only drive while carrying and obeying conditions listed on a current medical certificate form F3712.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RD</td>
<td>You may learn to drive the classes of vehicle stated on your returning driver certificate (which must be carried at all times while learning).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>You may only drive while wearing corrective lenses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>You may only drive while carrying a notice given by the chief executive that states the ways your vehicle is fitted, equipped or adapted with driver aids.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You may only drive while carrying and obeying an order under section 87 or 88 of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995.

You may only drive while carrying and obeying a special hardship order and any special hardship order variation order.

You may only drive while carrying and obeying a section 79E order and any section 79E variation order.

Upgrading your licence

To upgrade your licence to another class, you must:

- complete a Driver Licence Application/Renewal (form F3000) and 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)
- pass a written road rules test (if required). To pass the heavy vehicle test, you must answer 8 of 10 questions correctly. For the motorcycle test, you must answer 27 of 30 questions correctly
- pay the Q-Safe driving test fee and pass the test (if required).

Minimum periods for licence classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licence class</th>
<th>Minimum period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R (motorcycle)</td>
<td>You must have held a class RE provisional, probationary or open licence for at least 1 year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RE (motorcycle)</td>
<td>You must have held a class C provisional, probationary or open licence for at least 1 year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR (light rigid)</td>
<td>You must have held a class C provisional, probationary or open licence for at least 1 year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MR (medium rigid)</td>
<td>You must have held a provision, probationary or open:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR (heavy rigid)</td>
<td>- class C licence for at least 2 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- class LR or MR licence for at least 1 year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HC (heavy or open combination)</td>
<td>You must have held a class MR or HR provisional, probationary or open licence for at least 1 year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC (multi-combination)</td>
<td>You must have held a class HR or HC provisional, probationary or open licence for at least 1 year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applying for a licence

To apply for a licence you must:

- visit a Department of Transport and Main Roads service centre, Queensland Government licence issuing office or, for rural areas, Queensland police station
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- complete a Driver Licence Application/Renewal (form F3000)
- provide evidence of identity and Queensland residency
- declare you are medically fit to drive or provide a medical certificate if you have a medical condition that may affect your ability to drive
- pay the licence fee

You may be required to have your photo and signature taken digitally.

Learner licence

To apply, you will need to pay for and pass the road rules test (if required).

Provisional licence

To apply, you will need to have recorded 100 hours of supervised driving in a logbook and submit the logbook for assessment prior to your driving test (if required).

To move from a P1 to a P2 or open licence you will need to pay for and pass the Hazard Perception Test (if required).

Evidence of identity

When applying for, renewing or seeking a replacement for a lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged licence, if you are unable to present a Queensland licence that is current or expired less than 2 years ago, you will need to comply with the identity requirements.

These requirements may be met if you can present your Queensland industry authority, marine licence indicator or adult proof of age card (conditions apply).

If you want your changed name shown on your licence, you must show an official change of name document.

Evidence of identity documents

You will need to show 3 evidence of identity documents. They can include either 1 category A and 2 category B documents or 2 category A and 1 category B documents.

Documents must be originals and current unless stated. At least one must include your signature. The Department of Transport and Main Roads may keep a copy of or information about your documents to verify them. Any documents in a foreign language must be accompanied by a recognised English translation. If you cannot produce identity documents, you should consult Department of Transport and Main Roads staff.

Category A documents

These establish the legal existence of your name and date of birth (not a full list):

- 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 originals are not acceptable)
- Australian or foreign passport (current or expired less than 2 years)
- Australian citizenship certificate or naturalisation certificate
- Department of Immigration and Border Protection travel document (valid up to 5 years after issue)
- Australian photo driver licence (current or expired less than 2 years)
- Department of Immigration and Border Protection Certificate of Evidence of Resident Status
- Queensland or Australian federal police officer photo identity card
- Queensland Card 18+ (issued after 1 January 1992)
- Queensland Accreditation (laminate) - for example driver or rider trainer, pilot or escort vehicle driver, dangerous goods driver, tow truck driver and assistant certificate (current or expired less than 2 years)
- Queensland Driver Authorisation (laminate) - for example bus, taxi or limousine driver (current or expired less than 2 years)

**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 or health care card
- Australian security guard or crowd controller licence (with photo)
- Australian firearm licence (with photo)

**Change of name documents**

If you have changed your name, or your name is 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 1 category A document or 2 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 (valid up to 2 years)
- electricity, gas or telephone account

If providing documentation from the Australian Taxation Office, black out all personal information other than your name and residential address (e.g. tax file number).

Eyesight

If you need to wear glasses or contact lenses when driving, your licence will show an ‘S’ code. If you have sight problems, you may be required to obtain a medical certificate to certify that your sight meets the standard for the class of licence you want. If you only have vision in one eye, you will be required to obtain a medical certificate confirming the extent of the loss of visual acuity and fields (whether you are a private or commercial driver). If you do not meet the standards, you will not be granted a licence.

Medical conditions and driving

You must tell the Department of Transport and Main Roads about any long term or permanent medical condition that may affect your ability to drive safely. If you already hold a licence you can complete a Medical Condition Notification (form F4355). Fines in excess of $6,600 and temporary disqualification applies for failing to notify the Department of Transport and Main Roads about a relevant medical condition.

If you have a relevant medical condition you must present a Medical Certificate for Motor Vehicle Driver (form F3712) completed by your doctor. To apply for or to continue to hold a licence your doctor must recommend that you are either:

- fit to drive with no conditions, or
- fit to drive with stated conditions (e.g. daylight driving or automatic transmission)

Common medical conditions that may affect your ability to drive safely include:

- alcohol and/or drug dependency
- Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias
- arthritis and other joint diabetes (early and late onset)
- eye problems (e.g. cataracts)
- diabetes
- epilepsy
- hearing problems
- heart disease
- injuries and disabilities
- loss or partial loss of a limb
- lung disease
- psychiatric conditions
- sleep disorders
- stroke
- stroke

If you have a medical condition the code ‘M’ will be recorded on your licence. When you drive you must carry a current medical certificate, obey stated conditions and show it to a police officer if asked. Fines in excess of $2,200 apply for breaking this law.

If you can only drive a specially modified vehicle, you may also be required to carry a current written notice authorising you to drive a vehicle with specialised equipment.

If you drive vehicles with a GVM of more than 8t, public passenger vehicles (e.g. buses or taxis) or vehicles carrying dangerous goods, you must meet the commercial vehicle driver medical standards.
If you are 75 or older

You will be required to present a current medical certificate recommending that you are fit to drive to the Department of Transport and Main Roads when you apply for or renew a licence. You must always carry your medical certificate and obey any stated conditions. Normal requirements about the notification of medical conditions still apply.

From 1 January 2014, medical certificates issued to drivers 75 or older will be valid for a maximum of 12 months.

Road rules test

When you apply for your learner licence you must take the written road rules test at a driver licence-issuing centre. If you apply for an additional licence class, you may need to pass a specific test for that class. Allow at least 30 minutes to complete your test.

If you fail, you must wait until the next working day to make another attempt. You must pay the test fee for each attempt.

You can take the motorcycle road rules test online (a fee is only charged if you pass).

Class C general road rules test

There are 30 multiple-choice questions in the general road rules test. The first section is 10 questions on the give way rules (requires 9 correct answers). The second section is 20 questions on the other road rules (requires 18 correct answers).

Class RE or R (motorcycle) road rules test

You will have to correctly answer at least 27 of the 30 additional multiple-choice questions specific to motorcycles to pass.

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

You will have to correctly answer at least 8 of the 10 additional multiple-choice questions specific to heavy vehicles to pass.

Practice test questions

There are practice road rules tests for all licence classes online. These will give you an idea of the areas you need to focus on before you try to pass the road rules test.

Learning to drive

Learner licence conditions

Rules for all class C learner licence holders regardless of age

- Display L plates on the front and back of your vehicle
- Keep your licence (or Driver Licence Receipt) with you at all times while driving
- Drive with a zero (0.00) BAC
- Be supervised by a person who has held an open licence for that class of vehicle for at least 1 year (not a provisional, probationary, restricted, suspended, cancelled or expired licence). If supervising in a car, they must have a BAC below 0.05. If supervising in a heavy vehicle, they must have a 0.00 BAC.
- You must hold a learner licence for at least 1 year to be eligible to take a Q-Safe practical driving test. If under 25, passing will qualify you for your P1 licence. If 25 or over, passing will qualify you for your P2 licence.
- Using a mobile phone is prohibited while driving, including hands-free, loudspeaker and Bluetooth functions. Your driving supervisor and passengers are also restricted from using mobile phones on loudspeaker function.

**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.

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

- Learners 25 years of age and over are not required to log 100 hours of driving before taking a Q-Safe practical driving test.
- All drivers are banned from using a mobile phone held in the hand while driving.

**L plates**

An L plate measures at least 146mm x 146mm and shows a black ‘L’ on a yellow background. When learning to drive, clearly display L plates at the front and back of the vehicle. When learning to ride a motorcycle, clearly display an L plate at the back of the motorcycle or on the back of a vest worn while riding.

You risk a fine if the letter ‘L’ cannot be clearly seen from 20m away.

You can buy L plates or download and print a colour template.

A person driving or riding who is not a learner must not display L plates.

**The compulsory Queensland learner logbook**

All learner drivers under 25 must gain 100 hours of supervised driving experience (including at least 10 hours night driving) and record them in a Queensland learner logbook. Learner drivers 25 or older do not require the hours but it is recommended they gain a similar amount of experience.

You will receive a logbook with your learner licence. The logbook has information about learning to drive, supervisors and your Q-Safe driving test. You can also record your hours using RACQ’s online logbook at www.learn2go.com.au.

If you need to replace your logbook you will need to:

- obtain another logbook (fee will apply)
- re-enter the previously completed driving experience
- get your supervisor to re-sign your prior driving entries
All driving experience should be recorded as an entry in your logbook, with each entry requiring a supervisor’s signature. When completed, you will need to sign a declaration that the logbook entries are true and correct. Penalties apply to you and your supervisor for falsified logbook information.

You cannot take your Q-Safe practical driving test until your completed logbook has been assessed and passed. This means the information in your logbook is valuable, so you should keep a copy of the pages you’ve completed or keep an online logbook.

Supervising drivers can be a family member, a friend or an accredited driver trainer (professional driving instructor). Driving experience (day or night) with a professional driving instructor is tripled up to a maximum of 10 hours. So if you complete 10 hours with an instructor, 30 hours can be recorded in your logbook.

To reach the 100-hour requirement, you can use a combination of experience recorded in your logbook and experience on a Prior Driving Experience Declaration (form F4450) which must be signed by your supervising driver(s). If you have driving experience in Australia or New Zealand on an Australian or New Zealand learner licence, record that experience on a Prior Driving Experience Declaration (Form F4450). If you have driving experience in a recognised country on a foreign learner licence, record that experience on a Prior Driving Experience Declaration (form F4450) (no more than 50 hours).

At least 50 hours (including the required 10 hours of night driving) must have been gained on Australian roads and recorded in your logbook.

If you have driving experience in Australia or New Zealand on an Australian or New Zealand learner licence, record that experience on a Prior Driving Experience Declaration (Form F4450). If you have driving experience in a recognised country on a foreign learner licence, record that experience on a Prior Driving Experience Declaration (form F4450) (no more than 50 hours).

If you are unable to gain 100 hours of supervised experience, you may be eligible for an exemption. If granted, your learner licence must be held for 2 years before sitting your Q-Safe practical driving test.

Mobile phones

Learner licence and P1 licence holders under 25 are banned from using mobile phones at any time while driving (including hands-free, Bluetooth, and loudspeaker functions).

Your supervisor and passengers are banned from using phones on loudspeaker. A learner licence holder under 25 may use a mobile phone only when parked.

Ready to drive – for the learner

While you’re learning with supervision your crash risk is reduced. When you graduate to a provisional licence, your chances of accident involvement increase dramatically. Use your time as a learner to gain as much experience as possible and become a safe and smart driver who doesn’t take unnecessary risk during an already risky activity.

Q-Safe practical driving test

Booking your Q-Safe practical driving test

You can book a Q-Safe practical driving test and pay the fee online. If under 25, you must submit your completed logbook via Australia Post at least 12 business days
before your test. The Department of Transport and Main Roads will check your logbook and notify you of your result - it must be approved before your test.

**Test vehicles**

The standard test vehicle for a class C licence is a registered vehicle (not a motorcycle) less than 4.5t GVM, that carries no more than 12 adults including the driver and can pass a safety check conducted by the test examiner.

To pass the safety check, the vehicle must have:
- indicators, horn and stop lights that work
- brakes and tyres in good condition
- adjustable mirrors and sun visors
- clean windows able to be opened and shut
- windscreen and wipers in good condition
- seatbelts and head restraints fitted to both front seats
- doors that can be opened from inside and outside with suitable handles
- closed-in roof (convertibles)

The testing vehicle must be a manual if you are going for a manual licence.

If you are under 25 and do your test in a high-powered vehicle, you will need an open licence holder to drive the vehicle from the testing centre.

**Before the Q-Safe practical driving test**

Bring your:
- current licence
- Driving Test Appointment Sheet (form F3910)
- Completed Driver Licence Application/Renewal (form F3000), ensuring the ‘Registered operator’s authorisation for test vehicle’ section is signed by the registered operator, allowing the examiner to drive if necessary
- compliant test vehicle with L plates
- glasses or contact lenses (if needed)
- P plates for when you pass your practical test and get your provisional licence – red if you are under 25 or green if you are 25 or older

You should arrive at least 10 minutes before your test with all forms complete. A customer service officer must witness your signature on the form. If you’re not ready at the scheduled time, your test may be cancelled and fee forfeited - you must book and pay again. Give at least 2 working days notice if changing or cancelling a test.

Your practical driving test may be cancelled (and fee not refunded) for these reasons:
- your vehicle is modified (unless the modifications are already approved)
- your number plate is obscured (such as by a tow bar)
- your number plate cannot be read from 20m
- your vehicle does not meet the test vehicles standards or pass the safety check
- L plates are not displayed on the vehicle
- the registered operator of the vehicle has not signed the Examiner’s authority to drive test vehicle section on the Driver Licence Application/Renewal or Driving Test Appointment Sheet
Your keys to driving in Queensland

Summary

Your practical driving test fee will not be refunded if:
- you fail your practical driving test
- you don’t give 2 working days notice before changing or cancelling your test
- you cannot take your practical driving test at the scheduled time

During your Q-Safe practical driving test

Practical driving tests for class C licences go for no more than 35 minutes. However, allow an hour for all the required administrative activities.

When you arrive you will be informed about how the test will be conducted. Turn off your phone as soon as you arrive and leave it off for the whole 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?

The examiner will complete a basic safety check of your vehicle then a pre-drive check, which assesses your knowledge of the vehicle’s controls.

Additional information

- You must follow the road rules
- Illegal or unsafe tasks will not be asked of you
- You must still shoulder/head check even if you have blind spot mirrors
- The examiner cannot answer questions that may influence your driving
- The driving examiner may make notes about each task. They are assessing you so don’t assume you have made a mistake.

Q-Safe practical driving test

Pre-drive check

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

Driving tasks

The driving examiner will check you perform the following correctly:
- stopping – use of the vehicle’s parking or foot brake when stopped.
- giving way – slow down or stop and give way to road users so they do not have to take action to avoid your vehicle.
- obeying all traffic signs, signals and road markings.
- moving off, changing direction or lane changing – follow this sequence:
  1. look in mirrors
  2. indicate your intention
  3. head check the vehicle’s blind
  4. check traffic, your road position and speed
  5. when beginning to move, check for changed traffic conditions
- ensuring a smooth take-up of power and gear changing; no clutch coasting.
- using gears appropriate for speed, vehicle and conditions.
- avoiding harsh or abrupt movement by slowing smoothly. Use parking brake when stationary.
- speed – do not speed and drive at a speed that suits conditions.
- observation and scanning – look left, right, ahead and behind when approaching a hazard. Use a driving ‘system’ to handle hazards.
- mirrors – check all mirrors frequently.
- following vehicles – in good conditions, travel at least 2 seconds behind the vehicle in front. Double this gap in poor conditions.
- marked lanes – keep within lane markings. Change lanes only after signalling and if safe.
- road position – keep as far left as safe and practical if no marked lanes.
- signalling and indicators – give other road users sufficient warning.
- steering – always keep control of the steering wheel. Never:
  - put your hands inside the rim
  - remove your hands or let the wheel ‘go free’
  - hold the wheel with your arms crossed or so the wheel is restricted
  - operate the wheel with one hand unnecessarily
  - palm the wheel
  - operate the wheel while stationary (‘dry’ steering)
- manoeuvres (classes C or CA) – perform two of the listed manoeuvres (at least one with a reversing component):
  - reverse park the vehicle parallel to and within 45cm of the kerb. You have 1 attempt with a maximum of 2 reverse and 1 forward movements
  - reverse – steer a steady course (in an approximately straight line), starting and finishing within 50cm of the kerb. Observation should be predominantly looking through the rear window (not using a mirror)
  - turn around – within the width of a street, turn the car around with a minimum number of forward and reverse movements.
  - U-turn – give way to all other road users and have a clear view of all traffic
  - hill start – position the car parallel to and within 50cm of the kerb and move off without rolling back
  - gear-changing in automatic vehicles – you may be asked to select a lower gear and re-select ‘drive’
After the Q-Safe practical driving test

After all tasks are complete you will be directed to the testing office. You will be informed if you have passed or failed. Feedback on errors and a copy of your Driving Assessment Report is provided. 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. Not displaying the correct new plates risks a fine. If you are upgrading your licence, it will be re-issued with the new licence class stated on it.

If you failed, don’t panic

Make sure you know what you did wrong and how to improve. Practice and try again. The test can be taken as many times as necessary, but you must pay each time. You can’t re-take the test until your cooling off period is over. The cooling off periods are:

- **First fail** - you may re-sit the test on the next day.
- **Second fail** - you may re-sit the test after 8 days.
- **Third and subsequent fail** - you may re-sit the test after 29 days.

Provisional licences

After passing the practical driving test, 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
- must not use your mobile when driving, including hands-free and Bluetooth. You and your passengers are also banned from using the loudspeaker function
- are not allowed to have more than 1 passenger aged under 21 in the car with you between 11pm and 5am, unless they’re members of your immediate family
- are not allowed to drive high-powered vehicles
- must drive with a zero BAC
- must carry your licence (or Driver Licence Receipt) when driving

If you turn 25 when on your P1 licence the peer passenger, high-powered vehicle and additional mobile phone restrictions no longer apply. You must continue to display red P Plates, drive with a zero BAC and 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 1 year (excluding suspensions or cancellations)
- obtain green P plates
- pay for and pass the Hazard Perception Test

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

To graduate to a P2 or open licence, P1 licence holders must pass an additional Hazard Perception Test that complements the road rules and practical driving tests.

The Hazard Perception Test is an online computer-based test that measures a driver’s ability to recognise and appropriately respond to hazards. These hazards include situations where your vehicle is on course to hit another road user and you need to slow down or change course to prevent a crash (termed ‘traffic conflict’).

The test is only available online at www.qld.gov.au (not at licence issuing centres).

Once you have passed the hazard perception test, you will not be required to sit this test again. Simply pay the required fee and you will be eligible to upgrade once you have held your P1 licence for 12 months.

P2 provisional licence requirements

If you hold a P2 provisional licence you must:

- display green P plates at the front and back of your vehicle when driving
- drive with a zero BAC
- carry your licence (or Driver Licence Receipt) when driving
- not drive high-powered vehicles (if under 25)

Provisional licence issued before 1 July 2007

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

- drive with a zero BAC
- always carry your licence when you are driving

P plates

P plates remind inexperienced drivers they are still developing during their first year (during which they are at the greatest risk of crashing). They also help other road users identify inexperienced drivers so they can exercise caution.

A P plate measures at least 146mm x 146mm and features an upper-case red or green ‘P’ on a white background. You can buy P plates from service stations, major retailers and automotive outlets. You can also download and print plates from www.qld.gov.au. If you are a P1 or P2 licence holder, you must not use a vehicle unless a P plate can clearly be seen from the front and back of the car or the back of the motorcycle.

High-powered vehicles

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

- hold a P1 or P2 provisional licence and are under 25
- are returning from a disqualification and were under 25 at the time of the offence – you will get a P1 or P2 probationary licence
Vehicles manufactured after 1 January 2010

For vehicles manufactured on or after 1 January 2010 a 'high-powered' vehicle is any car with a power to weight ratio of more than 130 kilowatts per tonne.

The power to weight ratio of a vehicle is calculated by dividing the vehicle's maximum engine power (kW) by the tare weight (kg) and multiplying by 1000. For example, the power-to-weight ratio of a vehicle with maximum engine power of 195kW and tare weight of 1667kg would be: \((195 \div 1667) \times 1000 = 117\text{kW/tonne}\).

Vehicles manufactured before 1 January 2010

For vehicles manufactured before 1 January 2010 a 'high-powered' vehicle is 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 Regulation 2010, section 13.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads website provides an online service so that you can check whether or not a vehicle is a high-powered vehicle. You may request an exemption that is considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with strict guidelines. A fine and 3 demerit points apply for breaching this restriction.

Mobile phones

All drivers are banned from using a mobile phone held in the hand while driving. You will get a fine and 3 demerit points. If you’re a learner or P1 licence holder under 25 you are further banned from using hands-free, Bluetooth, and loudspeaker functions.

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

Peer passengers

The risk of a crash is higher when a young driver is carrying more than 1 passenger of a similar age. If under 25 you’re not allowed to have more than 1 passenger under 21 in the car with you between the hours of 11pm-5am, unless they’re members of your immediate family. A fine and 3 demerit points apply for breaching this restriction.

Demerit points

If you hold a provisional licence and accumulate 4 or more demerit points over a 1-year period, you must choose between a 3 month driving suspension or a 1-year good driving behaviour period. If you are under 25, further restrictions will be imposed during the good driving behaviour period or when you resume driving after the suspension.
If your licence is expired, suspended, or you are disqualified by a court from holding or obtaining a licence during the provisional licence period, this time doesn’t contribute to the minimum time you must hold that licence.

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 2 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 1 year to progress to an open licence.
- If you were 24 when you got your P1 licence you must hold your P2 licence for at least 1 year to progress to an open licence.
- If you were 25 or over when you passed your practical test, you would’ve been issued with a P2 licence which you must hold for at least 1 year. To graduate to an open licence you are not required to take the Hazard Perception Test.

Conditions for open licence holders

- Remove any P plates.
- It is recommended that you always carry your licence when driving. If driving a heavy vehicle, you must carry your licence (or Driver Licence Receipt).
- Drive with a BAC below 0.05 (0.00 for interlock and heavy vehicle drivers).

Demerit points

If you accumulate 12 or more demerit points over a 3-year period you must choose between a 3 month driving suspension or a 1-year good driving behaviour period.

Probationary and restricted licences

Probationary licences

If you have served a period of disqualification, a probationary licence will be issued.

If you held a P1 or P2 licence when disqualified, you will get a P1 or P2 probationary licence for at least 1 year and comply with the applicable conditions.

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

Conditions for probationary licence holders

You must:

- hold the probationary licence for at least 1 year
- carry your licence (or Driver Licence Receipt) when driving
- have a zero BAC when driving
- comply with a late night driving restriction prohibiting you from driving between 11pm and 5am (if you held a P1 or P2 licence and were under 25 at the time of committing the offence that resulted in your disqualification)

You may:
- drive any class of vehicle your licence allows
- learn to drive a higher class vehicle as long as you are with someone who holds and has held an open licence for that class for at least 1 year

High-powered vehicle restrictions apply to probationary licence holders who return from a disqualification to a P1 or P2 probationary licence, and were under 25 at the time of the offence. The restrictions apply for the full probationary period regardless of age.

Restricted licences
If convicted of drink or drug driving offences, you can ask the court for a restricted ‘work’ licence before your disqualification is imposed. To be eligible you must prove you will not pose a risk to other road users and need a licence to earn your living. You are not eligible to apply for a restricted licence if:
- you did not hold a Queensland open licence when you committed, and were convicted of, the offence
- you were driving a vehicle you were not authorised to drive under your open licence when you committed the offence
- when tested, your BAC was 0.15 or greater
- when you committed the offence you were using the vehicle in an activity directly connected with earning your living
- at the time of the offence you were driving a truck, tractor, specially constructed vehicle, bus, articulated vehicle, B-double, road train, taxi, limousine, tow truck, pilot or escort vehicle for an oversize vehicle, a vehicle carrying a load of dangerous goods or being used by a driver trainer to give driver training
- in the past 5 years, your licence has been suspended or cancelled, or you have been disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence
- you have been convicted of drink, drug or dangerous driving in the past 5 years

Conditions for restricted licence holders
You must:
- carry your licence (or Driver Licence Receipt) and court order when driving.
- comply with the court order conditions.
- have a zero BAC when driving.

Motorcycles

Class RE
To be eligible for a class RE motorcycle learner licence, you must have held a provisional, probationary or open licence for another class of vehicle for at least 1 of the past 5 years.
All levels of Class RE licence holders are only able to ride a learner approved motorcycle - a production motorcycle fitted with an electric motor, or an internal combustion engine with a capacity of no more than 660 mL, and:

- has a power to weight ratio of no more than 150kW/tonne
- has not been modified other than allowable
- is stated to be a learner approved motorcycle in a list published on the Department of Transport and Main Roads website

To help identify motorcycles allowed under a class RE licence, an indicator is included on the vehicle registration notice and registration certificate.

**Q-Ride**

To get a class RE provisional or open licence you must pass a Q-Ride course (a competency-based training course provided by registered service providers). You can enrol as soon as you are issued a learner licence. Q-Ride is mandatory if you live within a 100km radius of a Q-Ride registered service provider. During the Q-Ride course you must demonstrate your competency in riding a learner-approved motorcycle.

**Q-Safe**

If you live outside a 100km radius of a Q-Ride provider, you have the option of completing a Q-Safe practical riding test. If you are eligible to undertake a Q-Safe test, you need to have held your class RE learner licence for a minimum period of 6 months. Once you have undertaken and passed a Q-Ride course or a Q-Safe test, you may apply for a class RE provisional, probationary or open type licence.

**Class R**

You must have held your class RE provisional, probationary or open licence for at least 1 year before learning to ride a class R motorcycle. If you live within a 100km radius of a Q-Ride provider, you must complete a Q-Ride course. Otherwise, you must complete a Q-Safe practical riding test. A class R licence allows you to ride a motorcycle of any engine capacity including a learner approved motorcycle and a moped.

**Pillion passenger restriction for learner riders**

Class RE and R learner licence holders cannot carry pillion passengers (including supervisors) when learning. A supervisor may be seated in a sidecar. If not, the supervisor may follow at a safe distance on another motorcycle or in another vehicle.

**P plates on motorcycles**

If you hold a P1 or P2 licence, you will need to clearly display a red or green P plate on the back of your vehicle when riding. If you hold an open licence when you get your class RE or R licence, you will not need to display a P plate when riding.

**Conditions for learning to ride a class RE motorcycle**

You must:

- obey the conditions that apply to your licence
- always carry your licence (or Driver Licence Receipt) when learning to ride
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- be supervised by a person who holds and has held an open class RE or class R licence for at least 1 year (supervisor’s licence must be the same as the class of motorcycle you are learning to ride)
- only learn to ride a learner approved motorcycle (on class RE learner licence)
- always display an L plate on the back of the motorcycle or on the back of a vest
- have a zero BAC on your class RE learner licence
- not carry a pillion passenger while learning to ride

Your first motorcycle licence (class RE) allows you to ride a learner-approved motorcycle.

If you hold a P1 or P2 car licence, you must display the appropriate P plate on the back of your motorcycle. During the first year of holding your class RE licence, you must:

- have a zero (0.00) BAC (even if you hold an open licence)
- not carry a pillion passenger

**Upgrading to a Class R motorcycle licence**

- You are able to learn to ride a class R motorcycle after you have held your class RE licence for at least 1 year.
- Display an L plate on the back of the motorcycle or on the back of a vest worn by you while learning.
- Do not carry a pillion passenger, including a supervisor.
- You must be accompanied by a supervisor with an appropriate licence, in a sidecar, on another motorcycle or vehicle, while learning to ride on the road.
- Always ride with a zero BAC while learning.
- Always carry your licence (or Driver Licence Receipt) when learning.

The learner approved motorcycle scheme restrictions don’t apply to a class R licence.

**Special rules about mopeds**

If you have a class C learner licence and you want to learn to ride a moped, you must:

- always carry your licence (or Driver Licence Receipt) when learning
- be accompanied by, or ride under the direction of, a person who holds and has held an class C, RE or R open licence for at least 1 year
- always wear a motorcycle helmet that meets the Australian Standard AS1698 or United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) 22.05 standard

Only hours driving a car may be recorded as supervised driving experience (moped hours don’t count towards the 100 hours). You cannot take a driving test on a moped (it doesn’t represent the class of vehicle applicable to the class C or RE licence).

You cannot carry a pillion passenger on a moped unless the seating capacity allows two people and you hold and have held a class RE or R licence for at least 1 year.

A moped rider with a class C, RE or R open licence may lane filter and ride on road shoulders or in emergency stopping lanes under certain conditions when safe.

If you hold a class C, RE or R provisional, probationary or open licence, you are authorised to ride a moped without supervision.
The Q-Ride method

Q-Ride is a competency-based training program that improves the quality of rider instruction by ensuring participants train until they are competent against set standards. Q-Ride providers are accredited by the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Eligibility

You can sign up for Q-Ride to get your class RE provisional or open licence when you get your class RE learner licence. 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 1 year.

Applying for Q-Ride training and assessment

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

1. Get started – you need to hold a class RE learner licence to learn to ride a class RE motorcycle. To learn to ride a class R motorcycle, you must have held a class RE provisional, probationary or open licence for at least 1 year.
2. Choose – a Q-Ride registered service provider.
3. Enrol – in Q-Ride training with this provider who will ask about your licence history to determine the motorcycle class you are eligible to learn to ride.
4. Learn – develop your motorcycle riding skills through training. Always carry your class RE licence. Only receive instruction from another rider who holds and has held for at least 1 year an open licence for the class of motorcycle you are riding.
5. Certificate – when assessed as attaining the required competencies by an accredited trainer, the Q-Ride registered service provider will issue you with a competency declaration (Q-Ride certificate).
6. Licence – take your Q-Ride certificate and licence into a Department of Transport and Main Roads centre to apply for your class RE or R licence.

Q-Safe practical driving test

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

Test vehicles

For a Q-Safe test you must ride a standard test vehicle for the class of licence. You cannot take a test on a moped, conditionally registered motorcycle, motorcycle with a sidecar attached or motortrike.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licence class</th>
<th>Vehicle requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RE (restricted motorcycle)</td>
<td>A learner approved motorcycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R (motorcycle)</td>
<td>A motorcycle not stated on the learner approved motorcycle list</td>
</tr>
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The vehicle must be registered and pass a basic safety check:

- signalling devices, horn and stop lights work
- brakes and tyres are in good condition
- mirrors are adjustable
If you hold a P1 (red) or P2 (green) licence, bring your P plate to attach to your motorcycle after you pass.

**Clothing requirements**

The following clothing is recommended for the motorcycle test:
- pants (heavy material) that cover the leg length
- long-sleeved shirt or jacket (heavy material)
- gloves providing appropriate protection
- fully enclosed shoes or boots
- eye protection

You must wear a motorcycle helmet that meets the Australian Standard AS1698 or United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) 22.05 standard.

**A message from your riding examiner**

The examiner will make the following statements before starting your 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 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 will I ask you to perform any illegal riding tasks.
- 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 pre-ride check will begin the test and 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 class RE and R practical riding tests will go for 35 minutes and include general riding exercises and low speed manoeuvres. The examiner will check you perform the following procedures correctly:
- changing road position – give other road users sufficient warning of your intention and always check mirrors and blind spot before changing your position
- posture when riding, keep your:
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- knees into the tank
- head up so you are looking well ahead through corners
- foot instep on the footrest
- feet out, slightly down and on the footrests except when stopping or moving off
- 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 in all conditions
- road position – keep clear of painted surfaces and metal inspection covers. Beware of oily or loose surfaces, especially near intersections. Positioning must be suitable for the conditions (including enhancing safety when there are no line markings). Keep within marked lanes.
- 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
  - U-turns – give way to all other road users and have a clear view of all approaching traffic
  - emergency stop – stop safely with full control from a speed of no more than 40km/h. Use all fingers on the front brake. Don’t lock the wheels. Changing back through gears is not required in this exercise
  - hill start – move off smoothly from a stationary position and travel up a moderate incline without rolling backwards.

Additional road rules for motorcycle riders

Motorcycle riders are subject to normal road rules and the following additional rules:

- Wear a securely fastened, approved motorcycle helmet other than when parked.
- Display the appropriate plate on the back of the motorcycle or a vest.
- You must be astride the rider’s seat.
- To carry a passenger you must have held your provisional, probationary or open motorcycle licence for that class of motorcycle for at least 1 year.
- You may ride side-by-side with another motorcycle rider in 1 marked lane when you are no more than 1.5m apart.
- You may enter a bicycle storage area as long as you give way to cyclists or other motorcycle riders.
- If you hold an open licence for riding a motorcycle, you may lane filter by moving between stationary or slow moving vehicles travelling in the same direction, provided you do not exceed 30km/h and it is safe. Lane filtering is prohibited in school zones during school zone hours.
- If you hold an open licence for riding a motorcycle, on major roads where the speed limit is 90km/h or higher you may ride at speeds not greater than 30km/h on a road shoulder or in an emergency stopping lane, as long as it is safe.

Rules for carrying passengers on any motorcycle

- No pillion passengers when learning a class RE or R motorcycle and during the first year of holding a RE or R licence.
- Each passenger must wear a securely fastened, approved helmet.
- Carry only the number of passengers a sidecar was designed for.
- A pillion passenger must be on the pillion seat facing forwards. They must be 8 or older and their feet must reach the passenger footrests while seated.
- A passenger must be on the pillion seat safely or in a sidecar.
- A passenger must not ride unless there is a suitable pillion seat and footrests.
- Passengers must not interfere with effective control of the motorcycle.

Parking
A parked motorcycle or moped should have at least one wheel as close as possible to the kerb. Park a motorcycle with a sidecar parallel to the kerb.

Preparing to get on the road
You and any passengers must wear a helmet that meets the Australian Standard AS1698 or the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) 22.05 standard when riding. It should fit properly and be in good condition.

For safety, it is recommended that riders and passengers wear eye protection, gloves, boots, and hardwearing, high-visibility clothing, covering legs and arms.

To increase visibility and safety you should ride with the headlight on at all times.

Before riding, check the following are working:

- headlight
- rear red reflector
- front and rear brakes
- rear and brake light that shows a red light
- footrests for you and for your pillion passenger (if registered to carry a pillion)
- chain guard (must be fitted if chain driven)
- chain (correctly adjusted and lightly lubricated)
- right and left rear-vision mirrors (optional if manufactured before June 1975)
- safe tyres (tread at least 1.5mm deep)
- indicators (if manufactured after 1962)

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

- you are delivering post
- the motorcycle engine is not more than 125mL
- your speed is no more than 10km/h
- you ride safely, taking care to avoid danger or a crash

Heavy vehicles
To obtain a Heavy Vehicle Licence you must pass a practical driving test.

Test vehicles
There are standard test vehicles for each class of licence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licence class</th>
<th>Vehicle requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LR (light rigid)</td>
<td>A bus or truck more than 4.5t GVM but no more than 8t GVM.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MR (medium rigid)  A bus or truck more than 8t GVM with no more than 2 axles.

HR (heavy rigid)  A bus or a truck more than 15t GVM with at least 3 axles.  
Note: The test cannot be taken in a bobtail prime mover.

HC (heavy combination)  A prime mover more than 15t GVM with at least 3 axles and semi-trailer with at least 2 axles.
A truck more than 15t GVM with at least 3 axles and trailer more than 9t GVM with at least 2 axles.

A vehicle of more than 12t GVM must be equipped with at least 3 portable warning triangles for the test.

Practical driving test times

The duration of driving tests for the heavy vehicle classes are:
LR = 25-35 minutes  
MR and HR = 60-70 minutes  
HC = 70-80 minutes

Q-Safe practical driving test

During a heavy vehicle practical driving test, you will also be assessed on these tasks.

Pre-drive check
You will be asked to locate and explain a range of controls including wipers, washers, demister, air conditioner, seat adjustment, hazard lights, mirrors, horn and headlights.

Practical driving test
The driving examiner will check you perform the following correctly:

- reversing exercise – reverse the vehicle around a corner in a left- or right-hand direction, starting and finishing parallel to and within 2m of the kerb. You will be allowed 2 attempts, each with 2 reverse movements and 1 forward movement allowed. 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 in your mirrors and can glance over your shoulder occasionally. If your test vehicle has a dog trailer, you may reverse with or without the trailer steerable axle locked.
- gear changing – change down 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 fitted)
- hill start – move off smoothly on a moderate incline without rolling backwards
- uncouple/recouple requirements – for the class HC, uncouple the trailer, drive forward approximately 10m and reverse back onto the trailer to recouple, following all safe practices in the correct sequence, within 12 minutes (extra time may be given for some configurations e.g. flying saucer type coupling)

Correct sequence and procedure – uncouple
1. Apply the park brake.
2. Alight from the cab, facing the vehicle.
3. Secure the wheel chocks (necessary if no 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 damage.
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. You can stop and check your position in relation to the trailer coupling. Activate valve to refill airbag suspension (where applicable).
3. After you have coupled, check all the mechanisms are locked by:
   - attempting to ease forward against the trailer brakes (tug test)
   - visually checking the coupling to ensure locking pin/jaws have engaged after applying the park brake.
4. Connect and check the condition of:
   - brake hoses
   - hydraulic lines
   - electric cables
   - ensure chains are crossed (if applicable)
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, 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 (ensures 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.

A practical driving test is not required 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 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 and provide evidence you have 50 hours of class MC driving experience within a 6 month period.

**Long vehicle**

You should know the length and height of your long vehicle and your obligations regarding turning, following distance and giving way.

**Synchromesh restriction code**

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

Renewing your licence
To apply for, or renew, your licence, visit a licence-issuing centre. If you hold a provisional, probationary or open licence, you may renew your licence online.

Renewal can take place up to 6 weeks before expiration without reducing the licence period (up to 5 years). You will need to pay a fee when renewing.

If expired, you may have to show extra identification when renewing. If renewing within 5 years of the expiry date, you will not be required to take another practical driving test. If found driving with an expired licence, you may be charged with unlicensed driving.

Travelling interstate or overseas
If driving interstate, you still need to comply with the conditions of your licence. You must also comply with the road rules in the other state or territory. Prior to travelling, check with the relevant transport authority for specific rules that may affect you.

If your licence expires while interstate or overseas, and you still need to drive before returning to Queensland, contact the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Changing your name or address
If you change your name or address, you must tell the Department of Transport and Main Roads within 14 days (can be done online).

Non-Queensland driver licences

Interstate licence
An interstate driver licence is one granted in another Australian state or territory.

Foreign licence
A foreign driver licence is one issued to you under a law of another country.

Driving in Queensland

When you may drive in Queensland
A valid interstate or foreign licence allows you to drive any class of vehicle that licence allows you to drive, as long as you comply with the licence conditions.

When you are driving, you must have the licence with you.

If your licence is not in English, you should carry a recognised English translation when driving (see www.naati.com.au for a list of recognised translators).

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

- your licence is not valid because it has expired or been suspended or cancelled
- an Australian court has disqualified you 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 limit
  - you have not paid fines
  - you have accumulated too many demerit points
- your authority to drive in Queensland has been withdrawn because:
  - you have a medical condition that affects your driving
  - the 3 months residency rule applies to you

When the 3 months residency rule applies

Under the 3 months residency rule, you must obtain a Queensland driver licence if:

- you are an Australian citizen who has been residing in Queensland for 3 months
- you are not an Australian citizen, and you have been residing in Queensland for 3 months since getting a permanent visa or special category visa under the Migration Act 1958 (Commonwealth)

Permanent visa and special category visa

A permanent visa and a special category visa allow you to stay in Australia indefinitely. Other visas (e.g. student) that allow you to stay for a limited time, until a certain event or while you have a special status, are not permanent or special category visas.

If you need to drive in Queensland

If your licence has expired or your authority to drive has been withdrawn because of the 3 months residency rule, you may be eligible to be granted a Queensland driver licence.

Obtaining a Queensland driver licence

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

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

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

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

- show your foreign licence and a recognised translation (if 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
- pay for and pass the road rules test
- pay for and pass the practical driving test
- have your photo and signature taken digitally

If you have difficulty in understanding or speaking English, an approved interpreter may assist you while you take your road rules test.
You must not continue to drive in Queensland on your interstate or foreign licence once a Queensland licence is granted.

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

If your authority to drive in Queensland has been withdrawn because you have a medical condition, you will not be eligible for a Queensland licence until your doctor gives you a medical certificate stating that you are medically fit to drive.

3. Road rules

Signs and signals

Signs

Paying attention to traffic signs helps you drive safely and efficiently. The 3 common types of traffic signs:
- regulatory signs
- warning signs
- guide and information signs

Regulatory signs

You must obey the instructions on these signs.

STOP - Stop and give way as required. If you turn at an intersection, give way to pedestrians crossing the road you are entering.

GIVE WAY - Slow down, stop if necessary, and give way as required. If you turn at an intersection, give way to pedestrians crossing the road you are entering.

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

No U-turn - Do not make a U-turn on this length of road.

Wrong way — go back - You are driving in the wrong direction on a one way road.

No turns - Do not turn right, left or make a U-turn – you must only drive in the direction indicated.
**No left turn** - Do not turn left.

**No right turn** - Do not turn right or make a U-turn (unless there is a ‘U-turn permitted’ sign).

**No entry** - Do not drive onto the road beyond this sign.

**Keep left** - You must drive to the left of this sign.

**Two way** - Vehicles travel in both directions on this road.

**One way** - You must drive only in the direction indicated.

**No overtaking or passing** - Overtaking or passing is not allowed from the NO OVERTAKING OR PASSING sign to:
- a distance as indicated (NEXT...)
- the end of the bridge
- the end of a narrow length of road
- an END NO OVERTAKING OR PASSING sign

**Trucks and buses use low gear** - Used on steep routes to limit truck and bus speeds without requiring the primary brake.

**Keep left unless overtaking** - 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.

**Do not drive faster than the speed shown. In poor conditions, it is safer to drive slower than the limit.**

**Indicates the speed limit in the area you are about to enter.**

**The previous speed limit has ended and the general default speed limit applies.**

**You are leaving the area speed limit and re-entering a general speed limit area.**

**Some speed limit signs show the times they apply (e.g. school zones). School zones may have flashing lights to draw attention. Other variable speed limit signs have a changeable display, for example in tunnels. These signs seem similar to normal speed signs except they have illuminated white numerals surrounded by red lights on a black background. These signs may also be combined with road control signs to direct traffic.**
Shared zone - An area where pedestrians have total priority over all traffic.

End shared zone - If there is no sign indicating a different speed limit, the default speed limit applies.

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
- Maximum safe speed in good conditions
- Beware of kangaroos
- One-lane bridge
- Arrows indicate direction of traffic
- Traffic travels in each direction
- Turn
- Reverse turns
- Curve
- Reverse curves
- Winding road
Your keys to driving in Queensland Summary

Sharp depression in road  Water flows across road  Raised area on road  Road hump  Advisory speed limit

Slippery road  School  Pedestrian crossing ahead  Pedestrian crossing  Children could be on the road

Trucks crossing or entering  Children getting on and off buses  School bus turning  People on bicycles may be using the road  Pedestrians may be using the road

Added lane  Low clearance ahead  Low-flying aircraft ahead  Hazard ahead. Be prepared to act

Hazard markers

You must obey these signs that show the direction to take when driving past hazards.

**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 (normally in pairs) show the width of a bridge, stock grid crossing or narrow section of road.

- Drive to the right of the sign.
- Drive to the left of the sign.

Guide and information signs

Provide information about safe road use, routes, directions, destinations and points of interest.

- **Form one lane** - Form a single lane with other drivers.
- **Turn left at any time with care** - This sign indicates the presence of a slip lane (a lane for left turning traffic separated from the rest of the road by an island).
- **Slow vehicles use left lane** - Used at the beginning of a long or steep climb where a slow-moving vehicle may delay other vehicles.
- **No through road** - The road indicated is a dead end.
- **Reduce speed now** - Slow down from the motorway speed limit to the much slower speed limit on the next section of road.
- **Services** - The services shown (first aid, tourist information, caravan parks or meals) are available on the road ahead or on a side road.
- **Local traffic only** - The road past the sign is not intended for through traffic. May appear at the entrance to a local area or at detours where local traffic is allowed to enter the work area.
- **Tourist drive information** - Indicates a scenic drive that connects a number of tourist attractions.
Traffic lights

Traffic lights control traffic and pedestrians to improve safety and access to roads. Be prepared to react to a light as it is an offence to disobey a red or yellow traffic light.

Stop

Do not drive past the STOP line or traffic light at a red or yellow traffic light/arrow. The yellow light is the start of the red light, not the end of the green. You must STOP on a yellow light, unless it is unsafe (in which case you may proceed).

Drive with caution

A flashing yellow light/arrow means proceed with caution (give way) to avoid a collision.

Drive past the light

Drive through green traffic lights/arrows when clear.

Traffic lights showing a white B light

A bus, taxi, limousine, emergency vehicle or a bicycle, may drive through white B lights.

Turning right at traffic lights

If the light is green and oncoming vehicles are approaching, you should move into the intersection if safe. When a safe gap occurs, complete the turn. If no gap appears until the lights turn yellow or red, complete the turn on the yellow or red light.

Obeying lawful directions

Police officers and Department of Transport and Main Roads inspectors

These people may direct traffic with hand signals (overruling signs and traffic lights).

Stop where indicated and wait  Go as directed  Stop

Traffic controllers

Traffic controllers direct traffic at worksites. Obey lawful directions or signals.

Stop  Go slow  Go slow

Speed limits

Speed limit sign

A speed limit sign has a number in a circle showing the maximum speed in km/h for good conditions (do not exceed to overtake). A lower speed suits poor conditions.
Electronic variable speed limit signs respond in real time to the conditions (e.g. reduced speed for congestion or adverse weather). To indicate a change, the lights surrounding the limit flash. These signs help keep traffic flowing and minimise stop-start driving.

**Learner and provisional licence holders**

There are no reduced speed limits in Queensland for learner or provisional drivers, just drive according to the speed limit and conditions.

**In a built-up area**

You should drive at the default speed limit for built-up areas (50km/h), unless you pass a speed limit sign that shows a different limit. A built-up area includes residential, commercial and industrial areas where there are buildings on land next to the road, or street lighting, at intervals of not more than 100m for a distance of 500m. It includes the whole road (if less than 500m long).

**Outside a built-up area**

The default speed limit on a road outside a built-up area is 100km/h unless otherwise signed. Only drive at 110km/h if there is a speed limit sign. Vehicles over 12t GVM or buses over 5t GVM are restricted to 100km/h, regardless of any higher speed limit.

**Specific speed zones**

A speed zone is a road that has a specific speed limit. A speed zone is defined by a speed limit sign at the start and another showing a different speed limit at the end. If you turn into another road before you see the end sign, you should use the default speed limits until you see a speed sign. A speed limit on a length of road does not apply to roads leading off from that road.

**Variable speed zones**

A variable speed zone has different speed limits applying at different times as shown by special signs that may be electronically controlled (e.g. school zones). The maximum speed limit in a school zone is usually 40km/h or 60km/h as shown. This speed limit applies on school days between the hours shown (otherwise the last speed limit sign before the school zone applies). School zone hours and speed limits may differ, so read the sign. When an electronic sign is blank, follow the speed limit shown on static signs.

A variable speed limit zone may also be applied on a motorway, long bridge or in a tunnel. This will be shown through electronic variable speed limit signs and selected static signs.

**Warning sign with advisory speed limit**

This sign tells you the recommended speed in good driving conditions through the curves ahead. It shows extra caution and reduced speed is needed temporarily.
Making turns

Turning
Indicate long enough to tell other road users before you turn.

Left turns
- If turning left, position your vehicle close to the left side of the road.
- If there is a slip lane, turn from the slip lane.

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
- 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

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

Right turns
When turning right into a two-way road, keep left of the centre of the road you enter. Follow turn lines if marked.

When turning right from a one-way street, keep your vehicle close to the right side of the road and make the turn as indicated from the right lane or as marked.

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.

Tips – turning
When turning:
- check your road position
- check the road markings
- check traffic signs
- check the position of approaching traffic
- give way to pedestrians crossing the road you are turning into
- make sure your entry position is correct

U-turns
You can make a U-turn only if necessary and if:
- you have a clear view of approaching traffic
- you give way to all traffic and pedestrians including traffic facing STOP or GIVE WAY signs
- you can make a U-turn without obstructing traffic
- there are no signs or road markings prohibiting a U-turn (at traffic lights only make a U-turn if a sign 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 enter a turning lane that begins immediately after.

You must not drive on these islands if they are at merge points and separate vehicles travelling in the same direction or if the island creates a slip lane.

Roundabouts

You are approaching a roundabout. Give way to all vehicles on the roundabout.

- Indicate, if necessary, as you approach and enter.
- Drive clockwise around the roundabout.
- Follow road arrows and direction signs.
- Drive within marked lanes.
- Indicate, if practical, before exiting.

Driving on a roundabout with marked lanes

To make a left turn at the roundabout:
1. signal left as you approach and enter from the left marked lane or line of traffic
2. give way to vehicles already on the roundabout
3. drive in the direction allowed by arrows (if any)
4. continue to signal left as you exit, turn off your indicator after exiting

To drive straight ahead at the roundabout:
1. approach and enter the roundabout from the left or right lane
2. give way to vehicles already on the roundabout
3. drive in the direction allowed by arrows (if any)
4. if practical, signal left as you exit, turn off your indicator after exiting

To make a right or U-turn at the roundabout:
1. signal right as you enter and continue while on the roundabout
2. approach and enter the roundabout from the right marked lane or line of traffic
3. give way to vehicles already on the roundabout
4. drive in the direction allowed by arrows (if any)
5. if practical, signal left as you exit, turn off your indicator after exiting

1. **Left turn** – Signal left on approach and continue to signal as you exit.
2. **Straight ahead (second left exit)** – Signal not required on approach, but if practical, signal left as you exit (same for both lanes).
3. **Right turn** – Signal right on approach and, if practical, signal left as you exit. (Same for 4).
Lane changes are permitted on roundabouts as long as they are legal and safe.

Only use the left lane to leave the roundabout halfway around or earlier (unless arrows indicate otherwise) - the path taken by vehicle 1 is illegal.

Cyclists may exit a roundabout from either lane but must give way from the left lane to vehicles exiting the roundabout.

**Giving way at roundabouts**

At a roundabout you must give way to vehicles already on the roundabout.

*Tips – roundabouts*

Motorcyclists and cyclists can be hard to see - keep a special lookout. Watch out for large trucks as they may need more space to manoeuvre.

**Indicating and signalling**

You must signal your intention to:
- stop or slow down (brake lights or hand signal)
- turn right, move right or make a U-turn (indicators or hand signal)
- turn left or move left (indicators only)

Signal for long enough to give sufficient warning (e.g. 5 seconds when moving from a parked position). Turn off your indicator after completing a manoeuvre.

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

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

Hand signals are the only time a body part may be outside the vehicle. Do not use hand signals to tell drivers to overtake.
**Using your horn**

You may only use the horn to warn others of your approach or position.

**Giving way**

Give way means:

- if stopped – remain stationary until it is safe to proceed
- in any other case: slowdown and, if necessary, stop to avoid a collision.

Learn every give way rule before the written test as it is tested in detail. Give way rules are designed to allow road users to move predictably without the danger of a crash.

**GIVE WAY and STOP**

GIVE WAY and STOP signs are at intersections where care is needed because of limited visibility, or vehicles on the other road have priority. STOP lines (solid lines at intersections) and GIVE WAY lines (broken lines at intersections) have the same meaning as signs and are used in case a sign is missing (applies at railway crossings).

**GIVE WAY signs**

When you face a GIVE WAY sign/line, you must slow down or, if necessary, stop. You must then give way to vehicles approaching, entering or on the intersection. If you turn, you must also give way to pedestrians 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**

When you face a STOP sign/line, you must bring your vehicle to a complete stop just behind the line or where you have a clear view of the intersection before entering it (if no line). You must give way to vehicles approaching, entering or on the intersection. If you turn, you must also give way to pedestrians crossing the road you are entering.

**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 and any pedestrians on the road they are entering. They then apply the give way rules:
Giving way when changing lanes
When changing lanes, give way to the traffic in the lane you are moving to.

Giving way to the right
When you come to a crossroad intersection without signs or lines, give way to all vehicles on your right. You do not have to give way to vehicles:
- coming from the opposite direction and turning right
- making a U-turn

Giving way when merging

![Example 1](image1.png)  **Example 1** - When lines of traffic merge (no marked lines), give way to vehicles ahead. Vehicle B gives way to vehicle A.

![Example 2](image2.png)  **Example 2** - If your lane comes to an end, you must give way to traffic in the lane you are moving to. 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 facing STOP or GIVE WAY signs.

Giving way to emergency vehicles
Do everything practical to give way to an emergency vehicle sounding a siren or flashing lights.

Giving way to buses
Give way to a bus with this sign on its right rear side, when in a built-up area with a speed limit of no more than 70km/h, if the bus is signalling to enter traffic from:
- a bus stop bay
- the shoulder of the road
- the bus zone or 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 from a slip lane, give way to all bicycles and pedestrians on the slip lane and all vehicles (except vehicles making a u-turn) on the road you are entering.

Giving way at a T-intersection
A T-intersection consists of two roads where one ends at the intersection with a second continuous road. If driving on the road that ends, give way to all vehicles on the road continuing through if they are approaching, entering or on the intersection.
If you are on the road that ends and a vehicle on the road continuing through faces a STOP or GIVE WAY sign, you do not have to give way.

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, you must give way to a vehicle going around the corner on the continuing road.

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

Reversing

You may reverse only as far as reasonable and only when safe (including on driveways).

Giving way to pedestrians

Always give way to pedestrians crossing the road you are entering.

Giving way at pedestrian crossings

You must give way to pedestrians and cyclists on or entering a pedestrian/children’s crossing. A vehicle stopped to give way at a crossing must not be overtaken.

Giving way when turning right

If you are turning right into a multi-lane road from a single lane road, give way to oncoming vehicles turning left.

If you are turning right at an intersection, give way to oncoming vehicles if they are going straight through or turning left.

You don’t have to give way to a vehicle if it is:

- oncoming and turning right
- driving onto 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.

Giving way when entering or leaving a road

Give way to all road users when leaving a property to enter a road, or entering a property from a road.

Giving way when there are multiple vehicles

When more than 2 vehicles are at an intersection - 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 on 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 aren’t required to give way to one another as their paths do not cross.

**Giving way from a parked position**
When driving out of a park, signal for at least 5 seconds and give way to other vehicles.

**Giving way at a railway level crossing**
Give way to trains at a GIVE WAY or STOP sign/line at a level crossing.

**Giving way to horses**
Give way when a person in charge of a hard to control horse gives a signal (raising a hand and pointing to the horse). Stop on the side of the road and turn off the engine. Remain stationary with the engine off until there is no chance noise or movement from your vehicle will further upset the horse.

**Road markings**

**Lanes**

*Lane markings*
There are 4 types of lane markings indicating where you must travel:

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

*Lane lines*
Lane lines are usually broken. You can cross broken lines to turn or overtake. However, lane lines are continuous (unbroken) close to a controlled situation (e.g. traffic lights or a STOP sign). Do not cross continuous lane lines to turn or overtake (though they can be crossed to pass a cyclist). Motorcyclists may cross continuous lines when lane filtering.

*Dividing lines or centre lines*
You may cross a single broken dividing line to overtake, U-turn or enter/leave a road.
You may cross a single continuous dividing line to enter/leave a road, or pass a cyclist. Do not cross a single continuous dividing line to overtake or U-turn.
You may cross a dividing line that has a broken line to the left of a continuous line to overtake, U-turn or enter/leave a road.
You may cross a dividing line that has a continuous line to the left of a broken line to enter/leave a road, or pass a cyclist. You must not cross a continuous line to the left of a broken line to overtake or U-turn.

Entering/leaving a road includes turning into another road and private property.
Do not cross a dividing line that has two continuous lines (except to pass a cyclist).
Do not cross a dividing line that has a continuous line or a continuous line to the left of a broken line to U-turn.

**Edge lines**

Do not drive on or over a continuous white edge line unless:

- driving a slow-moving vehicle
- overtaking a vehicle turning right or making a U-turn from the centre of the road
- driving a vehicle that is too wide or long to fit in the marked lane
- riding a motorcycle on a road shoulder or in an emergency stopping lane

You can drive on or over a continuous white edge line for up to 100m only if:

- 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 the marked or slip lane.

**Arrows**

In a lane marked with arrows, drive only in the direction/s indicated.

**Overhead lane control**

Do not travel in a lane marked with a red cross above it. A flashing red cross means you must leave the lane as soon as it is safe. A white, green or yellow arrow, or a speed limit sign above the lane, means you may drive in that lane.

A LANE CONTROLS END sign means you may use any lane after the sign even if there were red crosses showing previously.

**Special purpose lanes**

Some lanes are only for certain vehicles.

**Bus lane**

Only a bus, taxi, limousine, or bicycle can drive in a bus lane.

**Transit lane**

Do not drive in a transit lane during the hours of operation (as shown) unless you have the minimum number of people specified (including the driver), or you are driving a bus, taxi or limousine, or riding a bicycle or motorcycle:

- Transit lane T2 – must have at least 2 people in the vehicle.
- Transit lane T3 – must have at least 3 people in the vehicle.

**Bicycle lane**

Bicycle lanes are for cyclists. You may stop/park in a bicycle lane unless there are signs or road markings prohibiting it. Give way to bicycles when moving into a bicycle lane.
Exemptions for driving in special purpose lanes

You may drive in a bicycle lane for 50m and other special purpose lanes for 100m to:
- enter or leave a road
- overtake a vehicle 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

Drive as close as practical to the left on a two-way road. You could be fined for driving in the far right lane on a multi-lane road with a speed limit over 80km/h unless:
- overtaking
- turning right
- making a U-turn
- avoiding an obstacle
- an official traffic sign indicates you can
- traffic is congested

Overtaking

Overtaking on the right

Overtake only if you have a clear view of approaching traffic and it is safe.

If you are being overtaken

When you are being overtaken do not speed up.

Follow these steps for safer overtaking

1. Keep a safe following distance behind.
2. Check ahead for approaching traffic.
3. Check behind for other vehicles.
4. Signal right to give sufficient warning.
5. Accelerate and move right (do not exceed the speed limit).
6. Turn off right indicator.
7. Signal left when clear of the vehicle you are overtaking.
8. Move back to the left lane 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 on the left if:
- on a multi-lane road, the vehicle can be overtaken in a marked lane to the left
- the vehicle is indicating to turn right or make a U-turn from the centre of the road
- the vehicle is stationary and it is safe to do so
- you are lane filtering or riding on a road shoulder or emergency stopping lane

You can overtake a vehicle on the left on a multi-lane road, if the vehicle is turning right or if the vehicle is stationary and it is safe.

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?
Overtaking or passing

NO OVERTAKING OR PASSING:
- Do not drive past this sign when an oncoming vehicle is approaching.
- Do not overtake after you have passed this sign.

NO OVERTAKING ON BRIDGE
Do not overtake any vehicle on a bridge where this sign appears.

Overtaking long vehicles

Unless it is safe to do so, do not overtake a vehicle displaying a DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE sign if it is signalling to turn left or right.

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. It’s the same for a right turn - they may use the right-hand lane or the marked lane next to the right lane.

Overtaking cyclists

Leave a safe distance between you and a cyclist when overtaking or passing.

Motorway and highway driving

Motorways are divided roads designed for fast-moving vehicles. For safety, slower vehicles and pedestrians are not allowed on these roads. Most motorway entrances list the vehicles not allowed on the road.

If you face the sign, WRONG WAY – GO BACK, as you enter a motorway, stop and reverse when safe – you’re on an exit ramp.

On a motorway you must:
- be prepared to give way to vehicles as you enter along the on-ramp
- not stop, except in an emergency or if you break down. If you stop, use the emergency lane/bay and your hazard lights
- not travel in the emergency lane
- not make U-turns
- not drive in the right-hand lane unless overtaking, avoiding an obstruction or travelling in congested traffic
- check behind and signal before you overtake
- signal long enough to give sufficient warning before you change lanes
- enter the exit lane and slow to the signed speed when leaving the motorway

Tips – motorway driving

- Plan your route before you enter a motorway.
- When entering the motorway, look for a gap in the closest lane and build speed on the on-ramp so you enter at the speed of the traffic.
- Watch for vehicles entering from an on-ramp and adjust your speed to allow them to enter.
- Be in the correct lane as your exit approaches.
- Continue to the next exit if you miss yours.
Hazardous localities

Roadwork sites

Roadworks ensure safe, efficient and convenient roads for everyone.

Roadwork signs

Roadwork signs are for safety and enforceable by law. Disobeying them means:

- you are committing an offence (penalties = fines and demerit points)
- you may be liable for damage caused to equipment and materials
- insurance claims may be void
- vehicles may be damaged by loose gravel

The ROADWORK AHEAD sign gives advance warning of sites. Be prepared for changed conditions and slow down if required.

The workers sign is a temporary warning, used only while applicable, that roadworkers are ahead on or adjacent to the travelled path. Drive with due care for your own and roadworkers’ safety.

This multi-message sign warns of sites, and imposes a speed limit.

This multi-message sign warns roadworkers are ahead on or adjacent to the road, and imposes a speed limit.

The SPEED LIMIT sign at roadworks creates a temporary speed zone that applies until the next speed limit sign.

The STOP/SLOW bat is used by a traffic controller. STOP = stop a safe distance from the traffic controller and wait. SLOW = proceed with caution.

The TRAFFIC CONTROLLER AHEAD/PREPARE TO STOP sign warns that traffic may be required to stop ahead and is only used when a traffic controller is on duty.

The PREPARE TO STOP and SIGNALS AHEAD signs warn of temporary traffic signals.

Be prepared to obey the traffic signals ahead.
The STOP HERE ON RED SIGNAL sign indicates where to stop at a red light. There may or may not be a STOP line marked.

The TRAFFIC HAZARD AHEAD sign warns of unexpected hazards ahead in emergencies. Take care and drive to the conditions.

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

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

The LANE STATUS signs warn that 1 or more lanes are closed ahead. Bars = closed lanes, arrows = open lanes.

The LINE MARKERS ON ROAD and SURVEYORS AHEAD signs warn that line markers or surveyors are working ahead on or adjacent to the road (only used while workers are in the area). Drive with care for your own and roadworkers’ safety.

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

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

The END ROADWORK sign defines the end of a site. It does not cancel any previous speed limit - roadwork speed limits apply until the next speed sign.

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

Reduced speed limits through roadworks

- Speeding vehicles threaten the safety of other drivers and roadworkers.
- While under construction or repair, the road surface may not be safe at the normal speed.
- Loose gravel may damage vehicles.
- Road surfaces may be uneven.
- Road lanes may have narrowed.
- Roadworkers may not always be visible when working.
- When roads are widened, kilometres of utilities (pipes, electrical and phone lines) have to be relocated, which takes time.
- Some roadwork jobs are mobile (line markings, road patching and mowing) and reduced speed limits increase safety.

Railway level crossings
Disobeying road rules near railway crossings can be fatal as crashes here are generally more severe because trains are heavy and fast. Yellow painted cross-hatching at a level crossing is legally part of the crossing.

Stopping and giving way at a level crossing
You must stop at a STOP sign/line and give way to trains. You must give way at a GIVE WAY sign/line to any trains.

Entering or leaving a level crossing
Do not enter a level crossing if:
- warning lights/bells or boom gates are operating
- you can see or hear a train approaching
- the road beyond the crossing is blocked

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, look both ways and listen for trains.
- Take care if sun, fog, vegetation or buildings obscure your view of the tracks.
- If stopped for a train, don’t move until warning lights (if installed) have stopped flashing, and you have checked another train is not approaching.

Alcohol and drugs

Alcohol

Drink driving
Alcohol impairs your ability to drive and increases your crash risk by affecting your judgment, vision, coordination and reflexes. Do not drive if the level of alcohol in your blood is over the limit for the licence you hold or the vehicle you drive.

When you are over the alcohol limit
You will be over the limit if the concentration of alcohol in your blood is more than the relevant alcohol limit:
- no alcohol limit – 0.00
- general alcohol limit – 0.05
- middle alcohol limit – 0.10
- high alcohol limit – 0.15 (equal or greater than)

Police regularly carry out random breath tests to detect/deter drink drivers. Refusing to take a roadside breath test is an offence.
**What your alcohol limit should be**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Alcohol Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learner, provisional or probationary licence in charge of any vehicle</td>
<td>0.00 (zero)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you do not hold a licence and you are in charge of any vehicle</td>
<td>0.00 (zero)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you hold a restricted licence and you are in charge of any vehicle</td>
<td>0.00 (zero)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you are a section 79E order driver and you are in charge of any vehicle</td>
<td>0.00 (zero)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you are driving, or in charge of, a truck, bus, articulated motor vehicle, B-double, road train, vehicle carrying a placard load of dangerous goods, taxi, limousine, public passenger vehicle, specially constructed vehicle, tow truck, pilot or escort vehicle escorting an oversize vehicle, or a vehicle being used to give driver training</td>
<td>0.00 (zero)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you hold a class RE licence and you are in charge of a motorcycle during the first year of holding your class RE provisional, probationary or open licence</td>
<td>0.00 (zero)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you hold a class RE licence and are learning to ride a class R motorcycle under the authority of your RE provisional, probationary or open licence</td>
<td>0.00 (zero)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you are an interlock driver for the Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program and you are in charge of any vehicle</td>
<td>0.00 (zero)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you hold an open licence and you are in charge of any vehicle</td>
<td>Below 0.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**If you drive when over your alcohol limit**

You may be charged and, if convicted, face serious penalties:
- Your licence will be cancelled
- You will be fined and may be jailed
- You will be disqualified from holding/obtaining a further licence for a period
- You may be required to comply with the Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program

If you crash when over your alcohol limit, comprehensive insurance will not apply and you will have to pay for damages. Compulsory Third Party insurance may be affected.

**Tip – how to avoid drink driving**

- If you plan to drink - stay overnight or plan alternative travel (taxi, public transport, non-drinking driver).
- Discourage people from driving when they’ve been drinking.
- Nominate a non-drinking driver.
- Serve non- and low-alcohol drinks. Let people ask for a refill rather than topping up so they can count drinks.
- Do not mix drugs and alcohol.

**Drink walking**

Alcohol also impairs your ability to walk and judge traffic safely. It is not a safe alternative to drink driving. Avoid walking or driving. If you are walking while drunk:
- Catch public transport, a courtesy bus, a taxi or get a lift with a sober driver.
- Walk with sober friends - a group is more visible.
- Walk on the footpath (not the road) and, if there isn’t one, walk along the edge facing oncoming traffic.
- Cross at traffic lights, crossings or crosswalks (if none, cross under a streetlight).
- Carry or wear something light/reflective to increase visibility.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common myth</th>
<th>Walking when intoxicated is safe.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Truth</td>
<td>Around 17 intoxicated pedestrians are killed annually on Queensland roads.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Drugs and driving**

Many drugs can impair your ability to drive (and increase crash risk) by affecting your vision, mood, judgment, muscle control, reflexes, coordination and level of alertness. Combining drugs with alcohol further increases the risk.

**Over-the-counter and prescribed medications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common myth</th>
<th>It is ok to drive after taking over-the-counter or prescription medication.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Truth</td>
<td>Many over-the-counter and prescription drugs (even in recommended doses) can reduce driving ability.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Ask your doctor or pharmacist if medication can impair your driving.
- Avoid driving if you are taking medications that affect driving.
- Read the consumer information and take note of the warning label.

**Illegal drugs**

- Illegal drugs (e.g. cannabis, speed, ecstasy and heroin) can affect your driving.
- Never drive if you have consumed illegal drugs.

**Mix at your own risk**

- Mixing drugs, or mixing drugs and alcohol, can affect your ability driving.

**If you are caught drug driving**

If a police officer reasonably suspects that your driving is impaired by any drug, you may be required to provide blood for analysis, and you may be charged. Police conduct random roadside saliva tests for illegal drugs. There is no legal limit - if detected, you will be penalised. If you fail to provide a specimen or a drug is detected, you will be charged and, if convicted, face serious penalties:

- your driver licence will be cancelled
- you will be disqualified from holding/obtaining a further licence for a period
- you will be fined and may be jailed

If you crash while under the influence of drugs, your comprehensive insurance cover will not apply and you will have to pay for any damage caused. Compulsory Third Party insurance may also be affected.
Heavy vehicles

**Maximum vehicle dimensions**

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Height</strong></td>
<td>4.3m (except as specified below)</td>
<td>4.6m (vehicles built to carry cattle, sheep, pigs or horses)</td>
<td>4.4m (double-decker bus)</td>
<td>4.6m (height of a multi-deck car carrier when loaded on the upper deck)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Length</strong></td>
<td>12.5m (rigid vehicles)</td>
<td>18m (articulated bus)</td>
<td>19m (combination vehicles such as a rigid vehicle and trailer. Does not include B-doubles and road trains, which are covered by a Department of Transport and Main Roads guideline)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Width</strong></td>
<td>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)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

*Long vehicles*

Only vehicles 7.5m or more in length (including a car towing a caravan) are allowed to show a DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE sign. When displayed, these vehicles 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):

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

*Loading your vehicle*

Failing to secure loads safely on a heavy vehicle risks injury to you and road users and a large damages bill. Correct positioning involves centering and evening the load so there is no tilt in any direction. The load of a heavy vehicle must not be more than the regulated mass for an axle, axle group, the vehicle’s GVM/GCM (whichever is the least), or the registered seating capacity. Vehicles with a 4.5t GVM or more must enter a weighbridge checking station (if open or 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 parallel with the sides of the vehicle and fastened to not flap or sway. If you are carrying a loose load (gravel or quarry products), it must be loaded so that no part can fall or dislodge during transport. If you carry freight containers, be aware of container height differences. The safest way to secure containers is using twist locks. Freight containers transported by road must have a container weight declaration. Fully loaded, you should have a good view to the front, on both sides and behind (using mirrors).
Queensland law requires all loads to be restrained to the standards of the Load Restraint Guide which outlines the safety principles to be followed to ensure safe carriage of loads - all heavy vehicle drivers should have a copy.

Any part of a load that falls should be removed from the road as soon as possible.

**Parking restrictions for heavy and long vehicles**

Heavy (GVM of 4.5t or more) or long (7.5m or more in length) vehicles must not stop for more than 1 hour in built-up areas unless:
- signs permit
- you are actively dropping off or picking up goods
- a local government law allows you to stop longer

**Warning signs**

If you are driving a vehicle that is required to display specific signs (e.g. ROAD TRAIN, LONG VEHICLE, OVERSIZE, OVERSIZE LOAD AHEAD or SLOW VEHICLE), always remove or cover any sign that is not applicable.

**Speed limiters**

Heavy vehicles over 12t GVM or buses over 5t GVM are restricted to a maximum speed of 100km/h (regardless of higher limits shown on signs). Speed limiters are compulsory for trucks:
- over 12t GVM built after 1 July 1991
- with engines up to 300hp (224kW)
- with higher horsepower engines built after 1 January 1991

Buses over 14.5t GVM or prime movers are to be fitted with speed limiters if they were manufactured after 1987. Buses over 5t GVM and up to 14.5t GVM have speed limiters fitted from 1 July 1991.

If a vehicle is required to be speed limited, penalties apply for using or allowing others to use the vehicle without a properly functioning speed limiter.

A heavy vehicle caught in excess of 110km/h will be issued a defect notice. It will be required to comply with Australian Design Rule (ADR) 65/00 and will not be allowed to operate until all repairs or modifications have been completed and cleared.

**Portable warning signs**

A vehicle (including those with trailers) carrying a placard load of dangerous goods or weighing more than 12t must carry 3 portable triangular, red, reflective warning signs.

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

Display portable warning signs if your vehicle has broken down or has lost load, and your vehicle or load is not visible for 200m in all directions. 1 triangle should be placed:
- between 50m and 150m in front of the vehicle
- between 50m and 150m to the rear of the vehicle
- to the side of the vehicle, or fallen load, in a position that gives sufficient warning
If the speed limit on the road is more than 80km/h

Display portable warning signs if your vehicle has broken down or has lost load, and your vehicle or load is not visible for 300m in all directions. 1 triangle should be placed:

- between 200m and 250m in front of the vehicle
- between 200m and 250m to the rear of the vehicle
- to the side of the vehicle, or fallen load, in a position that gives sufficient warning

Driver fatigue

All drivers of the following vehicles must comply with fatigue management legislation:

- heavy vehicles
- a combination (with a GVM of more than 12t)
- buses more than 4.5t (with a capacity of more than 12 adults, including driver)

Under the fatigue chain of responsibility provision, parties in the logistics chain must take all reasonable steps to ensure drivers don’t drive impaired by fatigue.

If you experience a sign of fatigue, rest until it is no longer present. They include:

- lack of alertness
- inability to concentrate
- poor judgment or memory
- making more mistakes than usual
- changes to health or fitness
- needing more frequent naps than usual
- reduced ability to recognise or respond to external stimuli
- drowsiness or falling asleep (including micro sleeps)
- mood changes, increased irritability or other changes to mental health

The national driver work diary

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

When applying for a national work diary:

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

Standard hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Work</th>
<th>Rest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In any period of...</td>
<td>A driver must not work for more than a maximum of...</td>
<td>And must have the rest of that period off work with at least a minimum break of...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5 hours</td>
<td>5.25 hours</td>
<td>15 continuous minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 hours</td>
<td>7.5 hours</td>
<td>30 minutes in 15 minute blocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 hours</td>
<td>10 hours</td>
<td>60 minutes in 15 minute blocks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Basic fatigue management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Work</th>
<th>Rest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In any period of...</td>
<td>A driver must not work for more than a maximum of...</td>
<td>And must have the rest of that period off work with at least a minimum break of...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.25 hours</td>
<td>6 hours</td>
<td>15 continuous minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 hours</td>
<td>8.5 hours</td>
<td>30 minutes in 15 minute blocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 hours</td>
<td>11 hours</td>
<td>60 minutes in 15 minute blocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 hours</td>
<td>14 hours</td>
<td>7 continuous hours stationary^{B)}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 days</td>
<td>36 hours long/night^{D)}</td>
<td>24 continuous hours stationary taken after no more than 84 hours and 24 continuous hours stationary and 2 x night breaks^{C)} and 2 x night breaks taken on consecutive days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 days</td>
<td>144 hours</td>
<td>24 continuous hours stationary^{B)}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{A}\) Under the fatigue provisions in the HVNL drivers operating more than 100km from their base are required to carry and complete a national driver work diary

\(^{B}\) Stationary rest time out of a regulated heavy vehicle or in an approved sleeper berth

\(^{C}\) Night rest breaks are 7 continuous hours stationary rest time taken between 10pm on a day and 8am the next day (using the base time zone) or 24 continuous hours of stationary rest break

\(^{D}\) Long/night is 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 base time zone)

### Advanced fatigue management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In any period of...</th>
<th>Operating limits</th>
<th>Work maximum outer limits</th>
<th>Rest minimum outer limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 hours</td>
<td>Operator to propose</td>
<td>16 hours in Queensland</td>
<td>15 hours in New South Wales or Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 days</td>
<td>Operator to propose</td>
<td>154 hours</td>
<td>2 blocks of 7 hours continuous stationary rest taken between 10pm and 8am (night rest)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 days</td>
<td>Operator to propose</td>
<td>288 hours</td>
<td>4 periods of 24 hours continuous stationary rest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advanced fatigue management requires accreditation under the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator.

Operating limits are used to guide schedules and driver rosters, accounting for foreseeable contingencies and reflecting the inherent fatigue risks (e.g. balancing night driving balanced against longer rest breaks). Outer limits represent when further work poses an unacceptable fatigue risk and cannot be exceeded. This limit is set nationally and based on fatigue experts and experience from current practices.

**Fatigue offence demerit points and penalties**

Fatigue offences attract demerit points and fines in excess of $5,500. Demerits apply to offences that impact driver safety (e.g. failing to record work/rest, providing false information, falsely claiming to be in an accreditation scheme).

All work diary pages must be legible, even when corrections occur. A page must be cancelled by drawing two parallel lines across it and writing the word ‘CANCELLED’ if it is difficult to read. The information should be rewritten on the next page.

**Passenger transport**

Public passenger services provide transport to the public for a fare and include a courtesy or community transport service.

Examples of public passenger transport services are:

- school buses
- taxis and limousines
- tourist services
- charter bus services
- scheduled bus services

Public passenger transport drivers must hold a driver authorisation issued by the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the appropriate class of driver licence. Driver authorisation increases public confidence in public passenger services and aims to protect vulnerable members of the community (e.g. children) by ensuring drivers:

- are suitable people regarding their need to provide for the safety of passengers, their property, and the public
- conduct themselves reasonably
- are responsible drivers and capable of safe vehicle operation
- are aware of customer responsibilities
- are held accountable for complying with standards

To be granted authorisation, you must hold and have held open driver licence continuously for at least 3 years. For general services, you must have held an Australian driver licence for at least 2 years of the continuous 3-year period. For taxi services, you must be at least 20 years old and have held an Australian driver licence for at least 1 year in the past 3 years.

You must also satisfy medical fitness requirements and driving/criminal history checks.

**School buses**

School buses operating outside an urban area must have flashing yellow warning lights on the front and rear of the bus that flash when children are picked up or set down.
Other rules and responsibilities

Use of lights
Your vehicle’s headlights, rear lights and rear number plate light must be on and visible at night or in hazardous weather conditions.

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

You may drive with high beams in a built-up area but must dip your headlights when:
- an oncoming vehicle is within 200m
- you are within 200m of the vehicle ahead

Fog lights can only be used in fog or hazardous weather conditions that reduce visibility (fines apply for inappropriate use).

Tips – headlights
- At night, use high beams or slow down so that you have time to react.
- Only wear tinted glasses at night when a specialist has prescribed them.
- Keep left and look to the side if oncoming lights dazzle you. If unsafe, slow down and stop until the vehicle has passed.

Following distance
Drive at a sufficient distance behind vehicles so you can stop safely to avoid a collision.

Following other long vehicles
If your vehicle combined with a caravan or trailer is 7.5m or longer, it is a long vehicle. Leave at least 60m between your vehicle and another long vehicle 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. Driving too close can make it hard for others to overtake safely.

Towlines
A towline use to tow a car must be no more than 4m long.

Parking
Parking is regulated and enforced by local governments and Queensland Police.

How to park
Obey signs or line markings telling you how to park. If none, parallel park the left side of your vehicle as close as you can to the left side of the road in the direction of travel. In a one-way street, park on the left or right side of the road. Where parking spaces are marked, do not take up more than a single space, unless your vehicle is longer than the length of a space. Do not park closer than 1m to any other vehicle.
Parking signs

Signs indicate where you can and cannot park. If these signs show hours or days, the directions apply during those times and there are no restrictions at other times. These signs may also restrict the types of vehicles in an area (e.g. no heavy vehicles).

Certain vehicles (e.g. local residents) may be excluded from a sign’s restrictions. The letter P alone means there is no time limit.

Regulated parking

Regulated parking means there is a parking time limit (shown by the number in front of the P - e.g. 2P = two-hour parking). Parking is free, except where there is a metered space and then it’s free outside the times shown.

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

- single meters – located at the front of individual parks
- multi-bays (up to 4 parks) – located on the footpath central to all parks
- pay and display (up to 10 parks) – a machine near the parks dispenses coupons that must be displayed on your vehicle’s dashboard.

Follow meter instructions to operate. You must insert coins even if there are coins already in the meter. Some metered parks become clearways during peak hours so check signs before leaving your vehicle.

LOADING ZONES

Do not stop in a loading zone, unless you are:

- a bus dropping off/picking up passengers
- a truck dropping off/picking up passengers or goods
- a motor vehicle displaying a commercial vehicle identification label
- any vehicle that is dropping off/picking up goods (no longer than 20 minutes)
- any vehicle that is dropping off/picking up passengers (no longer than 2 minutes)

NO PARKING

Do not park in this area. You may pick up/set down passengers/goods for a maximum of 2 minutes (unless the sign indicates longer). Do not leave the vehicle unattended.

NO STOPPING

Do not stop in this area unless obeying official direction (e.g. traffic lights).

CLEARWAY

Vehicles are not allowed to stop, though buses, taxis and limousines may pick up/set down passengers. The sign will show the hours of operation (usually peak-hour). Penalties include fines and having your vehicle towed.

Angle or centre parking

Only angle or centre park where permitted, at the angle shown by road markings, in the direction stated on the sign.

Enter and leave centre parking areas by driving forward (unless a sign indicates otherwise).
Leaving your vehicle

When you open a car door, check you won’t hit anyone.

Secure your vehicle if you are going to be more than 3m away. You must:

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

If somebody over 16 remains with the vehicle, the doors need not be locked and the ignition key may be left. Never leave children younger than 16, or animals, unattended.

Disability parking

The Australian Disability Parking Permit provides national permits, eligibility criteria and minimum standards for parking concessions. The Australian Disability Parking Permit provides the following in Queensland:

- parking in any parking bay provided for a person with a disability
- parking in local government metered or regulated parking areas free of charge, where the time limit is:
  - less than 30 minutes, permit holders can park for 30 minutes
  - 30 minutes or more, permit holders can park for an unlimited time

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 interstate and must park according to the permit conditions.

Expired temporary permits are not valid nor eligible for renewal. If you continue to experience severe functional mobility impairment, make a new application for an Australian Disability Parking Permit.

Fines apply for misusing a permit or parking illegally in a disability parking space.

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, a vehicle parked on the other side of the road, or any continuous marked centre line or double lines
- in a special purpose lane other than a bicycle lane
- between the centre of the road and another vehicle already parked, except when centre parking
- within 1m of a fire hydrant or fire plug indicator
- in an emergency lane on a motorway (unless necessary for safety)
- on a safety ramp or arrester bed (unless necessary for safety)

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 20m 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 signs allow)
- 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 driveway or property entrance, except for up to 2 minutes when you are dropping off/picking up passengers/goods
- vehicles moving from one road to another road, ferry, wharf or driveway

A vehicle with GVM of 4.5t or more, or is 7.5m or more in length, must not be parked in a built-up area for more than 1 hour (unless signs allow or you are actively engaged in dropping off/picking up goods).

Seatbelts and child restraints

Everyone in a vehicle must wear a fastened seatbelt at all times unless:

- you are the driver and are reversing
- you carry a current medical certificate (valid for up to 12 months) that states you cannot wear a seatbelt for medical reasons
- 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 no more than 25km/h
- the vehicle was originally manufactured without seatbelts and passengers are 7 years or older. Passengers under 7 are not permitted without a child restraint.

Under Queensland law, the driver is responsible for ensuring every passenger wears a correctly fitted child restraint or seatbelt. Passengers 16 years or older who fail to wear a seatbelt will be fined (in addition to the driver) and accumulate 3 demerit points.

Mobile phones

Using a mobile phone held in the hand is illegal when driving. This includes:

- making/receiving calls
- text messaging
- holding the phone to or near the ear
- turning the phone on or off and operating any other function of the phone

You must pull over and park to make/receive a call. If caught using a hand-held phone while driving, you will be fined and demerit points will be recorded.

Tips – mobile phones

You may use a hands-free mobile phone, CB radio or any other two-way radio when driving (unless a class C learner or a P1 licence holder under 25), however, use extreme care and attention so you are not distracted.
Animals

A driver must not have an animal in their lap while operating a vehicle. A person riding a motorcycle must not carry an animal between the rider and handlebars or between the rider’s arms.

Pets should not travel unrestrained in front or back seats. Pets can use carriers, special harnesses that attach to seatbelts, or be put in the back of station wagons when an Australian standard cargo barrier is present. Dogs should not ride unrestrained in the back of trucks/trailers - special restraints should be used to ensure their safety.

Rules for other road users

Cyclists

A bicycle is a legal vehicle and cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers. There are also some road rules for cyclists, they are legally required to:

- wear an Australian Standard AS2063 or AS/NZS2063 helmet, correctly fitted and fastened (reduces the chances of suffering head injuries in a crash by 80%)
- fit your bike with a warning device (e.g. bell) and at least 1 effective brake
- obey all traffic signs and lights
- keep at least 1 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 that can be seen for at least 200m
- fasten any luggage safely
- not double anyone unless the bicycle is designed to carry more than 1 person and each person wears a helmet
- never ride in a bicycle lane towards oncoming traffic
- stop before riding across a children’s or zebra crossing
- give way to pedestrians on footpaths and shared use paths – keep to the left
- never ride on the part of a separated footpath designed for pedestrians

You may ride across a pedestrian crossing at traffic lights. You may ride on roads and footpaths unless otherwise signed. Local governments may prohibit riding on specific footpaths in the area (identified by NO BICYCLE signs). When riding on roads without marked lanes, ride as near as practical to the far left. On a roundabout with no marked lanes, take up any part of the road to ensure your safety.

Do not ride closer than 2m to the rear of a moving vehicle for more than 200m. Two cyclists can legally ride beside each other only when no more than 1.5m apart. Another cyclist can overtake these cyclists. On multi-lane roads you can occupy any part of a lane and travel in the right lane when necessary (e.g. right turns).

A bicycle storage area (provided at traffic lights) has bicycle symbols painted on the road between two parallel stop lines. Special rules apply:

- give way to any vehicle in the bicycle storage area
- where there is a green or yellow light in front of the bicycle storage area, give way to any vehicle entering the area
As a cyclist, you can:
- ride in bus lanes, transit lanes and bicycle storage areas
- overtake a vehicle on the left, unless the vehicle is signalling and turning left
- travel in the left lane of a multi-lane roundabout if exiting more than halfway around a roundabout (e.g. right turn), but you must give way to vehicles exiting the roundabout earlier

**Penalties**

If you are 17 or older and disobey road rules while riding, you may be given an infringement notice. You can be fined but cannot accumulate demerit points. You can be arrested for drink riding if under the influence of liquor or drugs.

**Optional hook turn by a bicycle rider**

You may turn right using a hook turn. To make the turn:

1. Approach and enter the intersection from the far left side of the road.
2. Move forward until you are on the far side of the road you are entering, keeping to the far left side of the intersection. Keep clear of any marked foot crossings and drivers turning left from the intersection.
3. If there are traffic lights, wait until a green light before moving.
4. If there are no traffic lights, give way to approaching drivers on the road you have just left, then move forward.

**Obeying traffic lights**

**Stop**

Do not ride past a red traffic light. You can cross 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 a yellow traffic light (unless you can’t stop safely). If you face a flashing yellow traffic light, use caution when you enter the road and follow give way rules.

**Go**

Ride past a green traffic light if safe.

**Tips – cyclists**

- Check your bike’s tyres and brakes regularly.
- Be courteous to motorists and ride in a predictable manner.
- Light coloured clothing makes you more visible. At night, use lights/reflectors and wear reflective clothing or wrist and ankle bands to attract attention.

**Motorised bicycles**

A motorised bicycle has an auxiliary electric motor with a maximum output of 200W, or a pedalec as defined by the Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule - Definitions and Vehicle Categories) 2005 (Commonwealth). The pedals must be the primary source of power. Bicycles powered by internal combustion engines are illegal on Queensland roads. You do not require a driver licence to ride a motorised bicycle and they are exempt from registration and Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance. Motorised bicycles have the same rights, responsibilities, and road rules as bicycles.
Pedestrians

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

- walking
- using wheelchairs (including registered motorised wheelchairs that travel no faster than 10km/h) or personal mobility devices
- on roller blades, skateboards, and other wheeled recreational devices

Staying safe

- Always cross at the safest possible point (crossing, lights, refuge).
- When crossing a road, STOP, LOOK for traffic, LISTEN for approaching cars and WAIT until there is a safe break before crossing.
- Obey traffic signals.
- Cross using the most direct route.
- Allow yourself enough time to cross.
- Always walk on the footpath or nature strip. If there isn’t one, walk close to the road’s edge, facing oncoming traffic.
- Do not travel on a dedicated bicycle path, or on the part of a separated path designated for bicycles, unless you are in or pushing a wheelchair, or using a wheeled recreational device.

Tips – pedestrians

- Take care if walking after drinking alcohol.
- Always keep to the left when walking on a footpath.
- Cross the road with a group, if possible (more visible).
- 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 crossings, crosswalks or signals.

Motorised wheelchairs

- Use footpaths at all times. If unavailable, travel close to the left-or right-hand side of the road. (Note: wheelchairs are less visible in traffic.)
- Cross using the most direct route.
- Pay attention to others’ safety.
- Never use the device on a road in the same way as a car.
- Motorised wheelchairs can be registered to an individual or an organisation.

Rollerblades, skateboards and other wheeled recreational devices

Extra rules apply to rollerblades, a skateboard or other wheeled recreational devices (and to children under 12 using a wheeled toy (e.g. 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 marked lanes or a white centre line or median strip.
- Do not travel on a road at night (you may travel on a footpath and cross using the most direct route).
- Do not use wheeled recreational devices where a sign prohibits.
- Give way to cyclists on a bicycle 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.
- Check local council laws that may affect wheeled recreational devices.
Motorised foot scooters

A motorised foot scooter is a wheeled recreational device that has an electric motor of no more than 200W output attached. The manufacturer must certify that the output does not exceed 200W by attaching a plate to the motor or engraving it. You do not require a driver licence, and it is exempt from registration and CTP insurance. In addition to the rules for wheeled recreational devices:

- you must wear an approved bicycle helmet
- you cannot ride where there is a sign prohibiting their use

Pedestrians obeying traffic lights

Stop
Do not cross if you face a red DON’T WALK or illuminated red pedestrian symbol.

Walk
Cross with care if you face a green WALK or illuminated green pedestrian symbol.

Caution
If you face a flashing red DON’T WALK or flashing red illuminated pedestrian signal, complete the crossing if started but do not start to cross.

Personal mobility devices

A personal mobility device (PMD) (e.g. Segway) is an electric device used for short distance transport. PMDs can be used on road-related areas such as footpaths, bike paths and shared paths around Queensland. A PMD operator must:

- be aged 16 and over to be unsupervised
- be supervised by an adult if aged between 12 and 15
- wear an approved bicycle helmet
- keep left and give way to pedestrians on paths
- keep left to oncoming bicycles and PMDs on a path
- have a working warning device (bell or horn)
- have a working flashing or steady white light at the front, a red light and a red reflector at the rear to use at night or in hazardous conditions.

A PMD operator must not:

- travel faster than 12km/h
- travel along a road unless there is an obstruction or it is impractical which means they can travel up to 50m on the road (PMD users may stay on their device to cross a road at a designated crossing)
- carry any passengers
- use a hand-held mobile phone
- drink alcohol
- travel past a ‘PMD prohibited’ sign

Local councils and land owners can display this sign to prohibit PMDs in areas not appropriate for their use such as malls, esplanades or jetties.
4. Safe road use

Sharing with other road users

Emergency vehicles

Police, fire and ambulance vehicles are emergency vehicles. Watch out for emergency vehicles by looking ahead and in your mirrors regularly. If an emergency vehicle is coming towards you sounding an alarm or flashing lights, you must move out of its path as soon as safe. You should:

- slow down
- move left to clear the middle of the road. If you cannot, remain stationary and let the emergency vehicle overtake
- not move suddenly or make an illegal turn
- not drive into the path of the emergency vehicle

If safe, you may drive on the wrong side of the road or through a red traffic light to get out of the way.

Emergency vehicles at intersections

Emergency vehicles often stop or slow near intersections to check they can proceed safely. Even if you are facing a green traffic light and the emergency vehicle appears to have stopped or slowed down, you must give way.

Heavy vehicles

Overtaking a heavy vehicle

- Allow sufficient time to overtake.
- When preparing to overtake maintain the minimum following distance and don’t cross the centre line.
- When safe, indicate, accelerate and overtake quickly, without exceeding the speed limit. Changing down a gear may give you enough power to get past.
- After overtaking, maintain speed so you don’t make the heavy vehicle brake.
- Do not overtake a heavy vehicle when it is turning (unless safe).

Sharing the road safely with heavy vehicles

- Do not cut in front of a heavy vehicle as you reduce their braking distance.
- Do not speed up when a heavy vehicle overtakes, allow the heavy vehicle to maintain speed and pass safely.
- If you cannot see its a heavy vehicle’s side mirrors, the driver cannot see you.
- Do not tailgate a heavy vehicle - you can’t see or react to a hazard in time.
- Remember that heavy vehicles accelerate slowly.
- When a heavy vehicle is turning, keep back because it needs more space to turn.
- Give way to buses displaying this sign when required to do so.
- Heavy vehicles that show the sign DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE are allowed to take up more than one lane to turn.
Pilot vehicles

Heavy vehicles wider than 3.5m are escorted by pilot/escort vehicles that precede or follow it along the road. Pilot vehicles have yellow flashing lights and an OVERSIZE LOAD AHEAD roof signs. An escort vehicle has yellow flashing lights, 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 lights flashing:

- slow down
- move over (if necessary)
- respond to gestures by the driver of an escort vehicle
- give way to the oversize vehicle

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

Motorcycles

Apply the same rules, such as giving way, when sharing the road with motorcycles.

Sharing the road safely with motorcycles

- Scan traffic and check blind spots – front, rear, left, right – especially when changing lanes and at intersections.
- Look for motorcycles lane filtering or riding on a road shoulder.
- Use your lights in poor visibility – it helps motorcycle riders see you.
- Be aware that motorcycles can accelerate quickly.
- Motorcycles can take up a lane so overtake them like any other vehicle.
- Give motorcycles plenty of room – in good conditions, keep a 2 second gap between you and the vehicle ahead.

Common myth

Motorcycle riders and cyclists must ride single file.

Truth

Two motorcycles or cyclists can ride side-by-side in one lane, as long as they are no more than 1.5m apart.

Cyclists

Cyclists share the same rights as larger vehicles and deserve the same respect and courtesy. Obey the road rules and apply common sense around cyclists.

- Give way to cyclists at intersections (the same as you would to a car), and to cyclists riding across crossings.
- Cyclists can legally ride on any part of the lane – leave them room and only overtake when safe.
- Leave a safe distance between your vehicle and a cyclist when passing (at least 1m in a 60km/h or less speed zones and 1.5m if over 60km/h).
- Check for cyclists at intersections.
- Signal your intentions so cyclists can react.
- Check your blind spots (in mirrors and over your shoulder).
- Check for cyclists before opening your door.
- Do not sound your horn at cyclists – they may fall.
- Anyone can cycle on the footpath, so check when entering/leaving a driveway.

**Pedestrians**

*Sharing the road safely with pedestrians*

- Give way to pedestrians when they’re crossing at pedestrian crossings, children’s crossings or marked foot crossings.
- When turning, give way to pedestrians crossing the road you are entering.
- Give way to pedestrians in shared zones.
- Allow more time for people with a disability and senior pedestrians to cross.
- Lower your speed at night and be alert for people suddenly walking in front of you, especially where alcohol may be served.
- Watch out for children running onto the road, especially near schools and playgrounds.
- Prepare to stop near a pedestrian or children’s school crossings.
- You must give way to pedestrians on a slip lane.

**Common myth**

Drivers turning on a green light do not have to give way to crossing pedestrians.

**Truth**

Drivers turning must give way to pedestrians crossing the road they are entering, even when facing a green light.

**Schools**

*School zones*

**Common myth**

School zones apply every day.

**Truth**

School zones do not apply on weekends, public holidays or during school holidays.

Speed limits are lower in school zones (identified by signs) on school days, generally in the morning and the afternoon. This reduces the risk of death or injury to pedestrians. Speeds and times depend on the area, so check the sign carefully.

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

*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.

Children’s crossings are temporary (only in operation when displaying the CHILDREN CROSSING flags) and may have crossing supervisors who display a STOP sign. You must wait until the crossing supervisor has returned to the footpath before moving.
At children’s crossings with people crossing, stop before the STOP line and wait. Do not begin to accelerate until all pedestrians and cyclists are safely on the footpath. If a vehicle has stopped at a crossing, do not overtake while it is stationary.

**School buses**

School buses display either the words SCHOOL BUS or an image of two children (black letters or images on a yellow background). School buses have flashing yellow lights fitted to the front and rear. The driver must flash its warning lights when children are being picked up or set down. Slow down when approaching a school bus, especially when the lights are flashing. Watch for children who may run across the road from in front of or behind the bus.

**Driving safely in tunnels**

Things to be aware of when driving in tunnels:
- Remove sunglasses (except prescription) before entering.
- Use your headlights (increases visibility).
- Turn your radio on - tunnel re-broadcast systems convey safety and traffic information via radio and public announcement systems.
- Avoid lane changing and overtaking.
- Stay out of closed lanes (signified by red crosses).
- Do not stop except in an emergency or if directed by the tunnel controller. Try to drive out even if your vehicle is damaged or has a mechanical malfunction.
- Do not reverse.
- Check and obey variable message and lane control signs.
- Look for variable speed limit signs and stay within the limit based on conditions.
- Do not enter if low on fuel.
- If overtaking is necessary (e.g. a car is broken down) make sure you are clear of traffic and it is safe.

**Stopping**

**Safe following distance**

Driving too close to the vehicle in front means you are likely to crash if they brake suddenly. Maintain distance so you can stop in time.

**How far should you travel behind?**
- A car should drive at least 2 seconds behind in ideal conditions.
- A heavy vehicle should drive at least 4 seconds behind.
- A vehicle towing a trailer or caravan should allow 2 seconds, plus 1 second for each 3m of trailer.

This distance should be doubled in poor conditions.

**Time-lapse method**

Use the time-lapse method to keep a safe distance behind vehicles.

1. Pick a mark on the road or an object close to the road (power or light pole).
2. When the rear of the vehicle ahead passes the object, count ‘1001, 1002’ (this takes about 2 seconds). In bad conditions count to 1004.
3. If the front of your vehicle passes the object/mark before you finish, drop back.

**Braking**

The time for you to see and react (reaction distance) plus the time for the brakes to stop your vehicle (braking distance) may not be enough to avoid a crash.

\[
\text{Reaction distance + braking distance = total stopping distance}
\]

**Total stopping distance**

The faster you go, the further it takes to stop. It takes longer to stop if the road is wet, muddy, slippery, has a loose surface, or if driving downhill (adapt to conditions). By the time a car braking from 50km/h has stopped, a car braking from 60km/h would still be travelling at 40km/h. At 40km/h a pedestrian has almost a 60% chance of being killed.

Your vehicle’s stopping distance is also affected by:

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

Refer to the owner’s handbook to familiarise yourself with how the anti-lock braking system (ABS) operates (if present).

**Hazards**

**Approaching hazards**

Young drivers do not detect hazards as well as experienced drivers and react more slowly. That is why, to progress to a P2 or open licence, all P1 licence holders must pass the hazard perception test. If you follow the system of vehicle control, you will be correctly positioned on the road, travelling at the correct speed and in the correct gear so you can deal with any hazard. 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. Check the rear vision mirrors to locate other vehicles. Indicate now if needed.
4. Check your approach speed is appropriate (reduce or increase as necessary).
5. If you change speed, you may need to change gears. Check the rear vision mirrors again to see what other vehicles are doing.
6. Before you come to the hazard, check it is still safe to drive in the planned direction. 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**

In a hazardous driving situation (brake failure, animals or debris on the road, tyre blowouts, skidding or aquaplaning) apply the system of vehicle control.

**Skidding**

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

- driving too fast for conditions
- accelerating too quickly
- sudden or too much braking or faulty brakes
- turning the too sharply causing the tyres lose traction

To prevent a skid, follow the ABC plan - accelerate, brake and corner smoothly.

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

**Aquaplaning**

Aquaplaning or hydroplaning occurs when water causes your vehicle to lose contact with the road. Reducing your speed can reduce the risk of aquaplaning.

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

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

When driving in bad weather:

- keep your windscreen and all lights clean
- use headlights when you cannot clearly see people or vehicles
- keep headlights on low beam – in fog you see better using low rather than high
- during the day, you may drive in fog or other hazardous weather with front fog lights rather than headlights (if fitted)
- use fog lights only if in fog or hazardous weather with reduced visibility
- use the demister to keep the windscreen clear
- slow down – signed speed limit is maximum safe speed for good conditions
- double your following distance to allow for more time and stopping distance

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

- Flood waters can be fast moving. Don’t drive on roads covered by water.
- Plan your route by seeking travel information.
- Be alert for changed road conditions, especially loose debris.
- Do not cross affected roads until declared open by authorities.
- Due to increased driver concentration in poor conditions, plan regular rest stops.
- Follow directions from roadworkers, transport inspectors and emergency personnel.
- Do not ignore ROAD CLOSED signs.
Tyre blowouts

If a tyre blows, your vehicle will pull to the damaged side for a front tyre and sway to the sides for a rear tyre. If this happens:

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

Once the vehicle is under control slow down gradually and look for a safe place to pull over. Use this as a guide as vehicles behave differently depending on conditions.

Animals at night

Animals may cross without warning and can be hypnotised by headlights. If an animal is on the road:

- slow down
- be prepared to brake
- apply the system of vehicle control
- keep control of the vehicle and do not swerve

Footbrake failure

Modern cars are fitted with a dual braking system. If either the front or rear brakes fail and you have trouble stopping, you may need to:

- ease the handbrake on, increasing pressure gradually (sudden pressure may lock the rear wheels and cause skidding)
- change to a lower gear
- use your horn and flash your headlights to warn others

Car stalls in a dangerous situation

If your car stalls in a dangerous situation, use your hazard lights. If you can’t restart the engine, get help to push your vehicle clear if there is no immediate danger.

Shattered windscreen

If your windscreen shatters and you cannot see:

- slow down and look out the driver’s side window
- brake slowly and, if safe, pull off to the side of the road
- fill demister vents with paper or cloth (stops glass getting into the vents)
- carefully remove the whole windscreen from the inside
- wind up the windows
- drive at a slower speed

If the windscreen is cracked and there is no obvious danger, leave it and drive slower with all windows up. Replace your windscreen as soon as possible.

Driver fatigue

Fatigue is a factor in 1 in 6 crashes that result in serious injury or death. Driving without sleep for 17 hours is the same as a BAC of 0.05. Driving without sleep for 24 hours is the same as a BAC of 0.10.

Fatigue related crashes often occur on open roads, at high speeds, during the hours of 1pm–3pm and midnight–6am, with a higher incidence on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
How to avoid driving tired on long trips
- Take regular breaks – at least 15 minutes every 2 hours and an additional 30 minutes every 5 hours is recommended.
- Pull into rest areas, tourist spots and Driver Reviver sites when you can.
- Avoid drinking alcohol before and during the trip.
- Check with your doctor if any medications you’re taking affect your driving.
- Eat properly and just enough. Big meals can make you drowsy.
- Get plenty of quality sleep before your trip.
- Don’t drive for more than 8–10 hours in a day. Demerit points and fines apply if you commit a heavy vehicle 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.
- 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
  - fumbling gear changes
  - daydreaming
  - unintentional increases or decreases in speed
  - squinting
  - blurred vision
  - reduced concentration
  - dim or fuzzy vision
  - sore or heavy eyes
  - your car wanders across the road

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

Correct seatbelt and child restraint use
A seatbelt is your defence against serious injury or death. Without a seatbelt, you are 5.5 times more likely to die in a crash.

Wearing seatbelts
Always wear your seatbelt correctly - incorrectly worn seatbelts 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 unborn child, and the sash 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.
- Replace the entire seatbelt assembly if the vehicle is involved in a severe crash.

**Child restraints**

It is a driver’s responsibility to ensure a child is restrained in an approved child restraint as they can easily be killed or injured in a crash. You must ensure a child is secured in an approved restraint until they turn 7. After this, the child must use a properly fitted seatbelt. The type of approved restraint to use depends on the child’s age and size.

Some children may be too small or too large for a specific type of restraint. If your child is too small for the next level, keep them in the lower level for as long as necessary. If your child is too large for a specified restraint, move your child to 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 back of the booster seat.

**A guide to appropriate child restraints**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Standard AS/NZS 1754</th>
<th>Child restraint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 6 months</td>
<td>Children should use the appropriate restraint until their shoulders reach the upper shoulder height marker.</td>
<td>Rearward facing infant restraint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months to 4 years</td>
<td>Children should use the appropriate restraint until their shoulders reach the upper shoulder height marker.</td>
<td>Rearward facing infant restraint or forward facing child restraint with built-in harness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 to 7 years</td>
<td>Children should use the appropriate restraint until their shoulders reach the upper shoulder height marker.</td>
<td>Booster seat with lap-sash H-harness or a booster seat with a secured adult seatbelt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Restraints don’t prevent injury unless fitted in accordance with the manufacturer’s directions.

A child under 4 must not sit in the front row of a vehicle that has more than one row of seats, even if the child is 3 and large enough to be seated in a booster seat.

A child 4–7 years old must not sit in the front row of a vehicle that has more than one row of seats unless the other seats are occupied by children under 7 (this includes if 2 occupied child restraints in the back row encroach on an empty seat making it impossible to fit another child restraint).

A child can sit in the front seat if there is only one row of seats and the child is properly restrained. If a passenger airbag is fitted, don’t use a rearward facing restraint.

The driver’s responsibility

The driver is responsible for ensuring everyone is correctly restrained. Penalties include being fined in excess of $330 and 3 demerit points. The driver will also be fined and accumulate demerit points for each incorrectly restrained child in the vehicle.

The only exemptions are:
- taxis and limousines for children under the age of 1 where no child restraint is provided and children aged 1-7 years
- on medical grounds where a doctor’s certificate is provided

Towing a trailer or caravan

Towing a trailer or caravan requires extra concentration and skill - gain experience before towing at high speeds or in confined spaces.

Before you start

Ensure your vehicle and trailer/caravan are safe to drive/tow. Check:
- tyres and tyre pressure
- brakes – trailers with a loaded weight of more than 750kg require an efficient braking system
- trailer coupling (including lights and safety chain) must take the fully loaded weight and be marked with the rated capacity and manufacturer’s trademark
- safety chains should be short enough to stop the trailer hitting the ground if the couplings break
- the bulk of the load is distributed over the axles
- your vehicle’s towing rating to ensure it can legally tow the weight

How to tow safely

- When turning, allow additional space for the extra length and width.
- Steer smoothly to avoid swaying, especially in wet conditions.
- Allow for greater stopping distance and scan for changes in traffic conditions.
- Avoid braking unnecessarily. If the trailer begins to sway or snake, remain at a steady speed or accelerate slightly until the swaying stops.
- Keep left – don’t hold up traffic unnecessarily.
Restraining your load

You must ensure all loads are securely restrained by:

1. Choosing a suitable vehicle.
2. Positioning the load so it does not affect stability, steering or braking.
3. Securing a light material load properly (e.g. covering with a tarpaulin).
4. Using suitable restraints in good condition.
5. Preventing load movement with adequate restraint.
6. Driving carefully (preparing for stability, steering and braking capacity changes).
7. Checking any load overhang is legal.

What to do at a crash

What to do

You must stop if you are involved in a crash. Report it to the police (immediately or within 24 hours) if:

- a vehicle involved needs to be towed
- an involved driver does not give their details to other involved drivers
- any person involved is killed or injured

Tow trucks

It is important you know your rights when having your vehicle towed. Tow truck regulations apply to towing at crashes and police seizures in regulated areas (most major populated areas of Queensland).

Tow truck licence holders must be licensed to tow any vehicle from a crash or police seizure by the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Their vehicle must be clearly marked with the licence holder’s name, business address and phone number.

Organising your vehicle to be towed

- An accredited tow truck driver is the only person allowed to approach you about towing. If you can’t make decisions, a person with you (agent) may act for you.
- The tow truck driver must show their certificate, even if you do not ask.
- You (or your agent) must sign a towing authority before your vehicle is towed.
- Make sure the towing authority form is fully completed (including tow cost, storage cost, and address to be towed to) before you sign it.
- A police officer or Department of Transport and Main Roads officer may sign the form if you or your agent cannot. In this case, the tow truck licence holder must inform the department where your vehicle was towed within 7 days.
- A tow truck licence holder must not charge more than the regulated towing fee for a standard tow which 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
- The services provided are detailed on the towing authority form under, Fee details. You may negotiate the price at the crash site.
- You do not have to use the first tow truck on scene. You may negotiate with one or more operators.
- Your comprehensive insurance company may pay for the towing.
- Once in storage, your vehicle cannot be moved without your permission.
- You cannot be charged to view your vehicle in a storage yard during business hours, or for it to be moved near the entrance for collection.
- Property in your vehicle must be inventoried and kept in storage by the tow truck licence holder.

5. Offences and penalties

Enforcement

Speed cameras
Fixed speed cameras are installed in locations with a history of crashes, that are difficult to monitor by other methods, and where there is crash potential.

A point-to-point (or average) speed camera uses the time it takes to travel between the two points to calculate the average speed and establish if an offence has occurred.

Mobile speed cameras operate at approved sites chosen using 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 those operating speed cameras
- if the existing speed limit was set in compliance with speed control guidelines

Red light cameras
Red light cameras are installed where there is a history of crashes caused by running red lights. They operate 24/7. The camera is activated when the traffic light turns red. Any vehicle that crosses the STOP line after this will be photographed. A second photograph is taken 1 second later to check the vehicle continued through the intersection (rather than stopping just past the STOP line).

Red light cameras can be combined with speed cameras and placed at signalised intersections to detect both red light running and speeding (can detect simultaneously). Speed is checked on the red, amber and green signal.

Automatic number plate recognition (ANPR)
ANPR can instantly verify the registration of vehicles on the road and parked on the roadside. ANPR assists in identifying unregistered vehicles, and ensuring vehicles are compliant with other vehicle and transport laws. ANPR allows police to intercept vehicles of interest (stolen or false plates), as information is checked against the Department of Transport and Main Roads registration information and records held by
the Queensland Police Service. ANPR enhances current road safety functions such as roadside interceptions and random vehicle inspections.

Random breath testing (RBT)

Regular RBTs detect drink drivers and reduce drink driving crashes through deterrence as drivers can be intercepted at any time. During a test police will ask you to blow into a roadside breath testing device. If you are over the limit for the type of licence you hold, the conditions of your licence or the type of vehicle you are driving, you will be taken for further breath or blood testing at the officer’s discretion.

If further testing confirms you are over the limit, you will be charged with drink driving. Depending on your BAC, your licence may be suspended for 24 hours or until the charge is dealt with by a court. Refusing to take the roadside test is an offence, and you will be taken for a further breath or blood test. If you refuse further tests, you will be charged with a second offence.

Random roadside drug testing

Roadside drug testing (which can be conducted in conjunction with RBTs) allows police to conduct saliva tests that are able to detect the active ingredients in cannabis (THC), speed and ice (methylamphetamine) and ecstasy (MDMA). There is no legal limit – do not have these drugs in your system when driving.

The preliminary saliva test takes 3-5 minutes. If negative, you are free to go. If positive, you will be taken for a second test. If the second test is positive, your driver licence will be suspended for 24 hours and the saliva sample will be sent for laboratory analysis. If this comes back positive, you will be charged and required to appear in court.

Vehicle impoundment

Police have the power to impound vehicles if you commit any of the following offences:

- dangerous/careless driving involving a speed trial, race or burn out
- making unnecessary noise or smoke starting or driving a vehicle, involving a speed trial, race or burn out
- organising or promoting a speed trial, race, or attempt to break a speed record

Your vehicle can be impounded if you are caught more than once for:

- 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 applies to the driver and the vehicle used during the offence. Even if you don’t own the car, it will be impounded and you will be responsible for the cost. Owners must ensure their vehicle is roadworthy and drivers are licensed and drive safely. If you don’t commit the offence, your vehicle can be impounded unless it was stolen (it will be returned as soon as possible).
Transport inspectors

Transport inspectors have broad powers to intercept and examine vehicles to ensure the safety of drivers and protect road infrastructure - you must assist them.

Pull over when a transport inspector indicates for you to stop by activating the patrol vehicle’s magenta lights or electronic horn. Transport inspectors will identify themselves and tell you why you’ve been stopped. They may ask for any documents that assist them. You must allow them to examine your vehicle. Transport inspectors can issue substantial on-the-spot fines and 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 under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- failing to provide a specimen of breath, saliva or blood
- drink or drug driving when an earlier, similar charge has not been dealt with
- drink or drug driving when you are subject to a section 79E order
- 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 (there are some restrictions) to apply for a court order allowing you to drive until the charge causing suspension is dealt with by a court, or withdrawn or otherwise discontinued. You must complete a Section 79E Order Application (form F4395) and lodge it with the Magistrates Court within 21 days of the suspension.

24 hour suspension

Your licence may be suspended for 24 hours if you are charged with:

- drink driving over the limit but under 0.10 BAC
- drug driving
- failing to provide a specimen of breath, saliva or blood

When this suspension period has ended, you may resume driving until a court decides your case. If convicted of any of the above you will be fined and disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence for a stated period.

High speed suspension

If you are caught speeding more than 40km/h over the limit, you will be given an infringement notice. After you pay the fine or deal with the court, you will receive a Notice of Driver Licence Suspension for Speeding Offence, suspending your licence for 6 months. In addition, 8 demerit points will be recorded. If these cause you to accumulate too many, you will also be dealt with under the demerit points scheme.
Accumulation of demerit points – Queensland licence holders

You will be given an infringement notice for committing a demerit point offence (number of points varies according to the offence). The demerit points are recorded against your traffic history when you pay the fine or are dealt with by a court. The points are allocated from the day the offence was committed. Demerit point offences committed anywhere in Australia apply to your traffic history.

Learner licences

4 or more demerit points accumulated in a continuous 1-year period while on your learner licence will result in a mandatory 3-month suspension. This time will not contribute to the minimum period you must hold your learner licence.

Provisional licences

4 or more demerit points accumulated in a continuous 1-year period while on your provisional licence will result in a choice between:

- a 3-month suspension (will not contribute to the minimum holding period)
- a good driving behaviour period for 1 year.

You may also have a 1-year late night driving restriction imposed.

Open licence

12 or more demerit points accumulated in a continuous 3-year period while on your open licence will result in a choice between having your licence suspended for a specific period or agreeing to continue driving on a good driving behaviour period for 1 year. You may receive a warning when you accumulate 7 demerit points in 3 years.

Open licence suspension periods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demerit points</th>
<th>12 to 15</th>
<th>16 to 19</th>
<th>20 or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suspension periods</td>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>4 months</td>
<td>5 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Driving on a good driving behaviour period for 1 year

On the good driving behaviour period you keep your current licence provided that you do not accumulate more than 1 demerit point during the 1-year period. If you accumulate 2 or more demerit points, your licence will be suspended for double the period that would have applied had you originally chosen the suspension.

Accumulation of demerit points – interstate and foreign licence holders

You will be given an infringement notice for committing a demerit point offence. The demerit points are recorded against your traffic history when you pay the fine or are dealt with by a court. The points are allocated from the day the offence was committed.

If you accumulate too many demerit points your authority to drive in Queensland on your interstate or foreign licence will be withdrawn for a stated period. The length of the suspension period will depend on the type of licence held and the number of demerit points accumulated. You cannot appeal against the withdrawal of your authority to drive in Queensland.
Double demerit points

Mobile phones
Double demerit points apply for subsequent mobile phone offences within 1 year of a previous mobile phone offence. Double points apply to:

- a driver using a hand-held mobile phone while driving
- mobile phone use by a learner or P1 licence holder under 25
- mobile phone use by a P1 probationary or P1 restricted licence holder

The 1-year period starts from the first subsequent offence and ends when 1 year has passed from the last mobile phone offence.

Speeding
If caught speeding more than 20km/h over the limit more than once within a 1-year period, you will accumulate double demerit points (based on the second offence):

- 21–30km/h over the limit = 4 demerit points are doubled to 8
- 31–40km/h over the limit = 6 demerit points are doubled to 12
- 41km/h or more over the limit = 8 demerit points are doubled to 16

The 1-year period starts from the first subsequent offence and ends when 1 year has passed from the last speeding offence.

Seatbelts, child restraints and helmets
Double demerit points are recorded for additional driver-related seatbelt, child restraint or motorcycle helmet offences committed within 1 year of a previous offence:

- driver fails to wear a seatbelt (when fitted) – 3 demerit points are doubled to 6
- driver fails to ensure a passenger under 16 wears a seatbelt or child restraint – 3 demerit points are doubled to 6
- motorcycle rider fails to wear a helmet – 3 demerit points are doubled to 6
- motorcycle rider fails to ensure a passenger wears a helmet – 3 demerit points are doubled to 6

The 1-year period starts from the first subsequent offence and ends when 1 year has passed from the last offence.

Special hardship orders
If your licence suspension will cause extreme hardship (e.g. you cannot earn a living) you may apply for a special hardship order (eligibility is restricted) if you:

- accumulated 2 or more demerit points on a 1-year good driving period
- have been suspended for 6 months for speeding 40km/h over the limit

You must lodge your application for a special hardship order within 21 days of your licence suspension in your Magistrates Court district.

Late night driving restrictions
A provisional or probationary licence holder under 25 who commits a high speed offence or accumulates demerit points resulting in a licence suspension or good driving behaviour period is prohibited from driving between 11pm and 5am for 1 year. This
restriction begins when your suspension ends or your good driving behaviour period begins. The restriction start date may change if you apply for a Special Hardship Order.

A provisional, probationary or open licence holder under 25 who gets a court ordered disqualification is prohibited from driving between 11pm and 5am for at least 1 year.

**Alcohol ignition interlock program**

An alcohol ignition interlock is a breath-testing device connected to a vehicle’s ignition that stops a vehicle being started if the driver has been drinking. You will be part of this program for 12 months and cover all costs if you are convicted of any of the following:

- a drink driving offence recording a BAC of 0.15 or more
- driving under the influence of liquor
- failing to provide a blood or breath specimen for analysis
- dangerous driving while affected by alcohol
- 2 or more drink driving offences in a 5 year period

You must have a zero BAC when driving. In the program you are only allowed to drive a vehicle fitted with a prescribed interlock as nominated by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, via an approved interlock supplier. If you are unable to comply with this requirement you may be eligible for an exemption (considered on a case-by-case basis based on strict guidelines).

Not complying may extend your time in the program. If you decide not to follow the program, you will not be allowed to drive for 2 years after your disqualification.

**Cumulative disqualifications**

A cumulative disqualification period applies when convicted and disqualified for:

- 2 or more drink or drug driving offences
- a drink or drug driving offence and driving without a valid licence simultaneously

The disqualification periods will be served one after the other (cumulatively) starting on the date of the court conviction. On a cumulative disqualification, you are not allowed to apply for a restricted (work) licence. After serving a cumulative disqualification, contact the nearest licence-issuing centre to get your licence back.

**Unlicensed and disqualified driving**

**Driving while disqualified by a court**

You will be disqualified from holding or obtaining a driver licence for a stated period by a court order if convicted of a:

- drink or drug driving offence
- dangerous driving offence
- criminal offence involving driving

If caught driving while disqualified you will be charged with disqualified driving.

If convicted the court must further disqualify you for 2-5 years. You may also be fined in excess of $6600, and could be jailed for up to 18 months.
Driving while your Queensland driver licence or your authority to drive is suspended

Your driver licence will be suspended or your authority to drive under your non-Queensland driver licence will be withdrawn for a stated period if you have:

- not paid your fines
- accumulated too many demerit points
- been convicted of speeding more than 40km/h over the limit
- been charged with an offence subject to an immediate licence suspension

If caught driving while suspended or your authority to drive is withdrawn, you will be charged with unlicensed driving. If convicted, the court will disqualify you from holding or obtaining a licence, you may be fined over $4400, and face jail for up to 1 year.

Driving while your authority to drive is withdrawn

Authority to drive in Queensland on a non-Queensland licence is also withdrawn if:

- the Department of Transport and Main Roads believes you have a mental or physical incapacity that affects your driving
- the 3 month residency rule applies to you
- you fail your Q-Safe practical driving test

If caught driving when your authority to drive is withdrawn, you may be given an infringement notice, or be dealt with by a court, for unlicensed driving. If a court finds you guilty, you may be fined in excess of $4400 and could be jailed for up to 1 year.

Driving when you do not hold a driver licence

You do not hold a valid licence if:

- your licence is suspended, expired, or cancelled via court disqualification
- you have voluntarily surrendered your licence
- your licence has been suspended or cancelled because you have a mental or physical incapacity that affects your driving
- you do not hold the class of licence for the vehicle you are driving
- you have never held a licence
- after a period of disqualification, you do not obtain a licence before driving again

If caught driving without a valid licence, you may be given an infringement notice, or be dealt with by a court, for unlicensed driving. If a court finds you guilty, you may be fined in excess of $4400 and could be jailed for up to 1 year.

6. Your vehicle

Buying a vehicle – safety considerations

A good vehicle can help avoid a crash, and improve the chance of survival in a crash. 

Safety features checklist

To help avoid and minimise the possibility of injury in a crash, ask the following:
- What is the safety rating?
  New or used, 4 or 5 stars are recommended.
- Are airbags fitted for both side and front impacts?
  Head-protecting side airbags can reduce deaths in side impact crashes by 37%.
  Torso airbags offer a 26% reduction in death and injuries compared with none.
- Does it have electronic stability control?
  Electronic stability control significantly reduces crash rates by helping maintain control in difficult driving situations.
- What restraints does the vehicle have?
  - 3-point (lap-sash), pre-tensioning, load-limiting seatbelts for all seats – actively tighten and minimise the force on the body in a crash
  - adjustable head restraints for all seats – look for active restraints that reduce the distance your head moves during an impact
  - child restraint anchor points – sufficient for the number of child seats required
  - seatbelt reminder – sound or light warns when belts are not in use, or confirms which belts are fastened.

*Environmentally friendly vehicles*

The Commonwealth Government’s Green Vehicle Guide provides information on fuel consumption (new and used) and greenhouse and air pollution ratings (new). It includes a fuel consumption database for vehicles manufactured between 1986 and 2003, plus information about how to drive and maintain vehicles efficiently.

A transport inspector may pull over your vehicle anywhere, anytime in Queensland to test your vehicle’s pollution levels as good, fair or poor.

*Buyer’s checklist for a registered vehicle*

- The vehicle has a current Queensland safety certificate (with the issuing approved inspection station’s name is on it) displayed on the vehicle.
- An independent mechanic has inspected the vehicle.
- Registration certificate is in seller’s name (not proof of legal ownership).
- Make sure the vehicle does not have a security interest over it by searching the Personal Property Securities Register. If you buy a vehicle on which money is owing, it could be repossessed by the lender. This search will also advise if the vehicle has been reported stolen or written-off.
- If the vehicle runs on gas or has fittings/systems, it may require a gas certificate.
- Ensure a transfer application is 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 it can be used on the road. Registration fees help fund the development and maintenance of the road network. Compulsory third party (CTP) insurance is included in registration. This covers the owner/driver for legal liability arising from the vehicle causing injury to another person. It does not cover damage to property, including vehicles.
The 'registered operator' is the person (or other legal entity) whose name a vehicle is registered in and who is responsible for its operation. If the vehicle is a heavy vehicle, the person must be 18 years or older. Two individual registered operators are allowed, however, transactions may be authorised by either operator. Registration is not proof of legal ownership.

You can only register a vehicle in Queensland if it is based or regularly operates in Queensland. Provide evidence of a Queensland garage address when registering and notify any change of address within 14 days. If you have a vehicle registered in another state, you must register the vehicle in Queensland within 14 days of Queensland becoming the vehicle’s garage address.

Transferring registration
You must transfer the registration to your name within 14 days of acquiring a registered, second-hand vehicle.

Renewing registration
A vehicle registration notice will be sent about 4 weeks before your registration expiry date. Change of address should be notified so this notice reaches you. If you do not receive a notice, you are still responsible for paying the registration fee and CTP by the expiry date. If you do not renew by the expiry date your registration lapses, a reinstatement fee applies and you cannot use the vehicle on a road.

7. Organ donation

Organ donation

Being a donor
For more information on organ donation, visit the Medicare Australia website www.medicareaustralia.gov.au, 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 service centre, Medicare offices, Queensland Government Agent Program offices or your local police station (in rural areas).

Once registered, tell your family and friends about your decision.
Your keys to driving in Queensland Summary

Your keys to driving in Queensland Summary

Check out some of the other Written Road Rules Test resources on qlddrivingtest.com

- Practice tests
- Sample questions
- Test tips
- Preparation tips

Q-SAFE Practical Driving Test

Your Guide to the Q-SAFE: Practical Driving Test Summary
Test tips
Preparation tips

Hazard Perception Test

Practice tests
Test tips
Preparation tips

Open Licence Details

Details on qualifying for an open licence