



Your keys to driving in Queensland

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Your keys to driving in Queensland

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Disclaimer

Information in this guide is current as at 3 May 2016. Road rules and driver licensing requirements are subject to change. For the latest road rules and driver licensing requirements, please regularly refer to the Queensland Government website www.qld.gov.au and the Department of Transport and Main Roads website www.tmr.qld.gov.au.

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

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Introduction

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

This book is essential reading for anyone wanting to learn to drive. Questions to test your knowledge of the road rules are featured at the end of some sections.

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

You will be able to find information easily. There's an index at the back for quick reference.

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

For further information, visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au, www.qld.gov.au or call the Department of Transport and Main Roads on **13 23 80***.

* Operates 8am–5pm, Monday to Friday excluding public holidays. Check with your service provider for call costs. For international callers, please phone +61 7 3405 0985.

Translating and interpreting service

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

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

口筆譯服務處

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

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Dịch Vụ Thông Phiên Dịch

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Servicio de Traducción e Interpretación

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

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



Queensland licensing

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

Queensland driver licence

The Queensland Government has introduced more secure, more durable and more reliable licences, authorities and proof of age cards.

The cards include:

- driver licence
- heavy vehicle driver licence
- adult proof of age card
- marine licence indicator
- industry authority.



Applying for a card

Applying in person and providing additional information

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

Receiving your card

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

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

Licence types

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

The types of Queensland driver licences are:

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

Learner licence

Before learning to drive any class of motor vehicle you must hold either a learner, provisional, probationary or open licence that allows you to learn to drive that vehicle. *Licence classes, codes and conditions* on page 12 provides information about learning to drive another class of vehicle under your provisional, probationary or open licence. *Applying for a licence* on page 16 provides information about getting your learner licence. *Learning to drive* on page 22 outlines the conditions for driving with a learner licence and helps you get ready for your Q-Safe practical driving test or Q-Ride assessment.

Provisional licence

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

After you have held your learner licence for at least one year, you may go for your driving test. Depending on how old you are when you pass your test, you will get either a P1 or P2 provisional licence, which you must hold for a minimum period before you can progress to the next stage – see *Provisional licences* on page 33.

Probationary licence

You will only be eligible for a probationary licence if you have been disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence by a court and you have now served the period of disqualification – see *Probationary licences* on page 39.

Restricted licence

If you are convicted of drink driving but need a licence to earn a living, you may be eligible to ask the court that convicts you to grant you a restricted licence, commonly known as a ‘work’ licence – see *Restricted licences* on page 40.

Open licence

You may be eligible for an open licence if you have held your provisional or probationary licence for the required period – see *Open licences* on page 38.

Graduated licensing system

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

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

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

-  Written road rules test
-  Learner licence
-  Practical driving test
-  P1 provisional licence
-  Hazard perception test
-  P2 provisional licence.

Open licence

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

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

For a learner licence

- You may only get a car learner licence if you are at least 16.
- You will need to pass a written road rules test.
- Your learner licence will be issued for three years.
- You must hold your learner licence for at least one year, in the previous three years, before you can take your driving test.
- You must carry your learner licence with you at all times while learning to drive. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*.
- L plates must be clearly displayed at the front and back of the car you are learning to drive (back only for motorcycles) – see *L plates*, page 24.
- You must be accompanied by a person who holds and has held an open licence for that class of vehicle for at least one year. The supervising driver must not be on a provisional, probationary, restricted, suspended, cancelled or expired licence.

- If you are a learner driver under 25, you must complete 100 hours of supervised on-road driving (including at least 10 hours of night driving) recorded in your Queensland learner logbook, Queensland learner logbook app or RACQ's Learn2go app – see *The compulsory Queensland learner logbook*, page 24.
- You must always drive with a zero (0.00) breath/blood alcohol concentration (BAC).
- Your supervising driver must have a BAC below 0.05 if you are learning to drive a car or 0.00 BAC for drivers supervising heavy vehicle learners.
- If you are under 25 additional restrictions on mobile phone use apply to you, your supervisor and passengers – see *Mobile phones*, page 36.
- If you accumulate four or more demerit points over a continuous one year period while on your learner licence, your driver licence will be suspended for a three month period – see *Demerit points*, page 37.
- To progress to your P1 or P2 licence, you must pass the driving test – see *Q-Safe practical driving test*, page 27.

For a P1 provisional licence

- You may only get a P1 licence if you are at least 17.
- If you are under 25, your first provisional licence will be issued as a P1 licence.
- You are required to hold your P1 licence for at least one year.
- Red P plates must be clearly displayed at the front and back of your car (back only for motorcycles) – see *P plates*, page 35.
- You must always drive with a zero BAC.
- If you are under 25 additional mobile phone restrictions apply to you and your passengers – see *Mobile phones*, page 36.
- You must always carry your licence when you are driving. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*.
- If you are under 25 restrictions apply to driving high-powered vehicles (such as those with eight or more cylinders, or those with turbo, super-charged or modified engines) – see *High-powered vehicles*, page 35.
- If you accumulate four or more demerit points in a continuous one year period you will be required to choose between a three month licence suspension or a one year good driving behaviour period – see *Demerit points*, page 37.
- Peer passenger restrictions apply – see *Peer passengers*, page 37.
- Late night driving restrictions, prohibiting you from driving between 11pm and 5am, may apply if your licence is suspended or cancelled or you are serving a good driving behaviour period – see *Late night driving restrictions*, page 163.

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

You will be required to pass the hazard perception test before you can progress to a P2 provisional or open licence – see *Hazard perception test*, page 34.

For a P2 provisional licence

- You may only get your P2 licence if you are at least 18.
- You must also:
 - have held your P1 licence for at least one year and have passed the hazard perception test – see *Hazard perception test*, page 34
 - or
 - if you are 25 or over, have held your learner licence for at least one year and passed your practical driving test.
- If you got your P1 licence when you were under 23 and your P2 licence when you were under 25, you are required to hold your P2 licence for at least two years. In any other case you are required to hold your P2 licence for at least one year.
- Green P plates must be clearly displayed at the front and back of your car (back only for motorcycles) – see *P plates*, page 35.
- You must always drive with a zero BAC.
- You must always carry your licence when you are driving. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*.
- If you are under 25, restrictions on driving high-powered vehicles (such as those with eight or more cylinders, or those with turbo, super-charged or modified engines) apply – see *High-powered vehicles*, page 35.
- If you accumulate four or more demerit points in a continuous one year period you will be required to choose between a three month licence suspension or a one year good driving behaviour period – see *Demerit points*, page 37.
- Late night driving restrictions, prohibiting you from driving between 11pm and 5am, may apply if your licence is suspended or cancelled or you are serving a good driving behaviour period – see *Late night driving restrictions*, page 163.

For an open licence

- You may only get your open licence if you are at least 20.
- If you were under 23 when you got your P1 licence, you must hold your P2 licence for at least two years to progress to an open licence.
- If you were 23 when you got your P1 licence, you must hold your P2 licence for at least one year to progress to an open licence.
- If you were 24 when you got your P1 licence, you must hold your P1 licence for at least one year to progress to an open licence.
- If you were 25 or over when you passed your practical driving test, you would have been issued with a P2 licence which you must hold for at least one year. To graduate to an open licence you are not required to undertake the hazard perception test.
- If you accumulate 12 or more demerit points in a continuous three year period you will be required to choose between a licence suspension or a one year good driving behaviour period – see *Accumulation of demerit points*
– Queensland licence holders, page 159.

Learner licence for motorcycle

- You may apply for a class RE motorcycle learner licence after you have held your class C car provisional, probationary or open licence for at least one year – see *Motorcycles*, page 41.
- When you are learning to ride a motorcycle, an L plate must be displayed at the back of your motorcycle or on the back of a vest worn while riding – see *L plates*, page 24.
- You may only learn to ride a learner approved motorcycle
– see *Motorcycles*, page 41.
- You must always ride with a zero BAC.
- Restrictions on passengers apply – see *Pillion passenger restriction for learner riders*, page 42.

Minimum period for licence types

If you are required to hold your licence for a stated period and your licence expires or is suspended – including State Penalties Enforcement Registry (SPER) suspensions, or you are disqualified from holding or obtaining a driver licence by order of an Australian court – the stated period will be extended.

Returning drivers

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

Licence classes, codes and conditions

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

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

Authority to learn

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

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

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

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

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

Driver licence classes

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

Licence class	Class of vehicle
RE (motorcycle)	<p>You may ride:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a learner approved motorcycle that is a moped• a learner approved motorcycle, other than a moped, with or without a trailer – see <i>Motorcycles</i>, page 41. <p>You must have held a class C car provisional, probationary or open licence for at least one year to be eligible for a motorcycle (class RE) learner licence.</p> <p>You may learn to ride a class R motorcycle once you have held your class RE provisional, probationary or open licence for at least one year.</p>
R (motorcycle)	<p>You may ride:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a class RE motorcycle• a motorcycle with unlimited engine size, with or without a trailer.

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

Licence class	Class of vehicle
UD	<p>You may drive a specially constructed vehicle, with or without a trailer.</p> <p>Note: From 1 January 2014 no new class UD licences will be issued. Mobile cranes of more than 4.5 tonnes GVM can be driven on a class UD until 1 January 2016.</p>

Licence codes and conditions

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

Upgrading your licence

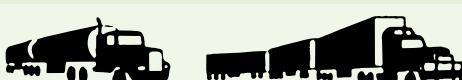
To upgrade your licence to another class, you must:

- 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)
– see *Evidence of identity*, page 16

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

Minimum periods for licence classes

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

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

Applying for a licence

To apply for a licence you must:

- visit a Department of Transport and Main Roads customer service centre or Queensland Government licence issuing office. In some rural or remote areas, Queensland police stations may issue the licence
- complete a *Driver Licence Application/Renewal* (form F3000)
- provide evidence of identity and evidence of Queensland residency
 - see *Evidence of identity*, page 16
- declare that you are medically fit to drive the class of vehicle for the licence that you are applying for. If you have a medical condition that may adversely affect your ability to drive safely, you must provide a medical certificate
 - see *Medical conditions and driving*, page 20
- pay the licence fee.

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

If you hold an interstate or foreign licence and need to get a Queensland licence, – see *Obtaining a Queensland driver licence*, page 57.

Learner licence

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

Provisional licence

To apply for a provisional licence you will also need to complete 100 hours of supervised on-road driving experience recorded in a logbook and submit the logbook for assessment prior to your driving test (if required).

– see *The compulsory Queensland learner licence logbook*, page 24.

To move from a P1 to a P2 or open licence you will need to pay the hazard perception test fee and pass the test (if required) – see *Hazard perception test*, page 34.

Evidence of identity

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

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

You will also need to comply with these requirements when you are applying in person for a replacement of your licence if it has been lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged. You may also apply for a replacement licence online.

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

Evidence of identity documents

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

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

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

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

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

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

Category A documents

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

They include:

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

- Australian photo driver licence (current or expired less than two years)
- Queensland or Australian federal police officer photo identity card
- Queensland Card 18+ (issued after 1 January 1992)
- Queensland Accreditation (laminated) - 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 two years)
- Queensland Driver Authorisation (laminated) - for example bus, taxi or limousine driver (current or expired less than two years).

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

Category B documents

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

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

Change of name documents

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

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

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

Evidence of Queensland residential address

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

They include:

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

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

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

Eyesight

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

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

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

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

Medical conditions and driving

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

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

If you fail to notify the Department of Transport and Main Roads about a medical condition that is likely to adversely affect your ability to drive safely, you risk a fine in excess of \$6,600 and you may also be disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence for a period of time.

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

- fit to drive with no conditions
- or
- fit to drive with stated conditions (for example only driving during daylight or in a vehicle with an automatic transmission)

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

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

If you have a medical condition the code M will be recorded on your licence. This means that when you drive you must carry a current medical certificate (this is detachable from your *Medical Certificate for Motor Vehicle Driver* (form F3712) and drive in accordance with any stated conditions. If you don't, you risk a fine in excess of \$2,200. You must also show your medical certificate to a member of the Queensland Police Service if you have been asked to do so.

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

If you drive vehicles with a GVM of more than 8 tonnes, public passenger vehicles (for example buses or taxis) or vehicles carrying dangerous goods, you must meet the commercial vehicle driver medical standards in the Assessing Fitness to Driver publication, available from the Austroads website www.austroads.com.au.

If you are 75 or older

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

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

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

From 1 January 2014, medical certificates issued to drivers 75 or older will be valid for a maximum period of 12 months from the date of issue. However, in some cases your doctor may want you to undertake more regular check-ups and therefore may issue you with a medical certificate for a period less than 12 months.

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

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

Road rules test

You can take the written road rules test at a driver licence issuing centre when you apply for your learner licence. You pay a fee for each test. You can also take the motorcycle road rules test online. If you take the test online, a fee is only required once you pass the test. If you pass your test, you may get a learner licence. If you fail your test, you cannot take it again until the next working day.

Allow at least 30 minutes to complete your road rules test. Once you pass your road rules test, the result is valid for five years. If you apply for an additional licence class, you may need to pass a specific road rules test for that class.

Class C general road rules test

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

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

Class RE or R (motorcycle) road rules test

You will have to correctly answer at least 27 out of the 30 additional questions specific to motorcycles to pass the test.

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

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

Practice test questions

Before you sit the road rules test, you can test your knowledge for all licence classes by completing the practice road rules test online at www.qld.gov.au. This will give you an indication of the areas you need to focus on before you try to pass the road rules test. You should also complete the practice test questions in this publication.

Learning to drive



Learner licence conditions

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

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

- Display L plates on the front and back of your vehicle.

- Keep your licence with you at all times while driving. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*.
- Be accompanied by a person who holds and has held an open licence for that class of vehicle (for example, automatic or manual), for at least one year. The supervising driver must not be on a provisional, probationary, restricted, suspended, cancelled or expired licence when accompanying a learner and they must have a BAC below 0.05 if you are learning to drive a car or (0.00) for drivers supervising heavy vehicle learners – see *Alcohol and drugs*, page 100.
- You must drive with a zero BAC.
- You must hold a learner licence for at least one year before being eligible to undertake a practical driving test. Passing the practical driving test will enable you to move to the next stage of your licensing journey. If you are under 25 years of age you will qualify for your P1 licence. If you are 25 or over you will qualify for your P2 licence.
- Using a mobile phone is prohibited while driving, including hands-free function, loudspeaker function and Bluetooth® accessories. Your driving supervisor and passengers are also restricted from using mobile phones on loudspeaker function – see *Mobile phones* page 25.

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

- Complete 100 hours (or equivalent) of supervised on-road driving experience including 10 hours at night, recorded and verified in a logbook – see *The compulsory Queensland learner logbook*, page 24.

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you accumulate four or more demerit points over a continuous one year period while on your learner licence, your licence will be suspended for a three month period – see *Accumulation of demerit points – Queensland licence holders*, page 159.

L plates

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



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

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

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

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

The compulsory Queensland learner logbook

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

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

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

You can also record your 100 hours online using RACQ’s online logbook at www.learn2go.com.au.

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

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

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

If you are not using the app, the information contained in your logbook is valuable. It's a good idea to keep a copy of the driving experience pages or to keep an electronic logbook at www.learn2go.com.au.

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

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

Your supervisor can be a family member, a friend or an accredited driver trainer, or a combination of all three of these. An accredited driver trainer is a professional driving instructor with a driving school.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mobile phones

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

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

Ready to drive – for the learner

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

Remember that taking risks and driver inexperience are key factors in many fatal crashes involving young drivers. While learner drivers are not generally prone to having crashes, once you get your provisional licence, you are then a solo driver and are much more likely to have a serious crash than other motorists. Don't fall into the trap of taking risks and becoming a statistic by doing something stupid.

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

Sample questions – learner licences

1. What is the maximum breath/blood alcohol concentration (BAC) for a learner driver? (See page 23)

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

2. If you are driving a car on a learner licence, you: (See page 24)

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

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

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

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

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

5. For how long must you hold your learner licence before you take your practical driving test? (See page 9)

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

Q-Safe practical driving test

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

Booking your Q-Safe practical driving test

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

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

For more information about booking a practical driving test, call the Department of Transport and Main Roads on **13 23 90**, visit *Services online* at www.tmr.qld.gov.au, or check the information in your logbook.

Note: If you wish to obtain a motorcycle licence or heavy vehicle licence, see pages 41 and 51 respectively.

Test vehicles

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

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

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

- mirrors and internal sun visors that are adjustable
- windows that are clean and able to be opened and shut
- windscreen and wipers in good condition
- seatbelts and head restraints fitted to both front seats
- doors that are fitted with suitable door handles that are able to be opened from inside and outside the vehicle.

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

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

If you are under 25 and do your practical driving test in a high-powered vehicle, you will not be able to drive it out of the testing centre if you pass the practical driving test. You will need an open licence holder to drive the vehicle from the licence testing centre as P1 and P2 licence holders under 25 must not drive high-powered vehicles – see *High-powered vehicles*, page 35.

Before the Q-Safe practical driving test

Bring your:

- learner licence or current licence if you are being tested for another class of licence
- L plates if you are using your own vehicle
- *Driving Test Appointment Sheet (form F3910)*
- Completed *Driver Licence Application/Renewal* (form F3000), ensuring the ‘Registered operator’s authorisation for test vehicle’ section is signed by the registered operator. This authorises a Department of Transport and Main Roads driving examiner to drive the vehicle if necessary
- vehicle
- glasses or contact lenses, if needed (if you have to wear corrective lenses when driving you must wear them during your practical driving test)
- P plates to attach to your vehicle after you pass your practical test and get your provisional licence – red P plates if you are under 25 or green P plates if you are 25 or older – see *P plates* on page 35 for information on where to buy P plates or how to download them from www.qld.gov.au.

You should arrive at least 10 minutes before your practical test with the *Driving Test Appointment Sheet* and *Driver Licence Application/Renewal* fully completed by you and the registered operator of the test vehicle. A customer service officer must witness your signature on the form.

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

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

- your vehicle is modified (unless the modifications have been approved by the Department of Transport and Main Roads)
- your number plate is obscured by anything (such as a tow bar)
- your number plate cannot be read from 20m away
- your vehicle does not meet the minimum standards for test vehicles
- your vehicle does not pass a basic safety check
- L plates are not displayed on the vehicle
- 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*
- you failed a practical driving test for the same class of licence earlier the same day
- you did not sign the declaration on the *Driver Licence Application/Renewal*
- you are under 25 and your logbook has not been checked and passed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Your practical driving test fee will not be refunded if:

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

During your Q-Safe practical driving test

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

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

A message from your driving examiner

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

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

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

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

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

Do you have any questions?

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

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

Additional information

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

Q-Safe practical driving test

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

Pre-drive check

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

Driving tasks

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

- stopping – use of the vehicle's parking or foot brake when stopped.
- giving way – slow down or stop and give way to vehicles or pedestrians so they do not have to slow down, stop or take action to avoid your vehicle. This also applies to reversing your vehicle.
- signs, signals and road markings – obey all traffic signs, signals and road markings, including any warning and guide signs.
- moving off, changing direction or lane changing – follow this sequence:
 1. look in mirrors
 2. indicate your intention
 3. check the vehicle's blind spot by turning your head
 4. check traffic, your road position and speed
 5. when beginning to move, check for changed traffic conditions.
- clutch – control the clutch so that there is a smooth take-up of power to the drive wheels and smooth gear changing; no clutch coasting.
- gears – demonstrate the correct use of gears appropriate for speed, vehicle and driving conditions.
- braking – drive to avoid harsh or abrupt movement by slowing the vehicle smoothly and progressively. The parking brake is used when the vehicle is stationary.
- speed – do not exceed the speed limit and drive at a speed that suits the road and traffic conditions.
- observation and scanning – be on guard, always looking for traffic hazards and possible problems. Look left, right, ahead and behind when approaching a hazard, then use a driving 'system' to deal with it in time – see *Hazards*, page 141.
- mirrors – check rear vision mirrors, including both side mirrors, frequently.
- following vehicles – in good conditions, travel at least two seconds behind the vehicle in front of you. Double this gap in poor conditions – see *Safe following distance*, page 139.
- marked lanes – keep within lane markings. Change lanes only after signalling and if it is safe to do so.
- road position – keep as far left as safe and practical when driving on a road without marked lanes.
- signalling and indicators – give other road users sufficient warning of what you intend to do – see *Indicating and signalling*, page 77.

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

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

After the Q-Safe practical driving test

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

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

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

If you failed, don't panic

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

The cooling off periods are:

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

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

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

Provisional licences

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

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

P1 provisional licence requirements

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

- must display red P plates at the front and back of your car when driving (back only for motorcycles)
- must not use your mobile phone when driving, including hands-free functions or Bluetooth® accessories. Your passengers are banned from using mobile phones on the loudspeaker function – see *Mobile phones*, page 36
- are not allowed to have more than one passenger aged under 21 in the car with you between 11pm and 5am, unless they're members of your immediate family – see *Peer passengers*, page 37
- are not allowed to drive high-powered vehicles – see *High-powered vehicles*, page 35
- must drive with a zero BAC – see *Alcohol and drugs*, page 100
- must always carry your licence when you are driving. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*.

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

Getting your P2 licence

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

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

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

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

Hazard perception test

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: You will never be able to exit the P1 licence stage until you have successfully passed the hazard perception test.

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

P2 provisional licence requirements

If you hold a P2 provisional licence you must:

- display green P plates at the front and back of your car when driving (back only for motorcycles)
- drive with a zero BAC – see *Alcohol and drugs*, page 100
- always carry your licence when you are driving. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*.

If you are under 25 you must not drive high-powered vehicles – see *High-powered vehicles*, page 35.

Provisional licence issued before 1 July 2007

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

- drive with a zero BAC – see *Alcohol and drugs*, page 100
- always carry your licence when you are driving.

P plates



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

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

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

High-powered vehicles

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

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

Vehicles manufactured after 1 January 2010

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

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

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

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

Vehicles manufactured before 1 January 2010

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

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

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

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

Mobile phones

All drivers are banned from using a mobile phone that is held in the hand while driving (see page 121). You will get a fine and three demerit points if you are caught. If you're a learner or P1 licence holder under 25 you are further banned from using hands-free kits, Bluetooth® accessories and loudspeaker function. See also *Double demerit points*, page 161.

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

Peer passengers

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

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

Demerit points

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

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

If you are under 25, further restrictions will be imposed during the good driving behaviour period or when you resume driving after the suspension
– see *Licence sanctions*, page 158.

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

Sample questions – provisional licences

1. What is the maximum blood alcohol concentration for a provisional licence holder?

(See page 33)

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

2. If you are under 25 and hold a P1 provisional licence, how many passengers under 21 (other than immediate family members) are you allowed to have in the car between 11pm and 5am? (See page 33)

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

3. Which two of the following statements are true for a driver with a P1 provisional licence who is under 25? (See page 36)

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

4. If you hold a provisional licence, your licence will be suspended or you will have to comply with a good driving behaviour option if you accumulate how many demerit points? (See page 37)

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

Open licences

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

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

Conditions for open licence holders

- You must remove any P plates once you get your open licence.
- It is recommended that you always carry your licence with you when driving. However, if you are driving a heavy vehicle you must always carry your licence when you are driving. If you are waiting to receive your heavy vehicle driver licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*.
- You must drive with a BAC below 0.05 or 0.00 for interlock and heavy vehicle drivers – see *Alcohol and drugs*, page 100.

Demerit points

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

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

– see *Accumulation of demerit points – Queensland licence holders*, page 159.

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

Probationary and restricted licences

Probationary licences

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

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

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

Conditions for probationary licence holders

You must:

- hold the probationary licence for at least one year
- carry your licence at all times when driving. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*
- have a zero BAC when driving – see *Alcohol and drugs*, page 100
- comply with a late night driving restriction (if you held a P1 or P2 licence and were under 25 at the time of committing the offence that resulted in your disqualification), prohibiting you from driving between 11pm and 5am, if required – see *Late night driving restrictions*, page 163.

You may:

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

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

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

Restricted licences

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

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

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

- you did not hold a Queensland open licence at the time you committed, and were convicted of, the offence
- you were driving a motor vehicle that you were not authorised to drive under your open licence at the time you committed the offence
- when tested, your BAC was 0.15 or greater – see *Alcohol and drugs*, page 100
- when you committed the offence you were using the vehicle in an activity directly connected with your means of earning a living
- at the time of the offence, you were driving a truck, tractor, specially constructed vehicle, bus, articulated motor vehicle, B-double, road train, taxi, limousine, tow truck, pilot or escort vehicle escorting an oversize vehicle, a vehicle carrying a placard load of dangerous goods or a vehicle being used by a driver trainer to give driver training
- in the past five years, your provisional or open licence has been suspended or cancelled, or you have been disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence
- you have been convicted of drink or drug driving or dangerous driving in the past five years.

Conditions for restricted licence holders

You must:

- carry your licence and court order at all times when driving. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*
- comply with the conditions stated on the court order when driving
- have a zero BAC when driving – see *Alcohol and drugs*, page 100.

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

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

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 one year during the past five years.

Class RE licence holders (learner, provisional, probationary and open licence holders) are only able to ride a motorcycle that is a learner approved motorcycle (refer to page 42 for information on eligibility for learning to ride a class R motorcycle).

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

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

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

A full list of learner approved motorcycles and more information about the learner approved motorcycle scheme is available on the Department of Transport and Main Roads website at www.tmr.qld.gov.au.

Q-Ride

You can get your class RE provisional or open licence when you have undertaken and passed a Q-Ride course. Q-Ride is a competency based training and assessment course provided by Q-Ride registered service providers (you can enrol in a Q-Ride course as soon as you are issued a licence allowing you to learn to ride).

If you live within a 100km radius of a Q-Ride registered service provider, you must complete a Q-Ride competency based training and assessment course.

During the Q-Ride course you will be required to demonstrate your competency in riding a learner approved motorcycle. For a full list of Q-Ride registered service providers, please visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au.

Q-Safe

If you live outside a 100km radius of a Q-Ride registered service provider, you have the option of completing a Department of Transport and Main Roads 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 six months. For more information on booking a Q-Safe test through the Department of Transport and Main Roads call **13 23 80**.

Once you have undertaken and passed 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 one year before learning to ride a class R motorcycle.

If you live within a 100km radius of a Q-Ride registered service provider, you must complete a Q-Ride competency based training and assessment course.

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

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

Pillion passenger restriction for learner riders

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

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

P plates on motorcycles

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

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

Conditions for learning to ride a class RE motorcycle

You must:

- obey the conditions that apply to your licence
- always carry your licence when you are learning to ride. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*
- be supervised by a person who holds an open class RE or class R licence and has held this licence for at least one year. Your supervisor must hold the class of licence for the motorcycle you are learning to ride

- only learn to ride a learner approved motorcycle (for class RE learner licence holders)
- always display an L plate on the back of the motorcycle you are riding or on the back of a vest worn while riding – see *L plates*, page 24
- have a zero BAC when you are on your class RE learner licence
- not carry a pillion passenger while you are learning to ride.

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

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

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

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 provisional, probationary or open licence for at least one year.
- You must display an L plate at all times on the back of the motorcycle, or alternatively on the back of a vest worn by you while learning to ride.
- You must not carry a pillion passenger, including a supervisor.
- You must be accompanied by a supervisor with an appropriate licence, on another motorcycle or vehicle, at all times you are riding on the road.
- You must always ride with a zero BAC while learning to ride.
- You must always carry your licence when you are learning to ride. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*.

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

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

Special rules about mopeds

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

- always carry your learner licence when you are learning to ride. If you are waiting to receive your licence in the mail, you must carry your *Driver Licence Receipt*

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

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

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

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

A moped rider with an open class C, RE or R licence may lane filter and ride on road shoulders or in emergency stopping lanes under certain conditions when it is safe to do so. For further information, see pages 48–49.

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

The Q-Ride method

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

Q-Ride registered service 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 as soon as you get your class RE learner licence.

Note: You can sign up for Q-Ride to get your class R licence after you have held your class RE provisional or open licence for at least one 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, or hold a class RE provisional, probationary or open licence, which you have held for at least one year, to learn to ride a class R motorcycle.

2. Choose – a Q-Ride registered service provider. Your choice may depend on location, fees and charges.
3. Enrol – in Q-Ride training with a Q-Ride registered service provider. The registered service provider will ask you to provide some information about your licence history to determine which class of motorcycle you are eligible to learn to ride.
4. Learn – develop your motorcycle riding skills through progressive training. You must always carry your class RE learner, provisional, probationary or open licence. You must only receive instruction from another rider who holds an open licence for the class of motorcycle you are riding and who has held that licence for at least one year.
5. Certificate – when you have been assessed as attaining the required competencies by an accredited rider trainer, the Q-Ride registered service provider will issue you with a competency declaration (Q-Ride certificate) for the class of motorcycle you have successfully learned to ride.
6. Licence – take your Q-Ride certificate together with your licence into a Department of Transport and Main Roads customer service centre to apply for your class RE or R licence.

For further information about your local Q-Ride registered service provider, visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au/QRIDE.

Q-Safe practical driving test

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

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

For information on booking a Q-Safe test, see page 27.

Test vehicles

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

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

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

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

If you hold a P1 or P2 licence, bring your P plate to attach to your motorcycle after you pass the test. You will need a red P plate if you hold a P1 licence or a green P plate if you hold a P2 licence – see *P plates on motorcycles*, page 42.

Clothing requirements

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

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

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

A message from your riding examiner

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Do you have any questions?

Pre-ride check

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

Riding tasks

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

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

- changing road position – give other road users sufficient warning of what you intend to do and always check your mirrors and your vehicle's blind spot before changing your position on the road – see *Indicating and signalling*, page 77
- posture when riding:
 - keep your knees into the tank
 - keep your head up so you are looking well ahead through the corners
 - keep your foot instep on the footrest
 - keep your feet on the footrests except when stopping or moving off
 - keep your feet out and slightly down
- gear changing – avoid wheel lock-up by smooth gear changes. A touch to the accelerator on down changes is recommended
- balance and control – maintain full balance and control of the motorcycle in all speed and riding conditions
- road position – keep clear of painted surfaces and metal inspection covers on the road surface. Beware of oily or loose surfaces, especially near intersections. The positioning of your motorcycle on the road must be suitable for the road conditions. When in a marked lane, keep within the lane. On a two-way road where there are no line markings, maintain a road position that enhances your safety

- required manoeuvres:
 - slow ride – ride in a straight line at the speed of a slow walk using the clutch if necessary to adjust the speed of the motorcycle – see *posture when riding*, above
 - U-turns – give way to all other vehicles and pedestrians and have a clear view of all approaching traffic in all directions of travel – see *U-turns*, page 74
 - emergency stop – stop the motorcycle safely with full control from a speed of no more than 40km/h. Use all your fingers on the front brake at all times. Don't lock the wheels. You are not required to change back through the gears in this exercise
 - hill start – move off smoothly from a stationary position and travel up a moderate incline without the motorcycle rolling backwards.

Additional road rules for motorcycle riders

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

- You must wear an approved motorcycle helmet securely fastened at all times other than when the motorcycle is parked.
- You must always display an L plate on the back of the motorcycle you are learning to ride or on the back of a vest worn by you while learning to ride – see *L plates*, page 24.
- If you hold a provisional licence (P1 or P2) you need to display the appropriate P plate on the back of the motorcycle at all times.
- You must be astride the rider's seat.
- Before carrying a passenger on the class of motorcycle you are riding, you must have held your provisional, probationary or open motorcycle licence for that class of motorcycle for at least one year.
- You may ride side-by-side with another motorcycle rider in one marked lane, provided you are not more than 1.5m apart.
- You may enter a bicycle storage area as long as you give way to cyclists or other motorcycle riders already in or entering the area.
- If you hold an open licence for riding a motorcycle (including an RE or R open licence), you may lane filter by moving between stationary or slow moving vehicles travelling in the same direction as yourself, provided you do not exceed 30km/h and it is safe to do so. Lane filtering is prohibited in school zones during school zone hours.

- If you hold an open licence for riding a motorcycle (including an RE or R open licence), on major roads where the speed limit is 90km/h or higher, such as motorways, freeways and highways, 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 to do so.

Rules for carrying passengers on any motorcycle

- You must not carry a pillion passenger when you are learning to ride a class RE or R motorcycle and during the first 12 months of holding your class RE or R licence.
- Each of your passengers must wear an approved motorcycle helmet securely fastened at all times other than when the motorcycle is parked.
- Your pillion passenger on a moving motorcycle must be astride the pillion seat and face forwards. They must be at least eight years of age and their feet must be able to reach the passenger footrests while seated.
- You must not carry more passengers in the motorcycle's sidecar than the sidecar was designed to carry.
- Your passenger must be seated safely on the pillion seat or in a sidecar attached to the motorcycle.
- Your pillion passenger must not ride on the motorcycle unless it has a suitable pillion seat and suitable passenger footrests.
- Your passenger must not interfere with your effective control of the motorcycle.

Parking

When parking a motorcycle or moped, position at least one wheel as close as possible to the kerb. Park a motorcycle with a sidecar parallel to the kerb. You must obey the parking rules. For more information, see *Parking*, page 115.

Preparing to get on the road

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sample questions – motorcycles

1. As a learner motorcycle rider, you: (See page 24)

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

2. What type of motorcycle can be ridden under a class RE licence? (See page 41)

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

3. Motorcycle riders must ride: (See page 48)

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

4. Is a pillion passenger required to wear a motorcycle helmet? (See page 49)

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

Heavy vehicles

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

For information on booking your practical driving test, see page 27.

Test vehicles

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

There are standard test vehicles for each class of licence.

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

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

Practical driving test times

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

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

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

Q-Safe practical driving test

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

Pre-drive check

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

Practical driving test

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

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

Correct sequence and procedure – uncouple

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

Correct sequence and procedure – recouple

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

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

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

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

Long vehicle

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

Synchromesh restriction code

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

For additional road rules for heavy vehicles, see *Heavy vehicles*, page 105.

General provisions

Renewing your licence

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

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

If you renew your provisional, probationary or open licence within five years of the expiry date of the licence, you will not be required to take another practical driving test before being granted a further licence of the same class. However, if you are found driving after your licence expires and before you renew it, you may be charged with unlicensed driving – see *Unlicensed and disqualified driving*, page 165.

Travelling interstate or overseas

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

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

Changing your name or address

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

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

Non-Queensland driver licences

Interstate licence

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

Foreign licence

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

Driving in Queensland

When you may drive in Queensland

If you hold a valid interstate or foreign licence, you are allowed to drive any class of vehicle in Queensland that you are authorised to drive on that licence, as long as you comply with the conditions (if any) on it.

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

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

When you must not drive in Queensland

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

- your licence is no longer valid because:
 - it has expired
 - it has been suspended or cancelled by the issuing authority
- you have been disqualified by an Australian court from holding or obtaining a licence
- your authority to drive in Queensland on your interstate or foreign licence has been suspended because:
 - you have been convicted of driving more than 40km/h over the speed limit
 - you have not paid fines
 - you have accumulated too many demerit points – see *Accumulation of demerit points – interstate and foreign licence holders*, page 160
- your authority to drive in Queensland has been withdrawn because:
 - you have a medical condition that adversely affects your ability to drive safely – see *Medical conditions and driving*, page 20
 - the three months residency rule applies to you – see below.

When the three months residency rule applies

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

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

Permanent visa and special category visa

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

If you need to drive in Queensland

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

Obtaining a Queensland driver licence

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

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

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

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

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

You may also be required to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Road rules

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

Signs and signals

Signs

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

There are three common types of traffic signs:

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

Regulatory signs

You must obey the instructions on these signs.



Stop

Stop and give way as required by the give way rules including if you turn at the intersection, you must give way to pedestrians crossing the road you are entering.



Give way

Slow down, stop if necessary and give way as required by the give way rules, including if you turn at the intersection, you must give way to pedestrians crossing the road you are entering.



Roundabout

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



No U-turn

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



Wrong way — go back

This sign tells you that you are driving in the wrong direction on a one way road.



No turns

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



No left turn

Do not turn left at the intersection.



Keep left

You must drive to the left of this sign.



No right turn

Do not turn right or make a U-turn at the intersection. A U-turn is permitted if there is a 'U-turn permitted' sign.



Two way

Vehicles travel in both directions on this road.



No entry

Do not drive onto the road beyond this sign.



One way

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



No overtaking or passing

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

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



Trucks and buses use low gear

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



Keep left unless overtaking

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

For more regulatory signs – see *Hazardous localities*, page 96.



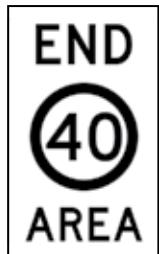
You must not drive faster than the km/h speed shown in the circle. In poor conditions, it is safer to drive slower than the speed limit – see *Bad weather*, page 143.



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



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



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



Some speed limit signs show the times or days that the limit applies, for example in school zones. In some instances school zones have flashing lights mounted above the signs to help draw drivers attention to the school zone. Other variable speed limit signs have a changeable electronic display to show the current speed limit, for example on motorways and in tunnels. These electronic variable speed limit signs seem similar to normal speed signs except they have illuminated white numerals surrounded by red lights on a black background. On motorways, long bridges and in tunnels these signs may also be combined with road control signs to direct traffic.



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



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

Warning signs

These signs warn you of hazards.



Steep descent
or steep
downgrade



Railway level
crossing ahead



Railway level
crossing –
flashing signal
ahead



Roundabout
ahead



GIVE WAY
sign ahead



STOP
sign ahead



Traffic lights
ahead



Side road
intersection



Crossroad
intersection



T-intersection
ahead



Divided road



End divided
road



Road narrows



Merging traffic



Added lane



One-lane
bridge



Arrows indicate
direction of traffic



Traffic travels
in each
direction



Turn



Reverse turns



Curve



Reverse curves



Winding road



Sharp
depression in
road



Water flows
across road



Raised area
on road



Road hump



Advisory
speed limit



School



Pedestrian
crossing
ahead



Pedestrian
crossing



Children
could be on
the road



Maximum
safe speed
in good
conditions



Children
getting on
and off buses



School bus
turning



People on
bicycles may
be using the
road



Pedestrians
may be using
the road



Trucks
crossing or
entering



Beware of
kangaroos



Low
clearance
ahead



Low-flying
aircraft ahead



Hazard
ahead. Be
prepared to
take action



Slippery road

Hazard markers

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

Unidirectional hazard markers



Drive to the left of the hazard.



Drive to the right of the hazard.

Bidirectional hazard marker



Driver either side of the hazard.

Width markers

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



Drive to the right of the sign.



Drive to the left of the sign.

Guide and information signs

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



Form one lane

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



Turn left at any time with care

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



Slow vehicles use left lane

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



No through road

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



Reduce speed now

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



Services

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



Local traffic only

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



Tourist drive information

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

Traffic lights

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

If you disobey a red or yellow traffic light, you may receive an infringement notice from a police officer. If you disobey a red traffic light, you may be sent a *Photographic Detection Device Offence* notice in the mail – see *Red light cameras*, page 155.

For information about how cyclists and pedestrians should respond to traffic lights – see *Rules for other road users*, page 123.

Obeying traffic lights

Stop



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



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

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



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

Drive with caution

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



Drive past the light

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



Traffic lights showing a white B light

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



Turning right at traffic lights

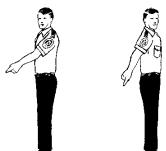
If the light is green and there are vehicles approaching from the opposite direction, you should move forward into the intersection past the STOP line if you can do so safely. If there is a safe gap in oncoming traffic, you may complete the turn. If you are in the intersection and the oncoming traffic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

Obeying lawful directions

Police officers and Department of Transport and Main Roads inspectors

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

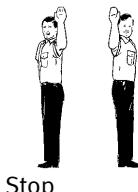
You must obey these signals and any directions given.



Stop where indicated and wait



Go as directed



Stop

Traffic controllers

A traffic controller may direct traffic at or through a worksite. You must obey a lawful direction or signal given by a traffic controller within a designated worksite.



Stop



Go slow



Go slow

Sample questions – signs and signals

1. What does this sign mean? (See page 61)

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



2. When a traffic light turns from green to yellow, you must: (See page 67)

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

3. What does this sign mean? (See page 60)

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



4. What does this sign mean? (See page 61)

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



5. What does this sign mean? (See page 63)

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



Speed limits

Speed limit sign



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

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

Learner and provisional licence holders

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

In a built-up area



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

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

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

This includes roads in residential, commercial and industrial areas.

Outside a built-up area

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

Heavy vehicles over 12 tonnes GVM or buses over 5 tonnes GVM are restricted to travelling at a maximum speed of 100km/h, regardless of any higher speed limit that may be shown – see *Speed limiters*, page 107.

Specific speed zones



A length of road that has a specific speed limit applying to it is known as a speed zone. A speed zone is always defined by a speed limit sign at the start of the zone and another speed limit sign showing a different speed limit at the end of the zone. If you turn off this road into another road before you see another speed limit sign, you should not drive any faster than the default speed limit on the other road until you see a speed sign showing a different speed limit. 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 in the zone at different times of the day or days of the week. These different speed limits may be shown by special speed limit signs that may be electronically controlled.

An example of a variable speed zone is a school zone. The maximum speed limit in a school zone may be shown either by normal school zone signs or by special electronic signs, and is usually 40km/h or 60km/h. This speed limit only applies on school days between the hours shown on the sign. At any other time, the speed limit shown on the last speed limit sign before you enter the school zone will apply. School zone hours and speed limits may differ between schools, so read the sign, read the time and read your speed. When an electronic variable speed limit sign is blank you must 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 to allow the speed to be changed if required. A variable speed limit zone is shown through the use of electronic variable speed limit signs and selected static signs.

See also *Speed limit signs*, page 62.

Warning sign with advisory speed limit



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

See also *Warning signs*, page 63.

Sample questions – speed limits

1. What does this sign mean? (See page 70)

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



2. Can you legally drive over the speed limit? (See page 70)

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

3. Speeding is dangerous because: (See page 70)

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

4. What is the maximum speed limit (unless otherwise signposted) in a built-up area? (See page 70)

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

5. What does this sign mean? (See page 71)

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

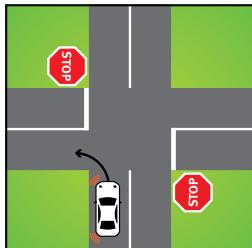


Making turns

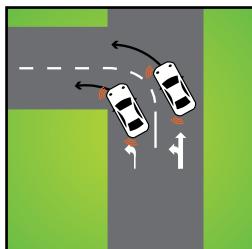
Turning

Before you turn you must indicate long enough to tell other road users.

Left turns



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

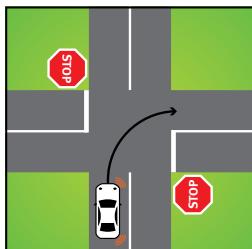


When you turn left at an intersection from a multi-lane road, you must approach and enter the intersection from within the left lane unless:

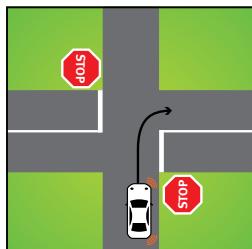
- there is a slip lane for left turns
- there is an obstruction in the left lane
- road markings allow the turn to be made from another lane
- your vehicle is showing a DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE sign.

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

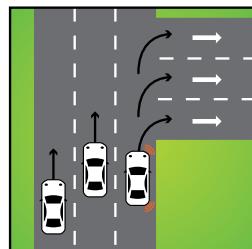
Right turns



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

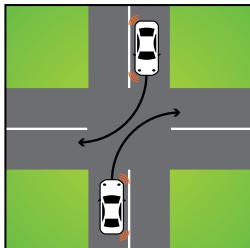


When turning right from a one-way street, drive up to the intersection, keeping your vehicle close to the right and parallel to the side of the road.



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

Turning right at unmarked intersections



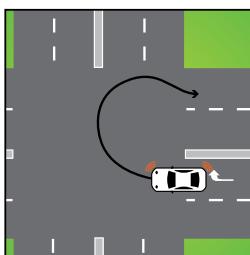
When you turn right from a two-way road at an unmarked intersection, pass to the right of the centre of the intersection unless turn lines indicate differently. Give way rules apply.

Tips – turning

When turning:

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

U-turns



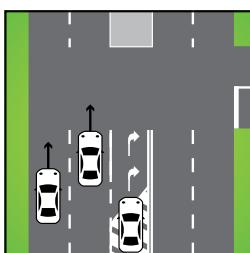
You must only make a U-turn when necessary.

You can make a U-turn if:

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

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

Turning across painted traffic islands



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

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

Roundabouts



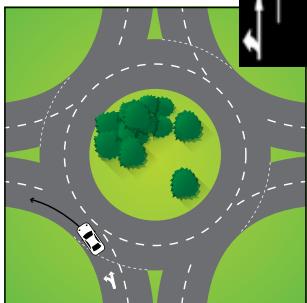
This sign means that you are approaching a roundabout.



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

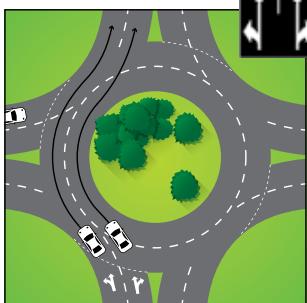
- Indicate, if necessary, as you approach and enter the roundabout.
- Drive clockwise around the roundabout.
- Follow the road arrows and direction signs.
- Drive within marked lanes.
- Indicate when you are going to change lanes.
- Indicate, if practical, before exiting the roundabout.

Driving on a roundabout with marked lanes



To make a left turn at the roundabout:

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

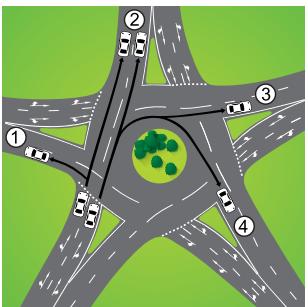


To drive straight ahead at the roundabout:

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

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

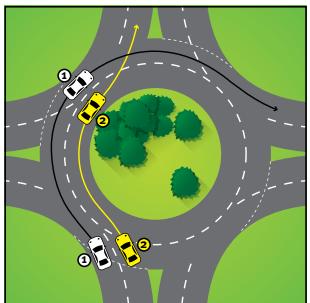
1. signal right as you enter the roundabout and continue to signal right while driving on the roundabout
2. approach and enter the roundabout from the right marked lane or line of traffic
3. give way to vehicles already on the roundabout
4. if traffic lane arrows apply to the lane, drive in the direction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

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

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

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

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



Giving way at roundabouts



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

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

Tips – roundabouts

Keep a special lookout for motorcycle riders and cyclists as they can be hard to see.
Also watch out for large trucks as they may need more space to complete their manoeuvre.

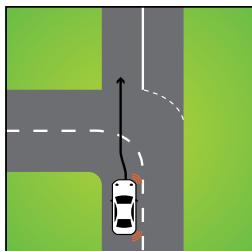
Indicating and signalling

You must signal your intention to:

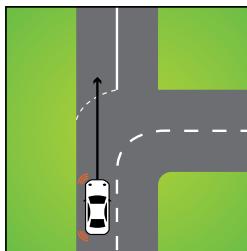
- stop or slow down – use brake lights or a hand signal
- turn right, move right or make a U-turn – use indicators or hand signal
- turn left or move left – use indicators only (there is no left hand signal).

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

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



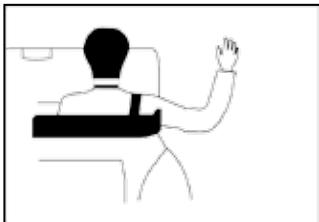
Vehicle must indicate right if the continuing road curves to the left.



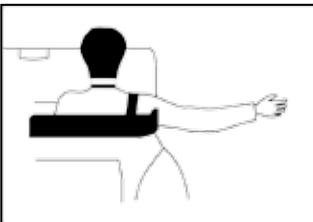
Vehicle must indicate left if the continuing road curves to the right.

Hand signals

There are two official hand signals.



About to stop or slow down.



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

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

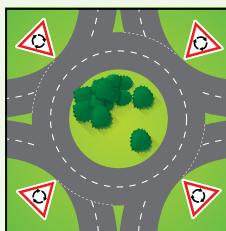
Using your horn

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

Sample questions – turns, roundabouts and signalling

1. You are driving your vehicle towards a multi-lane roundabout. You want to travel straight through the roundabout to the road opposite. What lane must you take? (See page 75)

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

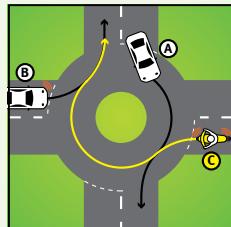


2. You can do a U-turn at an intersection with traffic lights: (See page 74)

- A. between 9 pm and 6 am
- B. if there is no oncoming traffic
- C. when there is a U-TURN PERMITTED sign.

3. You are riding vehicle C. You must give way to: (See page 77)

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



4. When are you allowed to sound your horn? (See page 78)

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

Giving way

Give way for a driver or pedestrian means:

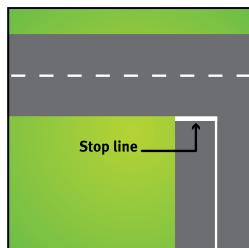
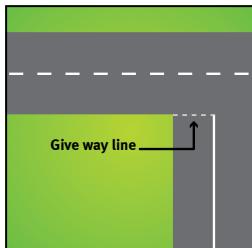
- if a driver or pedestrian is stopped—remain stationary until it is safe to proceed
- in any other case: slow-down and, if necessary, stop to avoid a collision.

Learners will be tested in detail about giving way, so learn every rule before taking the written test. Give way rules are designed to allow road users and pedestrians to move predictably without the danger of a crash. Drivers who don't give way are dangerous to themselves and other road users.

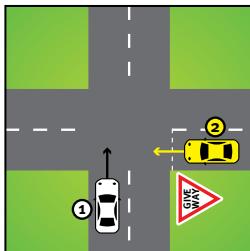
GIVE WAY and STOP

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

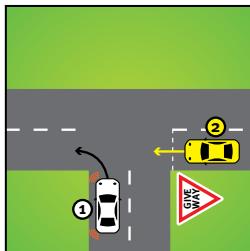
STOP lines and GIVE WAY lines on the road have the same meaning as STOP signs and GIVE WAY signs. They are used in case a sign is missing, for example stolen or knocked down. This also applies at railway level crossings.



GIVE WAY signs



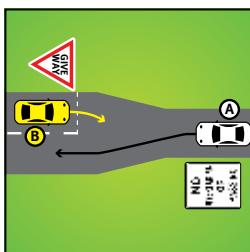
Vehicle 2 must give way to vehicle 1.



Vehicle 2 must give way to vehicle 1.

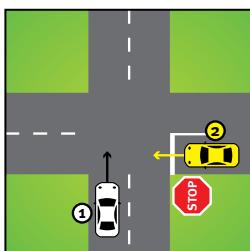
When you face a GIVE WAY sign or GIVE WAY line at an intersection, you must slow down or, if necessary, stop.

You must then give way to vehicles approaching, entering or on the intersection. If you turn at the intersection, you must also give way to 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

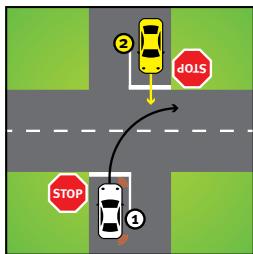


Vehicle 2 must stop and give way to vehicle 1.

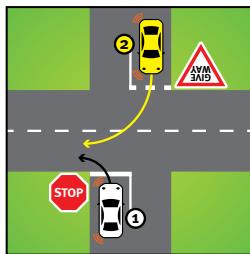
When you face a STOP sign or STOP line, you must bring your vehicle to a complete stop just behind the STOP line. You must give way to vehicles approaching, entering or on the intersection. If you turn at the intersection, you must also give way to pedestrians crossing the road you are entering. If there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

Giving way at GIVE WAY and STOP signs

When two or more drivers face each other at STOP or GIVE WAY signs at an intersection, they must first give way to all other vehicles. The drivers must also give way to any pedestrians on the road they are entering. They then apply the give way rules – see also *Giving way to the right* on page 81.



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

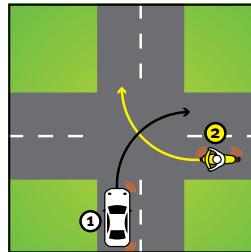
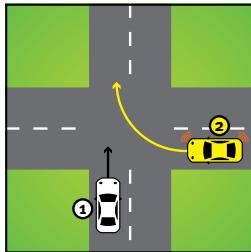
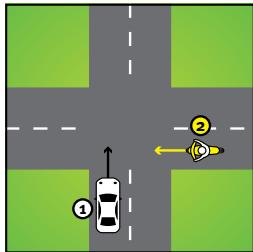


After both vehicles have given way to all other vehicles, vehicle 2 must give way to vehicle 1 because it is turning right across vehicle 1's path.

Giving way when changing lanes

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

Giving way to the right



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

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

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

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

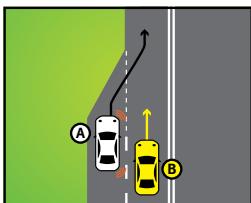
Giving way when merging



Example 1

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

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

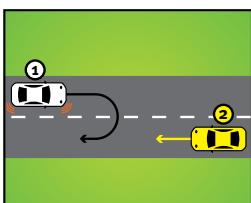


Example 2

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

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

Giving way when making a U-turn



You must give way to all vehicles and pedestrians when you make a U-turn, including traffic that is facing STOP or GIVE WAY signs – see *U-turns*, page 74.

Vehicle 1 must wait for vehicle 2 to pass before making the U-turn.

Giving way to emergency vehicles

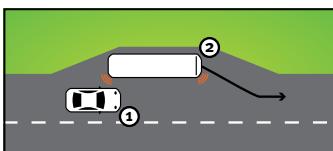
You must do everything practical to give way to an emergency vehicle sounding a siren, bell or flashing warning lights – see also *Emergency vehicles*, page 132.



Giving way to buses

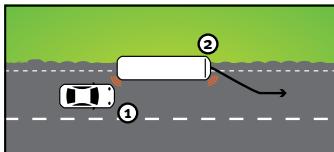
You must give way to a bus ahead of you with this sign on its right-hand rear side, when you are in a built-up area where the speed limit is not more than 70km/h, if the bus is signalling to enter traffic from:

- a bus stop bay



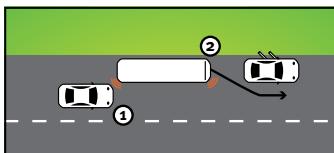
Vehicle 1 gives way to a bus leaving a bus stop in a specially constructed bus bay.

- the shoulder of the road



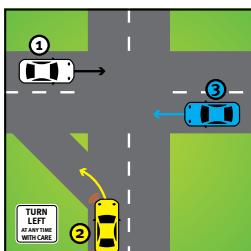
Vehicle 1 gives way to a bus moving away from the road shoulder or the left side of the road.

- the bus zone or bus stop.



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

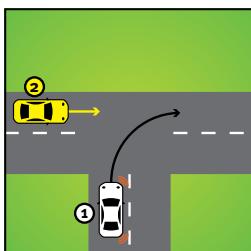
Giving way from a slip lane with or without a TURN LEFT AT ANY TIME WITH CARE sign at the intersection



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

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

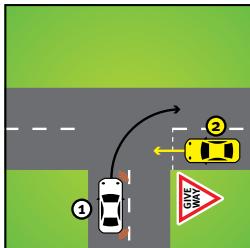
Giving way at a T-intersection



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

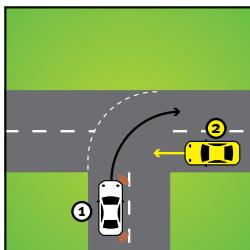
If you are driving on the road that ends at a T-intersection, you must give way to all vehicles travelling on the road continuing through the intersection if they are approaching, entering or on the intersection.

Vehicle 1 must give way to vehicle 2.



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

Vehicle 2 must give way to vehicle 1.



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

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

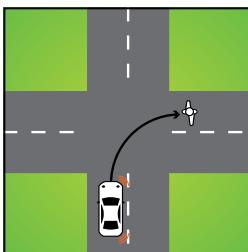
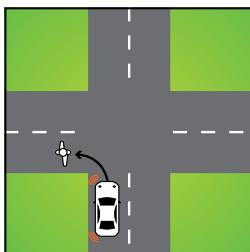
Reversing

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

Tips – reversing

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

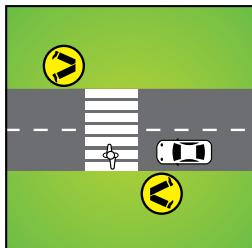
Giving way to pedestrians



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

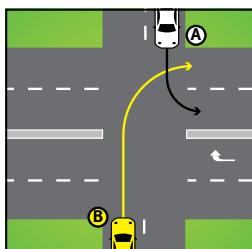
In both situations, the vehicle must give way to the pedestrian before turning.

Giving way at pedestrian crossings



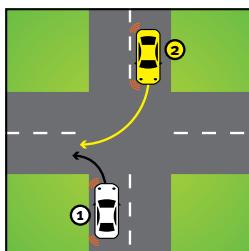
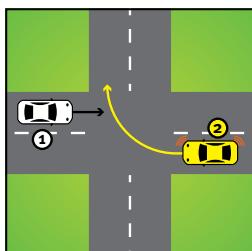
You must give way to pedestrians and cyclists on a pedestrian crossing or pedestrians and cyclists on or entering a children's crossing. If a vehicle has stopped to give way at a pedestrian or children's crossing, you must not overtake the stopped vehicle. For more information about sharing the road with pedestrians, see *Sharing the road safely with pedestrians*, page 135.

Giving way when turning right



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

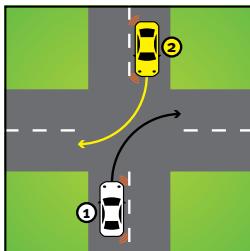
Vehicle B must give way vehicle A.



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

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

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

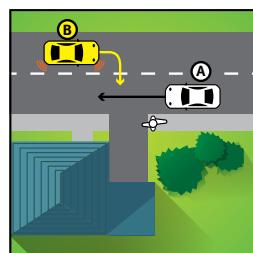
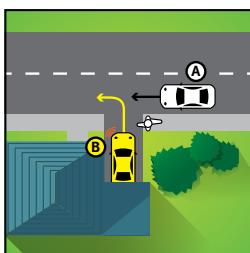


However, you don't have to give way to a vehicle if it is:

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

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

Giving way when entering or leaving a road

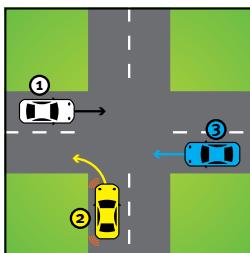


You must give way to vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians when leaving land to enter a road, or entering land from a road.

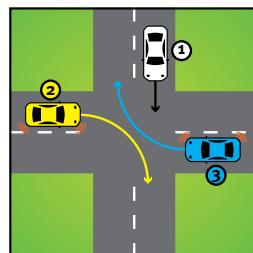
In both cases, vehicle B must give way to vehicle A and the pedestrian before turning.

Giving way when there are multiple vehicles

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



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

Giving way from a parked position

Give way to all other vehicles when you drive out of a parking area on the side of the road or in a median strip. You must signal for at least five seconds – see *Parking*, page 115.

Giving way at a railway level crossing

When you face a GIVE WAY or STOP sign or line at a level crossing, you must give way to a train approaching the level crossing – see *Railway level crossings*, page 99.

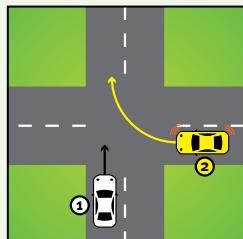
Giving way to horses

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

Sample questions – giving way

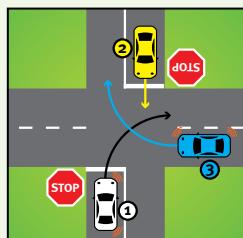
1. Which car must give way? (See page 85)

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



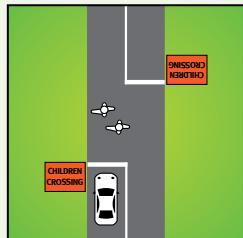
2. In what order should the vehicles go through the intersection? (See page 86)

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



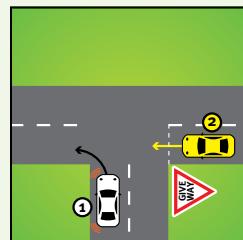
3. You are stopped at a children's crossing displaying orange flags. You can drive on when: (See page 136)

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



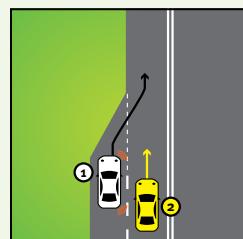
4. Which vehicle goes first? (See page 80)

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



5. You are driving vehicle 1 (white car). Your lane ends and you need to change lanes (there are line markings). Which is correct? (See page 82)

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



Road markings

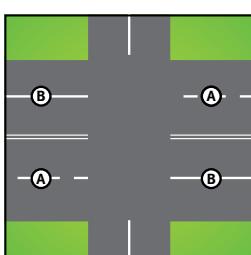
Lanes

Lane markings

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

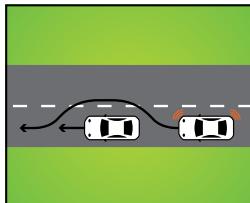
- lane lines
- dividing lines or centre lines
- edge lines
- arrows.

Lane lines

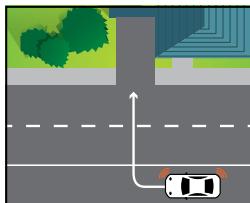


Lane lines are usually broken (A). You can cross broken lines to turn or overtake with caution. However, lane lines are continuous (B) close to a controlled situation, such as traffic lights or a STOP sign. You must not cross continuous lane lines to turn or to overtake another vehicle. You are allowed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

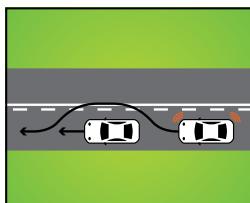
Dividing lines or centre lines



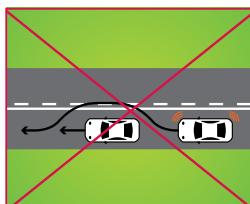
You are allowed to cross a single broken dividing line to overtake a vehicle, to do a U-turn or to enter or leave a road.



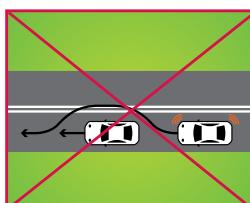
You are allowed to cross a single continuous dividing line to enter or leave a road, or to safely pass a cyclist. You must not cross a single continuous dividing line to overtake another vehicle or to do a U-turn.



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

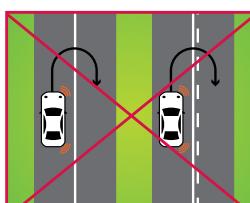


You are allowed to cross a dividing line that has a continuous line to the left of a broken line to enter or leave a road, or to safely pass a cyclist. You must not cross a continuous line to the left of a broken line to overtake another motor vehicle or to do a U-turn.



In each case, entering or leaving a road includes turning from one road into another road and entering or leaving private property.

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



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

Edge lines

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

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

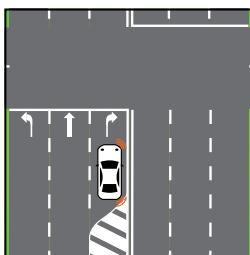
In addition to the above, there are certain times when you can drive on or over a continuous white edge line for up to 100m only.

These are:

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

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

Arrows



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

Overhead lane control

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



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

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

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

Special purpose lanes

Some lanes are for use only by certain vehicles.

Bus lane



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

Transit lane



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

- Transit lane T2 – you can drive in the transit lane if you have at least two people in the vehicle.
- Transit lane T3 – you can drive in the transit lane if you have at least three people in the vehicle.

Bicycle lane



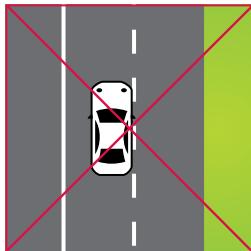
Bicycle lanes are intended for use by cyclists. You may stop or park in a marked bicycle lane unless there are signs or road markings prohibiting you from doing so. You must give way to bicycles when moving into a bicycle lane.

Exemptions for driving in special purpose lanes

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

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

Keeping left

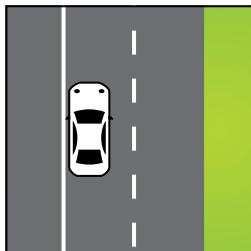


When you drive on a two-way road, the basic rule is to keep as close as practical to the left.

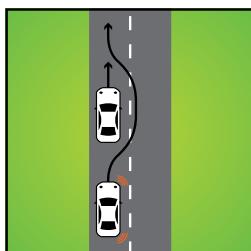
When you drive on a multi-lane road where the speed limit is more than 80km/h, you must not travel in the far right lane unless you are:

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

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



Overtaking



Overtaking on the right

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

If you are being overtaken

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

Follow these steps for safer overtaking

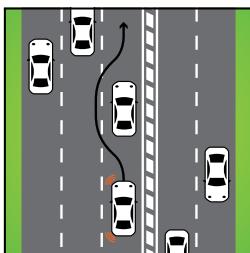
1. Keep a safe following distance behind – see *Safe following distance*, page 139.
2. Check ahead for approaching traffic and other vehicles.
3. Check behind for other vehicles.
4. Signal right to give sufficient warning to other road users.
5. Accelerate and move right but do not exceed the speed limit.
6. Turn off right indicator.
7. Signal left as you move ahead and clear of the vehicle you are overtaking.
8. Move back to the left lane or line of traffic as soon as it is safe.
9. Turn off left indicator.

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

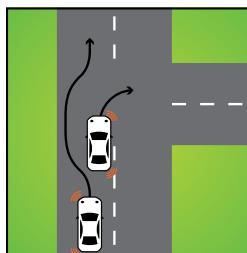
Overtaking on the left

You can overtake a vehicle on the left if:

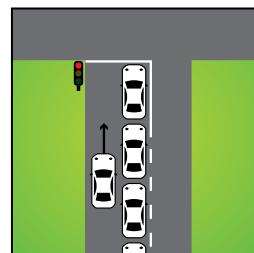
- you are driving on a multi-lane road and the vehicle can be safely overtaken in a marked lane to the left of the vehicle
- the vehicle is turning right or making a U-turn from the centre of the road and is indicating right
- the vehicle being overtaken is stationary and it is safe to do so
- you are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



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



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



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

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

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

Overtaking or passing

NO OVERTAKING OR PASSING:

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





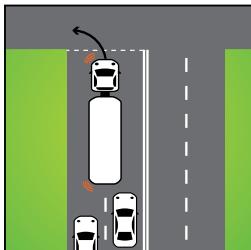
NO OVERTAKING ON BRIDGE

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

Overtaking long vehicles



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



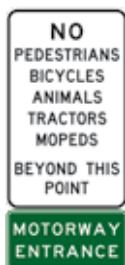
A long vehicle on a multi-lane road may use the left-hand lane or the marked lane next to the left lane to turn left – see *Sharing with other road users – Heavy vehicles*, page 132.

Similarly, a long vehicle on a multi-lane road may use the right-hand lane or the marked lane next to the right lane to turn right – see *Sharing with other road users – heavy vehicles*, page 132.

Overtaking cyclists

You must leave a safe distance between your vehicle and a cyclist when you are overtaking or passing – see *Sharing with other road users – cyclists*, page 134.

Motorway and highway driving



Motorways are divided roads designed for fast-moving vehicles.

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



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

On a motorway you must:

- be prepared to give way to vehicles already on the motorway as you enter along the on-ramp
- not stop, except in an emergency or if you break down. If you must stop, use the emergency lane or bay and switch on your hazard lights
- not travel in the emergency lane
- 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 for long enough to give sufficient warning to other road users before you change lanes
- enter the exit lane and slow to the appropriate speed when you are about to leave the motorway.

Tips – motorway driving

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

Sample questions – road positioning

1. When entering a freeway using an on-ramp: (See page 95)

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

2. What distance are you allowed to drive in a special purpose lane, (not a bicycle lane) when entering or leaving a road? (See page 91)

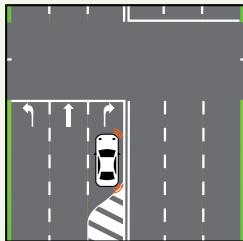
- A. Not at all.
- B. 25m.
- C. 50m.
- D. 100m.

3. Where the road is marked with two continuous dividing lines, when may you cross the double lines? (See page 89)

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

4. You are driving the vehicle in the diagram. In what direction must you travel? (See page 90)

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



5. You are driving behind a truck that is signalling and starting to turn left. The truck is displaying a DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE sign and is in the second lane from the left side of the road. You also want to turn left. What must you do? (See page 94)

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



Hazardous localities

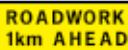
Roadwork sites

Roadworks improve the roads for everyone, ensuring a safer, more efficient and more convenient road network. For more information on safety at roadworks please visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Safety/Safety-campaigns/Roadworks.

Roadwork signs

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

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



The ROADWORK AHEAD sign gives advance warning of roadwork sites.

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

You MUST obey all speed limit signs.



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

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



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



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



You should be prepared to obey the traffic signals ahead.



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



The TRAFFIC HAZARD AHEAD sign is only used for emergency purposes to warn motorists of an unexpected hazard ahead.

Take care and drive to the prevailing conditions.



The SLIPPERY ROAD sign warns motorists of hazardous road surface conditions ahead.

Take care and drive to the prevailing conditions.

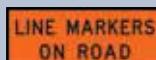


The LOOSE STONES sign warns motorists of hazardous road surface conditions ahead.

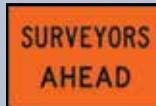
Take care and drive to the prevailing conditions.



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



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



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



The ROAD PLANT AHEAD sign is used at work sites where machinery is working on the roadway.

Take care and be prepared for plant being operated on the road without any form of delineation or traffic control.



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



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



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

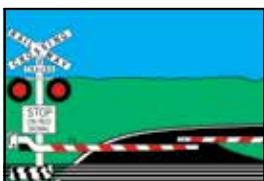
You may now travel in a safe manner up to the speed limit indicated.

Reduced speed limits through roadworks

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

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

Railway level crossings



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

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

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



Stopping and giving way at a level crossing

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

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

Entering or leaving a level crossing

You must not enter a level crossing if:

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

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

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

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

Alcohol and drugs

Alcohol

Drink driving

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

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

When you are over the alcohol limit

There are four alcohol limits:

- no alcohol limit – you will be over this limit if the concentration of alcohol in your blood or breath is more than 0.00

- general alcohol limit – you will be over this limit if the concentration of alcohol in your blood or breath is equal to or more than 0.05
- middle alcohol limit – you will be over this limit if the concentration of alcohol in your blood or breath is equal to or more than 0.10
- high alcohol limit – you will be over this limit if the concentration of alcohol in your blood or breath is equal to or more than 0.15.

What your alcohol limit should be

If you hold a learner, provisional or probationary licence and you are driving, or in charge of, any motor vehicle	0.00 (zero)
If you do not hold a driver licence and you are driving, or in charge of, any motor vehicle	0.00 (zero)
If you hold a restricted licence (see <i>Restricted licences</i> , page 40) and you are driving, or in charge of, any motor vehicle.	0.00 (zero)
If you are a section 79E order driver and you are driving, or in charge of, any motor vehicle.	0.00 (zero)
If you are driving, or in charge of, a truck, bus, articulated motor vehicle, B-double, road train, 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 by you as a driver trainer to give driver training	0.00 (zero)
If you hold a class RE licence and you are riding or in charge of a motorcycle during the first year of holding your class RE provisional, probationary or open licence	0.00 (zero)
If you hold a class RE licence and are learning to ride a class R motorcycle under the authority of your RE provisional, probationary or open licence	0.00 (zero)
If you are an interlock driver for the Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program and you are driving or in charge of, any motor vehicle	0.00 (zero)
If you hold an open licence and you are driving, or in charge of, any other motor vehicle	Below 0.05

Police regularly carry out random breath tests to detect and deter drink drivers. Refusing to take a roadside breath test is an offence. For more information, see *Random breath testing*, page 155.

If you drive when over your alcohol limit

If you drive when over your alcohol limit, you may be charged.

If you are convicted, you face serious penalties and consequences:

- your licence will be cancelled
- you will be disqualified from holding or obtaining a further licence for a stated period
- you will be fined and may be jailed as well
- you may be required to comply with the Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program – see *Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program*, page 163.

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

You will have to pay for any damage caused.

Your Compulsory Third Party insurance (CTP) may also be affected. See the *Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994* by visiting the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel website at www.legislation.qld.gov.au.

Drinking Responsibly

For information on drinking responsibly, please visit www.qld.gov.au

Tip – how to avoid drink driving

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

Drink walking

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

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

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

For more information about road rules for pedestrians – see *Rules for other road users – pedestrians*, page 135.

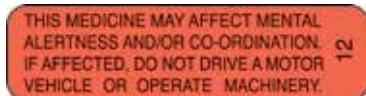
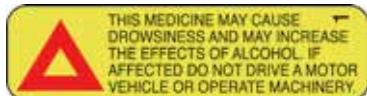
Common myth

Walking when intoxicated is safe.

Truth

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

Drugs and driving



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

Over-the-counter and prescribed medications

Common myth

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

Truth

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

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

Illegal drugs

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

Mix at your own risk

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

If you are caught drug driving

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

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

For more information – see *Random roadside drug testing*, page 156.

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

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

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

Your CTP insurance may also be affected. See the *Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994* by visiting the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel website at www.legislation.qld.gov.au.

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

Sample questions – hazardous localities, alcohol and drugs

1. What is the maximum breath or Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) for a learner driver? (See page 100)

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

2. What does this sign mean? (See page 97)

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



3. What does this sign mean? (See page 98)

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



4. At a railway crossing, when the boom gates are down and the red lights are flashing, you should: (See page 100)

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



5. Can a police officer stop you and require you to undergo a random breath test for alcohol when you are driving? (See page 155)

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

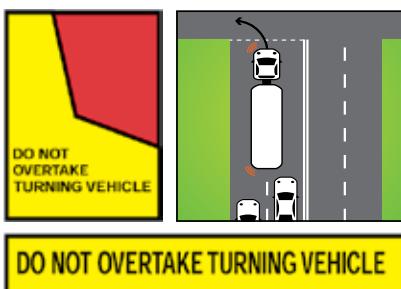
Heavy vehicles

Maximum vehicle dimensions

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

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

Long vehicles



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

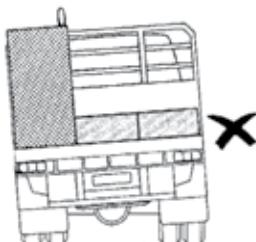
If driving a long vehicle (7.5m or longer):

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

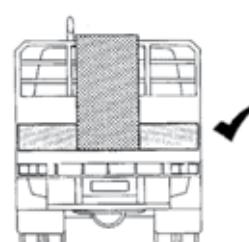
Note: Only vehicles 7.5m or more in length are allowed to show a DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE sign.

Loading your vehicle

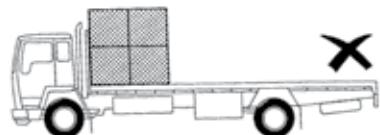
Drivers who fail to secure loads safely on a heavy vehicle risk injuring themselves and other road users, as well as running up a large damages bill.



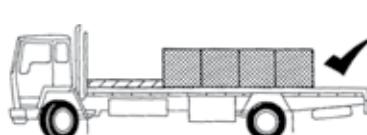
Incorrect positioning



Correct positioning



Incorrect positioning



Correct positioning

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Parking restrictions for heavy and long vehicles

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

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

Warning signs

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

For more information about vehicle dimensions and mass limits, please refer to the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Mass, Dimensions and Loading) Regulation 2005* by visiting the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel website at www.legislation.qld.gov.au.

Speed limiters

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

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

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

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

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

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

Portable warning signs

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

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

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

You must display the signs as follows:

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

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

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

You must display the signs as follows:

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

Driver fatigue

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

Signs of fatigue can include:

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

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

The national driver work diary

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

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

When applying for a national work diary:

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

For further information, call **13 23 80** or visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au/heavyvehicles.

Standard hours

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

Basic fatigue management

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

*(A) Under the fatigue provisions in the HVNL the distance from base is 100km. Drivers operating more than 100km (not 200km as previously) from their base are required to carry and complete a national driver work diary. Further information about these laws is available at www.nhvr.gov.au.

*(B) Stationary rest time is the time a driver spends out of a regulated heavy vehicle or in an approved sleeper berth of a stationary regulated heavy vehicle.

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

*(D) Long/night work time is any work time in excess of 12 hours in a 24 hour period or any work time between midnight and 6am (or the equivalent hours in the time zone of the base of a driver).

Advanced fatigue management

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

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

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

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

Fatigue offence demerit points and penalties

Fatigue offences may attract demerit points and fines which may be in excess of \$5,500. Information on these offences can be found on the fatigue management page at www.tmr.qld.gov.au/heavyvehicles. Generally, demerits apply to offences that have a potential impact on a driver's safety, including failing to record work and rest, or providing false information in a work diary, or falsely claiming to be in an accreditation scheme. There are no penalties for spelling mistakes or correcting your own incorrect entry in a work diary.

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

Passenger transport

Public passenger services (or passenger transport) are services provided to transport members of the public for a fare or consideration, or in the course of a trade or business, and includes 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.

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

The purpose of driver authorisation is to maximise public confidence in public passenger services and to ensure the protection of children and other vulnerable members of the community. This includes ensuring drivers of public passenger vehicles:

- are suitable people, having regard to their need to provide for the personal safety of passengers and their property, and the public
- conduct themselves reasonably with passengers and the public
- are responsible drivers and capable of safely operating a public passenger vehicle
- are aware of their customer responsibilities
- are held accountable for complying with standards.

To be granted a driver authorisation, you must be the holder of an open driver licence and you must also have held a driver licence continuously for at least three years. For general services driver authorisation, you must have held an Australian driver licence for at least two years of the continuous three-year period. For taxi services driver authorisation, you must be at least 20 years old and you must also have held an Australian driver licence for at least one year in the past three years.

In addition to the driver licence requirements, you must also satisfy medical fitness requirements and checks of your driving and criminal history.

For further information about driver authorisation, contact your nearest Department of Transport and Main Roads Customer Service Centre or passenger Transport office, or call the Department of Transport and Main Roads on **13 23 80**.

School buses

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

Sample questions – heavy vehicles

1. Does a school bus that operates outside or partly outside an urban area have to operate flashing warning lights when picking up and setting down passengers? (See page 113)

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

2. What is the maximum speed allowed for a heavy vehicle over 12 tonnes GVM? (See page 107)

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

3. When travelling outside a built-up area on single-lane roads (but not in a road train area), what is the minimum distance to be maintained between long vehicles? (See page 106)

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

4. If you are driving a heavy or long vehicle, you must not park for more than one hour in a built-up area unless: (See page 107)

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

5. What is the minimum rest period for a solo driver of a fatigue-regulated heavy vehicle who has completed 12 hours work operating under standard work and rest arrangements? (See page 110)

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

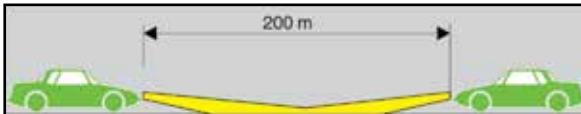
Other rules and responsibilities

Use of lights

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

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

- an oncoming vehicle is within 200m



- you are within 200m of the vehicle ahead.



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

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

Tips – headlights

- To see better at night, you may switch your headlights to high beam or drive more slowly so that you have time to react to traffic conditions.
- Wearing tinted glasses reduces your vision. Only wear tinted glasses at night when an eye specialist has prescribed them for night driving.
- Keep left and look to the side if oncoming lights dazzle you. If you are unable to drive safely, slow down and stop until the other vehicle has passed.

Following distance

You must drive at a sufficient distance behind another vehicle so that you can, if necessary, stop safely to avoid a collision with the vehicle
– see *Safe following distance*, page 139.

Following other long vehicles

When towing a caravan or trailer, if your towing vehicle combined with the length of the caravan or trailer is 7.5m or longer, it is considered to be a long vehicle – See *Long vehicles*, page 105. You must leave at least 60m between

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

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

Towlines

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

Parking

Parking is regulated and enforced by local governments. Parking is also enforced by the Queensland Police Service.

How to park

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

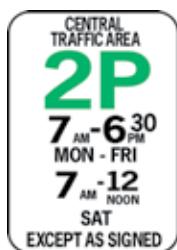
You must park facing the same direction as traffic in the adjacent lane or line of traffic.

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

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

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

Parking signs



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

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

The letter P alone means there is no time limit. You can park any time for any length of time. If there is a time limit, it is shown by the number in front of the P.

Regulated parking



Regulated parking means there is a limit to how long you can park in this area. The time limit is shown by the number in front of the P. For example, 2P means two-hour parking. The sign may also show the times and days when this time limit applies. Parking in this area is free, except where there is a metered space. If certain hours and days apply to the meters, you can park in this section for free outside these times.

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

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

To operate a meter or coupon dispenser, follow the instructions. You must insert coins even if there are coins already in the meter.

Some metered parks become clearways during peak hours. Always check the traffic signs before leaving your vehicle – see *Clearway*, page 117.

LOADING ZONES

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



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

NO PARKING



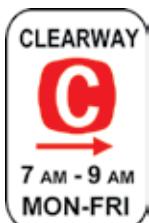
You are not allowed to park in this area at any time. You may stop only to pick up or set down passengers or goods for a maximum of two minutes, unless the sign allows a longer time. You must not leave the vehicle unattended.

NO STOPPING



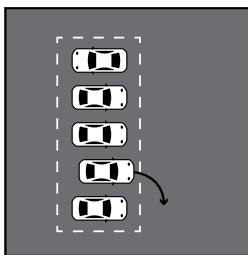
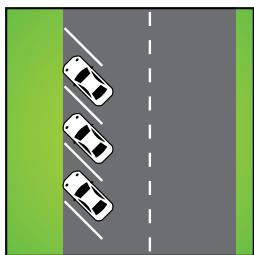
You must not stop your vehicle at any time where a NO STOPPING sign is placed, except when obeying an official direction. This includes a traffic light or if you have to stop or park for safety.

CLEARWAY



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

Angle or centre parking



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

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

Leaving your vehicle

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

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

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

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

Disability parking



The Australian Disability Parking Permit provides one nationally recognised permit, nationally agreed eligibility criteria and national minimum standards for parking concessions. The Australian Disability Parking Permit provides the following parking concessions in Queensland:

- parking in any parking bay provided for a person with a disability in an on-street parking location or off-street parking location, such as shopping centres
- parking in local government metered or regulated parking areas free of charge for the following periods:
 - where the time limit specified by a sign is less than 30 minutes, permit holders will be able to park for 30 minutes
 - where the time limit specified by a sign is 30 minutes or more, permit holders will be able to park for an unlimited time.

Holders of red disability parking permits may continue to access parking concessions. Red permit holders are entitled to park in any off-street parking bay (regardless of the colour of the signage) situated in areas such as shopping centres. Red permit holders may use their permit when travelling interstate and must park according to the conditions on their permit.

Temporary permits, once expired, are not valid and are not eligible for renewal.

If you continue to experience severe functional mobility impairment, you will need to make a new application for an Australian Disability Parking Permit.

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

Prohibited parking places

You must not park or stop:

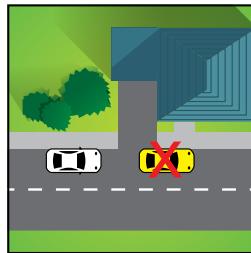
- on a road with a yellow edge line
- on a painted island
- within 1m of another parked car
- where you would have less than 3m of road between your car and the other side of the road, or any continuous marked centre line or double lines
- where you would have less than 3m of road between your car and a vehicle parked on the other side of the road
- in a mail zone
- in a special purpose lane other than a bicycle lane
- between the centre of the road and another vehicle already parked (known as double parking), except when centre parking
- within 1m of a fire hydrant or fire plug indicator
- in an emergency lane on a motorway, unless this is necessary for safety
- on a safety ramp or arrester bed, unless necessary for safety
- in a loading zone, unless you are permitted to do so – see *Loading zones*, page 116
- in between signs that mark a bus zone.

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

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

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

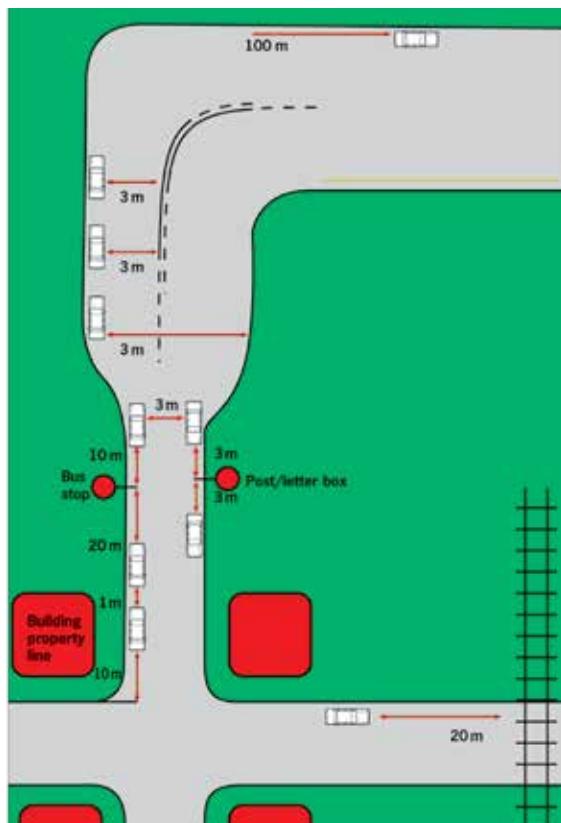
- an intersection
- a footpath
- a pedestrian crossing
- a traffic light-controlled crossing
- a railway level crossing
- a bicycle path
- a driveway or property entrance, except for up to two minutes when you are dropping off or picking up passengers or goods
- vehicles moving from one road to another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



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

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

Prohibited parking places



Seatbelts and child restraints

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

The only exceptions are if:

- you are the driver and are reversing the vehicle
- you carry a current medical certificate that states you cannot wear a seatbelt for medical reasons. The medical certificate must have an end date no later than 12 months from the date it was given
- you are required to get in and out of the vehicle frequently while engaged in door-to-door pick-up or delivery of goods, and you drive at no more than 25km/h
- the vehicle was originally manufactured without seatbelts fitted and passengers are seven years or older. Passengers under seven years are not permitted to travel in any vehicle without a correctly fitted child restraint.

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

For further information, see *Correct seatbelt and child restraint use*, page 147 and *Double demerit points*, page 161.

Mobile phones

Using a mobile phone that is held in the hand is illegal when driving, even when you are stopped at traffic lights. This includes:

- making and receiving calls
- holding the phone to or near the ear, whether or not engaged in a call
- turning the phone on or off and operating any other function of the phone
- text messaging.

You must pull over and park in a safe place to make or receive a call.

If you are found using a hand-held mobile phone while driving, you will be given a ticket for this offence. Demerit points will be recorded against your traffic history.

Tips – mobile phones

Unless you are a class C learner or a P1 licence holder under 25, you may use a hands-free mobile phone, CB radio or any other two-way radio when driving. However, you must drive with extreme care and attention and not allow yourself to be distracted.

See *Learning to drive* (page 22) and *Provisional licences* (page 33) for special conditions relating to learner drivers and provisional licence holders.

Animals

A driver must not have an animal in their lap while operating a vehicle.

A person riding a motorcycle must not carry an animal between the rider and handlebars and between the rider's arms.

It is recommended that pets do not ride unrestrained in either the front or back seats of any vehicle. A special pet harness can be attached to your vehicle's seatbelt. Smaller pets can also be transported in pet carriers. Pets can be put in the back of a station wagon with a cargo barrier that complies with Australian standards. Dogs should not ride unrestrained in the back of trucks or trailers. Special pet restrainers for dogs travelling in utes can restrain your dog safely.

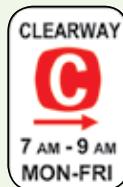
Sample questions – other rules and responsibilities

1. As a driver, you must wear a seatbelt: (See page 121)

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

2. What does this sign mean? (See page 117)

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



3. When towing a car with a towline, what is the maximum permissible length of the towline? (See page 115)

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

4. You can use a mobile phone that is held in your hand when sitting in the driver's seat: (See page 121)

- A. at any time when you are driving an automatic vehicle.
- B. at any time when the phone call is less than five minutes long.
- C. when you are stopped at traffic lights or stopped in traffic.
- D. only when your vehicle is parked.

**5. Are you permitted to drive with your lights on high beam in a built-up area?
(See page 114)**

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

Rules for other road users

Cyclists

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

As a cyclist, you are legally required to:

- wear an *Australian Standard AS2063 or AS/NZS2063* bike helmet, correctly fitted and fastened – it will reduce your chances of suffering head injuries in a crash by 80 per cent
- fit your bike with a working bell, horn or similar warning device and at least one effective brake
- obey all traffic signs and lights – see *Signs and signals*, page 60
- keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times
- use hand signals when turning right
- have a red reflector at the rear of your bike that can be seen for at least 50m. If riding at night, have a flashing or steady front white light and rear red light fitted to your bike that can be seen for at least 200m
- fasten any luggage safely and securely
- not double anyone unless the bicycle is designed to carry more than one person and each person wears a helmet
- never ride in a bicycle lane on the wrong side of the road (towards oncoming traffic)
- stop before riding your bike across a children's crossing or zebra crossing
- give way to pedestrians on footpaths and shared use paths – keep to the left
- never ride on that part of a separated footpath designed for pedestrians.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 turning left and signalling to turn left
- travel in the left lane of a multi-lane roundabout if leaving more than halfway around a roundabout, but must give way to vehicles exiting from the roundabout.

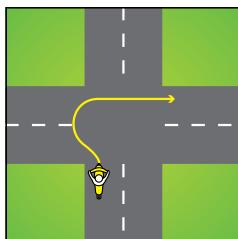
Penalties

If you are 17 years of age or older and disobey any road rule while riding a bicycle, you may be given an infringement notice by a police officer. While you may be required to pay a fine for disobeying a road rule, you cannot accumulate any demerit points because they don't apply to bicycle offences.

You may be arrested for drink riding if you are riding under the influence of liquor or drugs – see *Drink driving*, page 100.

Optional hook turn by a bicycle rider

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



To make the turn:

1. Approach and enter the intersection from as near as practical to the far left side of the road you are leaving.

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

Obeying traffic lights



Stop

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



Stop if it is safe to do so

Do not ride past the yellow traffic light unless you are so close to the yellow traffic light when it changes from green to yellow that you can't stop safely.

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



Go

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

Tips – cyclists

To stay safe, you should:

- Check your bike's tyres and brakes regularly.
- Be courteous to motorists and ride in a predictable manner so that road users know what you are doing.
- Be seen. Light coloured clothing can make you more visible to motorists. At night, use lights and reflectors on your bike and wear reflective clothing or reflective wrist and ankle bands to attract motorists' attention.

Motorised bicycles

A motorised bicycle is a bicycle with an auxiliary electric motor with a maximum generated output of 200w or less, 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 for the vehicle. If the electric motor is the primary source of power then the vehicle is not a bicycle.

Riding a bicycle powered by an internal combustion engine is 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 fall under the same road rules as bicycles and have the same rights and responsibilities as a bicycle.

Pedestrians

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

- walking
- using wheelchairs (including registered motorised wheelchairs that cannot travel faster than 10km/h)
- on rollerblades, skateboards, rollerskates and other wheeled recreational devices
- on personal mobility devices.

Staying safe

- Always cross at the safest possible point – at a crossing, lights, refuge or where you can see drivers and they can see you.
- When crossing a road, STOP, LOOK for traffic, LISTEN for approaching cars and WAIT until there is a safe break in traffic before crossing.

- Obey traffic signals.
- Cross the road by the most direct route.
- Allow yourself enough time to cross the road.
- Always walk on the footpath or nature strip. If there isn't one, you must walk as close to the edge of the road as practical, facing oncoming traffic.
- Do not travel on a dedicated bicycle path, or on that part of a separated path designated for bicycles, unless you are in or pushing a wheelchair, or you are using a wheeled recreational device – see *Rollerblades, skateboards and other wheeled recreational devices*, page 127.

Tips – pedestrians

- Take care if walking after drinking alcohol, – see *Drink walking*, page 102.
- You should always keep to the left when walking on a footpath.
- Cross the road with a group, if possible. A group or a pair is more visible than one person.
- Don't expect drivers to see you at night. Carry or wear something light in colour and cross under a streetlight if there are no marked crossings, crosswalks or signals.

Motorised wheelchairs

If you are using a motorised wheelchair, extra rules apply to you.

- Use footpaths at all times or, if there is no footpath, travel as close as possible to the left-or right-hand side of the road. (Note: Be aware that your smaller size and slower speeds often make you less visible in traffic.)
- Cross the road by the most direct route.
- Pay attention to others' safety.
- Never use the device on a road in the same way you would drive a car.
- Motorised wheelchairs can be registered to an individual or an organisation.

For more information about registering, see *How to register a motorised wheelchair*, visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au.

Rollerblades, skateboards and other wheeled recreational devices

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

- Do not travel on a road where the speed limit is 50km/h or more.
- Do not travel on roads with a white centre line or median strip or where there are marked lanes.

- Do not travel on a road at night (you may, however, travel on a footpath and cross a road by the most direct route at night).
- Do not use wheeled recreational devices where a sign prohibits their use.
- Give way to cyclists on a bicycle path or separated path.
- Keep to the far left side when travelling on a road or footpath.
- Give way to pedestrians on a footpath or shared path.
- Local council laws may affect wheeled recreational devices.
Check the by-laws in the local area.

Motorised foot scooters

A motorised foot scooter is a scooter that has an electric motor of 200w output or less attached. The manufacturer of the scooter must certify that the power output does not exceed 200w by either attaching a plate to the motor or engraving it.

You do not require a driver licence to ride a motorised foot scooter, and it is exempt from registration and CTP insurance.

A motorised foot scooter is a wheeled recreational device. 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 the use of motorised foot scooters.

Pedestrians obeying traffic lights



Stop

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



Walk

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

Caution

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

Personal mobility devices

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

PMDs can be used on road related areas such as footpaths, bike paths and shared paths around Queensland. For up to date information about what PMDs you may use, please visit www.qld.gov.au.

A PMD operator must:

- be aged 16 and over to operate a PMD unsupervised
- be supervised by an adult if aged between 12 and 15
- wear an approved bicycle helmet that is securely fitted
- keep left when travelling on a path
- give way to pedestrians on a path
- keep left to oncoming bicycles and PMDs on a path
- have a working warning device, such as a 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/hour
- travel along a road unless there is an obstruction or it is impractical — in these instances a PMD is allowed to 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 while operating a PMD

- drink alcohol while operating a PMD
- travel past a ‘PMD prohibited’ sign.



Local councils and land owners can prohibit PMDs in areas not appropriate for their use such as some malls, esplanades or jetties. The following sign will be displayed in these areas and PMD operators must not travel past this sign.



Safe road use

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

Sharing with other road users

Emergency vehicles

Police, fire and ambulance vehicles are emergency vehicles.

If an emergency vehicle is coming towards you and is sounding an alarm or showing flashing red or blue lights, you must move out of the path of the emergency vehicle as soon as you can do so safely – see *Giving way to emergency vehicles*, page 82.

You should:

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

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

Emergency vehicles at intersections

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

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

Heavy vehicles

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

Overtaking a heavy vehicle

- Allow sufficient time to overtake.
- Stay back at the recommended minimum following distance, without crossing the centre line, when preparing to overtake – see *Safe following distance*, page 139.
- When it is safe to overtake, indicate, accelerate and overtake quickly, without exceeding the speed limit. Changing down a gear may give you enough engine power to get past.
- After overtaking, maintain your speed because slowing down too soon will force the heavy vehicle to brake.
- Do not overtake a heavy vehicle at an intersection when it is turning, unless it is safe to do so.

Sharing the road safely with heavy vehicles

- Do not cut in front of a heavy vehicle because you will reduce the driver's braking distance.
- Do not speed up when a heavy vehicle overtakes you.
- If you are behind a heavy vehicle and you cannot see its side mirrors, the driver cannot see you.
- Do not tailgate a heavy vehicle. You cannot see what is ahead of it and you won't be able to react in time.
- Remember that heavy vehicles accelerate slowly.
- When a heavy vehicle is turning, keep back from the intersection because the heavy vehicle needs more road space to turn than other vehicles.



- Give way to buses displaying this sign (left) when required to do so – see *Giving way to buses*, page 82.
- Heavy vehicles that show the sign DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE are allowed to take up more than one lane to turn – see *Overtaking long vehicles*, page 94.
- If a heavy vehicle wants to pass you, do not speed up. Allow the heavy vehicle to maintain speed and pass safely.

Pilot vehicles

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

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

- slow down
- move over if necessary
- respond to 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.

Performance guidelines for pilot and escort vehicles and drivers are available from www.tmr.qld.gov.au.

Motorcycles

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

Sharing the road safely with motorcycles

- Always scan the traffic and check your blind spot for motorcycles – front, rear, left, right – especially when changing lanes and at intersections.
- Look out for motorcycle riders lane filtering or riding on a road shoulder. For more information - see *Additional road rules for motorcycle riders*, page 48.
- Use your lights in poor visibility – it helps motorcycle riders see you.
- Be aware that motorcycles can accelerate quickly.
- Motorcycle riders may take up an entire lane. You must overtake a motorcycle as you would overtake any other vehicle.
- Give motorcycles plenty of room – in good driving conditions, keep a two second gap between you and the vehicle ahead. For more information about maintaining a safe following distance – see *Safe following distance*, page 139.

Common myth

Motorcycle riders must ride single file.

Truth

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

Cyclists

Cyclists are road users, sharing the same rights as larger vehicles and deserving the same respect and courtesy. However, some motorists fail to obey the road rules or apply common sense when sharing the road with cyclists.

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

- The give way rules apply to cyclists. You must give way to cyclists at intersections, just as you would give way to a car, and to cyclists riding across crossings.
- Cyclists can legally ride on any part of the lane – leave them enough room and only overtake when you can do it safely.
- Leave a safe distance between your vehicle and a cyclist when passing or overtaking – you must leave at least 1 metre in a 60km/h or less speed zone and 1.5 metres if the speed zone is over 60km/h.
- Check for cyclists at intersections.

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

Common myth

Cyclists must ride single file.

Truth

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

Pedestrians

Always be aware of pedestrians. Pedestrians include people:

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

Sharing the road safely with pedestrians

- When driving a vehicle or riding a bicycle, you must give way to pedestrians when they're crossing at pedestrian crossings, children's crossings or marked foot crossings – see *Giving way at pedestrian crossings*, page 85.
- When you are turning at an intersection, you must give way to pedestrians crossing the road you are turning into.
- You must give way to pedestrians in shared zones.
- Allow more time for people with a disability and senior pedestrians to cross the road.
- Lower your speed at night and be alert for people suddenly walking out on the road, especially around where alcohol may be served.
- Take care driving in areas where there are children, especially near schools and playgrounds. Watch out for children running out onto the road.
- If you see another vehicle stop or slow down near a pedestrian or children's school crossing, prepare to stop because pedestrians may be crossing.
- You must give way to pedestrians on a slip lane.

Common myth

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

Truth

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

Schools

School zones

Common myth

School zones apply every day.

Truth

School zones do not apply on weekends, public holidays or during school holidays. You should always refer to the sign for hours of operation.



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

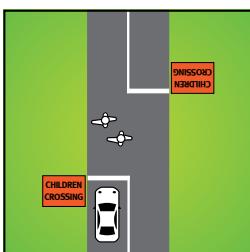
School zones at split campus schools generally apply for the duration of school hours.

For more information about speed limits in school zones, see *Variable speed zones*, page 71.

Crossings at schools

There are two types of school crossings:

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



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

You must wait until pedestrians and cyclists have crossed the road and the crossing supervisor has returned to the footpath.

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

School buses

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

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

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

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

Sample questions – sharing with other road users

1. If you are turning at an intersection, must you give way to pedestrians that are crossing the road you are turning into? (See page 135)

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

2. Which one of the following statements is true? (See page 136)

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



3. An emergency vehicle (for example, ambulance or fire engine) is sounding its siren and quickly approaching your vehicle from behind. You must: (See page 132)

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

4. You may be faced with this sign, held by a school crossing supervisor, as you approach a school crossing. What should you do? (See page 136)

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



5. You are at a cross intersection without signs, road markings or traffic lights. A cyclist is approaching from your right. Which one of the following statements is true? (See page 134)

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

Driving safely in tunnels

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

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

Stopping

Safe following distance

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

How far should you travel behind?

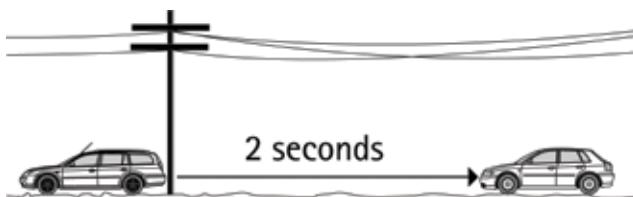
- A car should drive at least two seconds behind the vehicle in front in ideal conditions.
- A heavy vehicle should drive at least four seconds behind the vehicle in front.
- A vehicle towing a trailer or caravan should allow two seconds, plus one second for each 3m of trailer.

Double this following distance in poor conditions.

Time-lapse method

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

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



Braking

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

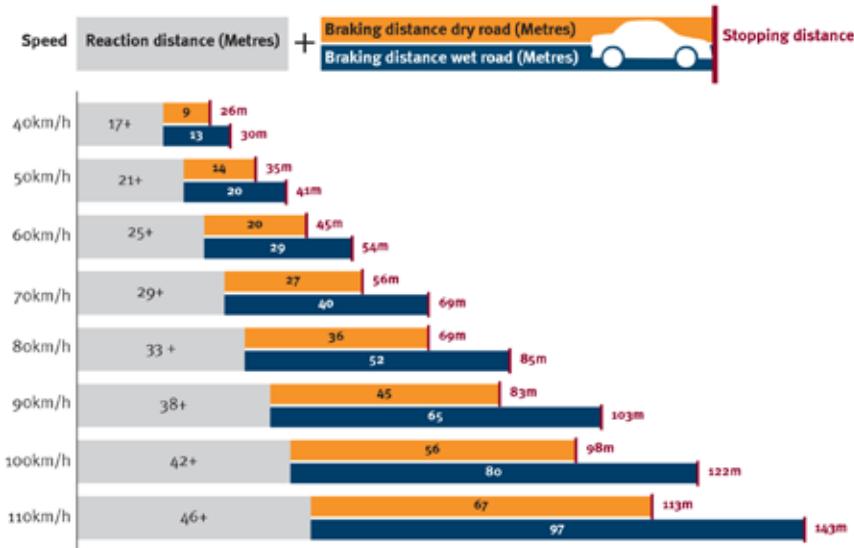
Reaction distance + braking distance = total stopping distance.

Total stopping distance

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

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

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



Your vehicle's stopping distance is also affected by:

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

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

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

Hazards

Approaching hazards

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

Young drivers do not detect hazards as well as experienced drivers. That is why the hazard perception test has been introduced for novice drivers. To progress to a P2 or open licence, all P1 licence holders must pass the hazard perception test and upgrade their licence at a licence issuing centre.

For information about the *Hazard perception test*, see page 34.

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

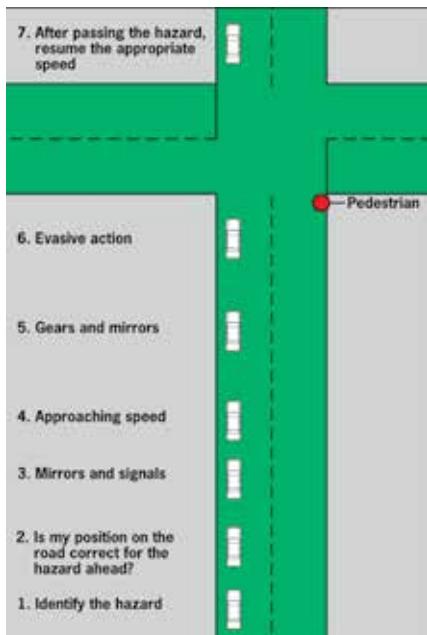
As a driver you should:

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

System of vehicle control

Use the following system when approaching any traffic situation.

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



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

Hazardous situations

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

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

Skidding

To prevent a skid, follow the ABC plan:

- accelerate smoothly
- brake smoothly
- corner smoothly.

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

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

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

Aquaplaning

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

Bad weather (rain, fog, dust)

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

When driving in bad weather:

- keep your windscreen and all lights clean
- turn your headlights on when you cannot clearly see people or vehicles
- keep headlights on low beam – in fog you can see better on low beam than high beam
- during the day, you may drive in fog or other hazardous weather conditions without your headlights on if you turn on your front fog lights (if fitted)
- you may only drive with fog lights on if you are in fog or hazardous weather conditions causing reduced visibility
- use your air conditioner or demister to keep the windscreen clear
- slow down – remember the signed speed limit is the maximum safe speed for good conditions
- double your following distance to allow for longer reaction time and subsequent greater stopping distance – see *Safe following distance*, page 139.

Road closures due to flooding and wet weather

- Flood waters can be fast moving. For your safety, don't drive on roads covered by water.
- Plan your route by seeking travel information from the web at www.131940.qld.gov.au or call **13 19 40** before embarking on your journey.
- Be alert for changed road conditions, especially any loose debris from surrounding vegetation and river banks.
- Do not cross affected roads or bridges until they have been declared open by authorities.
- Due to increased driver concentration when driving in poor conditions, plan regular rest stops, especially on your longer journeys.
- Follow directions from roadworkers, transport inspectors and emergency service personnel.
- Do not ignore ROAD CLOSED signs. They have been put there for a reason.

Tyre blowouts

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

If this happens:

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

Once the vehicle is under control:

- let the vehicle slow down gradually
- look for a safe place to pull over and stop.

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

Animals at night

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• slow down• apply the system of vehicle control• be prepared to brake | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• flash your headlights• sound your horn (if necessary)• keep control of the vehicle and do not swerve. |
|--|---|

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

Footbrake failure

The *Australian Design Rules* require modern cars to be fitted with a dual braking system. If either the front or rear braking system fails and you are having trouble stopping the car due to reduced braking efficiency, you may need to:

- ease the handbrake on and increase the 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 other drivers.

Car stalls in a dangerous situation

If your car stalls in a dangerous situation (for example at a railway level crossing), switch on your hazard lights. Try to restart the engine. If this fails, get help and try 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 the demister vents with paper or cloth (this stops pieces of 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 only cracked and there is no obvious danger, leave it in place and drive at a reduced speed with all windows wound up. Replace your windscreen as soon as possible.

Driver fatigue

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

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

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

How to avoid driving tired on long trips

- Take regular breaks – at least 15 minutes every two hours and an additional 30 minutes every five hours is recommended.
- Pull into rest areas, tourist spots and Driver Reviver sites when you can – see page 146.
- Avoid drinking alcohol before and during the trip.
- Check with your doctor if any medications you're taking affect your driving ability.
- Eat properly – not too little, not too much. Big meals can make you drowsy.

- Get plenty of sleep before your trip – not getting enough quality sleep before your trip is dangerous.
- Don't drive for more than 8–10 hours in a day. If driving a heavy vehicle, demerit points and fines apply if you commit a fatigue offence.
- Get fresh air in the car and during breaks.
- Share the driving.
- Plan ahead – arrange stops and rest overnight.
- Check for warning signs of tiredness – see below.
- As soon as you feel tired, stop and rest.

How to avoid driving tired on short trips

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

Warning signs

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tired eyes • yawning • drowsiness • loss of concentration • your car wanders across the road • fumbling gear changes • daydreaming | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • squinting • blurred vision • reduced concentration • unintentional increases or decreases in speed • dim or fuzzy vision • sore or heavy eyes. |
|--|---|

Driver Reviver sites



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

For operating times, visit the *Driver Reviver* section at www.qld.gov.au.

Correct seatbelt and child restraint use

A seatbelt is your defence against serious injury or death in a crash. Without a seatbelt, you are 5.5 times more likely to die if involved in a crash. You never know when a crash will happen, so why take the risk?

Wearing seatbelts

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

- Wear your belt with the buckle low on the hip, the sash running from the shoulder across the chest and above the stomach, and the lap part sitting across the pelvis and hips.
- Pregnant women must wear the seatbelt with the lap part sitting over the thighs, across the pelvis and below the 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 a seatbelt.
- Replace the entire seatbelt assembly if the vehicle is involved in a severe crash.

Child restraints

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

You must ensure that a child is secured in an approved child restraint until the child turns seven years of age. Once a child turns seven, you must ensure that the child uses a properly fitted adult seatbelt. The type of approved child restraint that you must use will depend on the age and size of the child. The table on page 148 specifies the type of approved child restraint required for each age group.

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

Use this guide to choose the appropriate restraint for a child.

A guide to child restraints

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

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

No restraint will work properly or prevent injury unless it is fitted in accordance with the manufacturer's directions. For information about child restraint standards, please visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au/safety/driver-guide/child-restraints

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

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

This means that a child four years old, but less than seven years of age, can sit in the front row of a vehicle which has two rows of seats, if two occupied child restraints in the back row encroach on an empty seating position in a way which makes it impossible to fit another child restraint or booster seat.

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

Further information about child restraints is available at www.tmr.qld.gov.au.

The driver's responsibility

The driver is responsible for ensuring that all people travelling in their vehicle are correctly restrained. If the driver or their passengers are not restrained correctly, the driver risks being fined in excess of \$330 and three demerit points. The driver will also be fined in excess of \$330 and will accumulate demerit points for each unrestrained or incorrectly restrained child in the vehicle.

The only exemptions are:

- taxis and limousines for children under the age of one year where no child restraint is provided and children between the age of one and seven years
- on medical grounds where a certificate is provided by a doctor.

Towing a trailer or caravan

Towing a trailer or caravan requires extra concentration and skill. You should gain experience before trying to tow at high speed or in confined spaces.

Before you start

Ensure your vehicle and trailer or caravan are safe to drive or tow. Check:

- tyres and tyre pressure
- wheel bearings and suspension
- brakes – an efficient braking system is needed for all trailers with a loaded weight of more than 750kg
- trailer coupling, including lights and safety chain. Couplings must be strong enough to take the weight of a fully loaded trailer and must be marked with the manufacturer's name or trademark and the rated capacity

- safety chains should be short enough to stop the front of the trailer hitting the ground if the couplings break
- loading – distribute the bulk of it over the axles.

Check the manufacturer's towing rating for your vehicle to ensure it can legally tow the weight of the trailer or caravan.

How to tow safely

- When turning, allow additional space for the extra length and width of the trailer.
- Steer smoothly to avoid swaying, especially in wet or slippery conditions.
- Allow for a greater stopping distance and look ahead for any changes in road or traffic conditions.
- Avoid braking unnecessarily even if the trailer begins to sway or snake. Continue at a steady speed or accelerate slightly until the swaying stops.
- Keep left – don't hold up traffic unnecessarily.

See *Long vehicles*, page 105; *Parking restrictions for heavy and long vehicles*, page 107; *Following other long vehicles*, page 114; and *Towlines*, page 115, for road rules specific to towing trailers and caravans.

More information about towing is available on the Department of Transport and Main Roads website, www.tmr.qld.gov.au.

Restraining your load

As a driver, you have a legal responsibility to your passengers, other road users and yourself to ensure that all loads carried by your vehicle are securely restrained.

This is how you carry loads safely.

1. Choose a suitable vehicle to carry the load.
2. Position the load correctly, ensuring the load does not affect the vehicle's stability, steering or braking performance.
3. If your load is light material, for example bark chips or leaves, secure it properly. This may mean covering your load with a tarpaulin.
4. Use suitable restraints that are strong enough and in good condition.
5. Provide adequate load restraint to prevent movement of the load.
6. Drive carefully – be prepared for changes in the vehicle's stability, steering and braking capacity.
7. If your load overhangs at the front, back or sides, check the overhang is legal.

Further information about carrying loads is available in the *Load Restraint Guide*. The guide can be downloaded from the National Transport Commission website at www.ntc.gov.au.

What to do at a crash

What to do

You must stop if you are involved in a crash.

You must report a crash to the police immediately if:

- a vehicle involved needs to be towed away
- any driver involved in the crash does not give his or her particulars to any other drivers involved in the crash
- any person involved is killed or injured

If the crash cannot be reported immediately, it must be reported within 24 hours of the crash occurring.

Tow trucks

There are laws governing tow truck licence holders, and it is important you know your rights when having your vehicle towed.

However, Queensland's tow truck regulations only apply to towing at crashes and police seizures in regulated areas. Most major populated areas of Queensland are regulated areas. For a full list, see the *Tow Truck Regulation 2009*.

Tow truck licence holders must be licensed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads to tow any vehicle from a crash or police seizure. The tow truck licence holder's name, business address and telephone number must be clearly marked on their vehicle.

Organising your vehicle to be towed

- The accredited tow truck driver is the only person who is allowed to approach you about towing your vehicle from the crash. If you are injured and unable to make your own decisions, another person who is with you may act on your behalf as your agent.
- The tow truck driver must show you their certificate, even if you do not ask to see it.
- You or your agent must sign a towing authority form before your vehicle can be towed from the crash.
- Make sure the towing authority form is fully completed before you sign it. The form should include full details of the cost of the tow, the cost of any storage and the address of where you want the vehicle to be towed.
- A police officer or Department of Transport and Main Roads authorised officer may sign the towing authority form if you or your agent cannot sign the form.

In this case, the tow truck licence holder must inform the department where your vehicle was towed within seven days.

- A tow truck licence holder must not charge more than the regulated towing fee for a standard tow. A standard tow includes:
 - loading and moving the vehicle to a place of storage
(includes the first 50km from the incident scene – a fee per kilometre may be charged for each kilometre over 50km)
 - up to 60 minutes working time
 - cleaning the scene of the incident
 - storing the vehicle for up to 72 hours.
- The services provided by the tow truck licence holder are detailed on the towing authority form under the heading, *Fee details*. You may negotiate the price at the crash site.
- You do not have to use the first tow truck that appears on the scene. You may negotiate a fair and reasonable towing price with one or more operators.
- If your vehicle is covered by comprehensive insurance, your insurance company may pay for the towing of the vehicle from the crash. Confirm this with your insurance company.
- Once your vehicle is in storage, it cannot be moved again without your permission.
- The tow truck licence holder must not charge you to view your vehicle during business hours when it is held at the storage yard, or to move your vehicle near the entrance of the yard for collection.
- The tow truck licence holder must do an inventory of all property in your vehicle and keep the property in storage for you.

For more information about tow truck legislation, see the *Tow Truck Act 1973* and the *Tow Truck Regulation 2009* by visiting the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel website at www.legislation.qld.gov.au.

For more information on regulated towing fees, visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au or call **13 23 80**.



Offences and penalties

- Enforcement
- Licence sanctions
- Disqualified and unlicensed driving

Enforcement

Speed cameras

Fixed speed cameras are installed at locations that have a history of road crashes, are difficult or unsafe to monitor by other enforcement methods, and where there is a strong crash potential.

A point-to-point (or average) speed camera system uses a number of cameras over a length of road to measure a vehicle's average speed. The system uses the time it takes for a vehicle to travel between the two points to calculate the average speed of the vehicle: speed = distance/time.

The point-to-point camera system determines the average speed between the two points and compares this speed to the speed limit of the road to establish if an offence has occurred.

Mobile speed cameras operate at sites that have been approved following a strict selection procedure, which considers:

- the site's history of crashes
- validated complaints about high-risk speeding behaviour
- workplace health and safety issues for roadworkers and police officers operating speed cameras
- that the speed limit for the road has been set in compliance with the state's speed control guidelines.

Further information about the operation of speed cameras in Queensland can be found at www.qld.gov.au.

For more information about speed limits – see *Speed limits*, page 70.

Red light cameras

Red light cameras are installed at intersections that have a history of crashes caused by red light running. The cameras operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

A red light camera is activated when the traffic light turns red. Any vehicle that crosses the STOP line and enters the intersection after the light has turned red will be photographed. After a vehicle is photographed, a second photograph is taken one second later. The second photograph is used to check whether the vehicle continued through the intersection or stopped just past the STOP line.

There are two types of redlight cameras in Queensland – red light cameras and combined red light and speed cameras. Combined red light/speed cameras are placed at signalised intersections and detect both the failure to obey the red traffic signal and speeding.

The speed detection component of the camera can operate on the red, amber and green signal. The camera can detect red light running and speeding at the same time.

Further information about the operation of red light cameras in Queensland can be found at www.qld.gov.au.

For more information – see *Traffic lights*, page 67.

Automatic number plate recognition (ANPR)

ANPR technology can instantly verify the registration details of vehicles on the road, which includes vehicles parked on the roadside. ANPR technology assists enforcement officers in accurately identifying unregistered vehicles, as well as ensuring that vehicles are compliant with other vehicle and transport laws.

ANPR also allows a police officer to intercept vehicles of interest such as those with stolen or false plates, as information is checked against both the Department of Transport and Main Roads registration and driver's licence information and also other records held by the Queensland Police Service.

ANPR is also used as an additional measure to enhance the current road safety functions already performed such as roadside interceptions and random vehicle inspections.

Random breath testing

Random breath testing helps to detect drink drivers and reduce the number of drink driving crashes by deterring motorists from driving when they are over their alcohol limit. Police regularly conduct random breath testing and, as a driver, you should expect to be intercepted for a random breath test at any time.

If you are to be breath tested, a police officer will ask you to provide a preliminary breath test by blowing into a roadside breath testing device.

If you are over your alcohol limit for the type of licence you hold, the conditions of your licence or the type of vehicle that you are driving, you will be detained and taken for further breath or blood testing at the police officer's discretion. If it is confirmed that you are over your alcohol limit, you will be charged with the offence of drink driving. Depending on your breath or blood alcohol concentration (BAC), your licence may be suspended for 24 hours or until the charge is dealt with by a court – see *Licence sanctions*, page 158.

Refusing to take the roadside breath test is an offence, and you will be detained and taken for a further breath or blood test. If you again refuse to take this breath or blood test, you will be charged with a second offence of refusing to supply the specimen of breath or blood.

Random roadside drug testing

Drug driving, like drink driving, is a serious offence. Roadside drug testing allows police to conduct saliva testing in conjunction with random breath testing (RBT) or as a stand-alone check. The roadside drug testing process operates in a similar way to RBTs.

Saliva tests are able to detect the active ingredients in cannabis (THC), speed and ice (methylamphetamine) and ecstasy (MDMA). There is no legal limit for these drugs – you must not have these drugs in your system when driving.

The preliminary saliva test is simple and painless and takes between three and five minutes. If a negative result is returned, you are free to go. If the test is positive (which means a drug has been detected), you will be taken to a police vehicle or police station for a second saliva test.

If the second saliva test is positive for drugs, your driver licence will be suspended for 24 hours and the remainder of the saliva sample will be sent for laboratory analysis.

If this test also comes back positive, you will be charged and required to appear in court – see *Alcohol and drugs*, page 100, for more information.

Vehicle impoundment

Police have the power to impound vehicles.

Your vehicle can be impounded if you commit any of the following offences:

- dangerous driving involving a speed trial, race or burn out
- careless driving involving a speed trial, race or burn out
- starting or driving a vehicle in a way that makes unnecessary noise or smoke, involving a speed trial, race or burn out
- organising or promoting a speed trial, race, or attempt to set or break a speed record.

Your vehicle can also be impounded if you are caught more than once for the following offences:

- driving a vehicle that is both unregistered and uninsured
- driving while unlicensed or disqualified
- driving with a BAC of 0.15 or higher
- failing to supply a specimen of breath, saliva or blood
- driving while under a 24 hour suspension
- driving an illegally modified or non-compliant vehicle.

Vehicle impoundment laws apply to the driver and the vehicle that is used while committing the offence. Even if you don't own the car you are driving, it will still be impounded and you will be responsible for the cost of the impoundment.

As an owner of a vehicle, it is your responsibility to ensure that your vehicle is roadworthy and drivers of your vehicle are licensed and drive safely. Even if you are not the driver that committed the offence, your vehicle can still be impounded.

The only exception is where the vehicle was stolen. In this case, it will be returned to the owner as soon as possible.

For further information about impoundment laws, refer to the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* at the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel website www.legislation.qld.gov.au.

Transport inspectors

Transport inspectors play a major role in ensuring the safety of drivers and protecting our road infrastructure and environment.

Transport inspectors have broad powers relating to intercepting and examining vehicles, and you must assist them.

You must pull over when a transport inspector indicates for you to stop. An inspector in a patrol vehicle can also stop you by activating the patrol vehicle's magenta lights or electronic horn.

Transport inspectors will identify themselves and tell you why they have stopped you. They may ask you for identification or your work diary or any other documents that assist them. You must allow them to examine your vehicle.

Transport inspectors can issue substantial on-the-spot fines for a range of offences. They can also report other matters for court action.

Licence sanctions

Immediate suspension

Your licence will be immediately suspended if you are charged with:

- driving with a BAC of 0.10 or higher
- driving when you are under the influence of liquor or a drug
- failing to provide a specimen of breath, saliva or blood
- drink or drug driving when an earlier, similar drink or drug driving charge has not been dealt with by a court, or withdrawn or otherwise discontinued
- drink or drug driving when you are subject to a section 79E order (see below)
- dangerous driving while affected by an intoxicating substance.

Your licence will remain suspended until the charge is dealt with by a court, or withdrawn or otherwise discontinued.

Section 79E order

You may be eligible to apply for a court order allowing you to continue to drive until the charge that resulted in your immediate suspension is dealt with by a court, or withdrawn or otherwise discontinued. You will need to complete a *Section 79E Order Application* (form F4395) and lodge it with the Magistrates Court within 21 days after the date of the immediate suspension.

There are restrictions on who is eligible for a section 79E order. For more information on section 79E orders, including eligibility requirements, visit www.qld.gov.au.

24 hour suspension

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

- drink driving while over your legal limit but under 0.10 BAC
- 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 drink driving, drug driving or failing to provide a specimen of breath (other than a roadside test), saliva or blood, you will be fined and disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence for a stated period.

For more information about drink and drug driving laws and how to avoid drink and drug driving – see *Alcohol and drugs*, page 100.

High speed suspension

If you are found driving at a speed more than 40km/h over the speed limit, you will generally be given an infringement notice for the offence. As soon as you pay the fine or have been dealt with by a court, you will be sent a *Notice of Driver Licence Suspension for Speeding Offence*, stating that your licence will be suspended for six months from a stated date.

In addition, eight demerit points will be recorded against your traffic history for this offence. If these points cause you to accumulate too many demerit points, you will also be dealt with under the demerit points scheme – see below.

Accumulation of demerit points – Queensland licence holders

If you commit a demerit point offence, you will generally be given an infringement notice for the offence. As soon as you pay the fine or have been dealt with by a court, the number of demerit points that are set for the offence are then recorded against your traffic history. These points are taken to have been allocated on the day the offence was committed. Demerit point offences committed anywhere in Australia may be recorded on your traffic history.

The number of demerit points varies according to the type of offence. For more information on demerit points, visit www.qld.gov.au.

Learner licences

If you accumulate four or more demerit points in a continuous one year period while you hold your learner licence, you will be sent an *Accumulation of Demerit Points – Notice of Driver Licence Suspension* and your licence will be suspended for a mandatory three month period.

If your licence is suspended or you are disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence during the learner licence period, this time will not contribute to the minimum period you must hold your learner licence.

Provisional licences

If you accumulate four or more demerit points in a one year period while you hold your provisional licence, you will be sent an *Accumulation of Demerit Points – Notice to Choose*. You will have the choice between:

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

You may also have a one year late night driving restriction imposed – see *Late night driving restrictions*, page 163.

If your licence is suspended or you are disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence during the provisional licence period, this time will not contribute to the minimum period you must hold your provisional licence.

Open licence

If you accumulate 12 or more demerit points in a three year period and you hold an open licence, you will be sent an *Accumulation of Demerit Points – Notice to Choose*. The notice will require you to choose between having your licence suspended for a specific period or agreeing to continue driving on a good driving behaviour period for one year.

You may receive a warning letter when you accumulate at least seven demerit points in a three year period.

Open licence suspension periods

Demerit points	12 to 15	16 to 19	20 or more
Suspension periods	3 months	4 months	5 months

Driving on a good driving behaviour period for one year

If you choose to continue driving on a period of good driving behaviour for one year, you may keep your current licence provided that you do not accumulate more than one demerit point during the one year period. If you accumulate two or more demerit points during this period, your licence will be suspended for double the suspension period that would have applied had you originally chosen the licence suspension.

Accumulation of demerit points – interstate and foreign licence holders

If you commit a demerit point offence, you will generally be given an infringement notice for the offence. As soon as you pay the fine or have been dealt with by a court, the number of demerit points that are set for the offence are then recorded against your traffic history. These points are taken to have been allocated on the day the offence was committed.

If you accumulate too many demerit points, you will be sent a notice from the Department of Transport and Main Roads advising that your authority to drive in Queensland on your interstate or foreign licence is withdrawn for the stated period. The length of the suspension period will depend on the type of licence you held when the demerit point offence was committed and the number of demerit points you accumulate during the period.

You cannot appeal against the withdrawal of your authority to drive in Queensland.

Double demerit points

Mobile phones

Double demerit points are recorded on your traffic history for second or subsequent mobile phone offences committed within one year of a previous mobile phone offence. Double demerit points apply to the following offences:

- any driver using a hand-held mobile phone while driving
- any mobile phone use by a learner or P1 provisional licence holder under 25 years of age
- any mobile phone use by a P1 probationary or P1 restricted licence holder.

The one year period starts from the date when the first offence was committed and will not end until one year has passed from the date of the last mobile phone offence.

Speeding

If you are caught driving or riding more than 20km/h above the speed limit more than once within a one year period, you will accumulate double the amount of demerit points (based on the second offence) for the following speeding offence brackets:

- 21–30km/h above the speed limit – four demerit points will be doubled to eight demerit points
- 31–40km/h above the speed limit – six demerit points will be doubled to 12 demerit points
- 41km/h or more above the speed limit – eight demerit points will be doubled to 16 demerit points.

The one year period starts from the date when the first offence was committed and will not end until one year has passed from the date of the last speeding offence.

Seatbelts, child restraints and helmets

Double demerit points are recorded on your traffic history for additional driver-related seatbelt, child restraint or motorcycle rider helmet offences committed within one year of a previous offence. The double demerit points relate to the following offences:

- driver of a vehicle failing to wear a seatbelt when driving a vehicle fitted with a seatbelt for the driver – three demerit points will be doubled to six demerit points
- driver of a vehicle failing to ensure that a passenger under 16 wears a seatbelt or child restraint – three demerit points will be doubled to six demerit points
- rider of a motorcycle failing to wear a motorcycle helmet – three demerit points will be doubled to six demerit points
- rider of a motorcycle failing to ensure a passenger wears a motorcycle helmet – three demerit points will be doubled to six demerit points

The one year period starts from the date when the first offence was committed and will not end until one year has passed from the date of the last offence.

For more information on demerit point offences, visit www.qld.gov.au.

Special hardship orders

If the suspension of your licence will cause extreme hardship to you and your family (such as depriving you of the means to earn a living) you may apply for a special hardship order if:

- you accumulated two or more demerit points while on a good driving behaviour period for one year
- your licence has been suspended for six months for driving more than 40km/h over the speed limit.

You must lodge your application for a special hardship order within 21 clear days from when your provisional or open licence was suspended, and your application must be lodged in the Magistrates Court district that you reside in.

There are restrictions on who is eligible for a special hardship order. For more information on special hardship orders, including eligibility requirements, visit www.qld.gov.au.

Late night driving restrictions

If you are a provisional or probationary licence holder under 25 who commits a high speed offence or accumulates too many demerit points that results in:

- a licence suspension period
- a good driving behaviour period

you will be prohibited from driving between the hours of 11pm and 5am for one year.

This restriction will begin the day after your suspension period ends, or on the day you begin your good driving behaviour period.

Please note, if you apply for a *Special Hardship Order*, the start date of your restriction may change.

If you are a provisional, probationary or open licence holder under 25 who commits an offence that results in a court ordered disqualification, you will also be prohibited from driving between the hours of 11pm and 5am for at least one year.

For more information on late night driving restrictions, please visit www.qld.gov.au.

Alcohol ignition interlock program

An alcohol ignition interlock is a breath-testing device that is connected to a vehicle's ignition. An interlock stops a vehicle from being started if the driver has been drinking alcohol.

You will be part of the alcohol ignition interlock program if you have committed and are convicted of any of the following drink driving offences:

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

You will need to be part of the program for 12 months. You will be required to pay for all costs associated with the program. Not complying with the conditions of the program may extend the minimum time you will be in the program.

If you are part of the program, you are only allowed to drive a vehicle that is fitted with a prescribed interlock and that has been nominated to the Department of Transport and Main Roads, via an approved interlock supplier. You must have a zero BAC at all times when driving.

If you are unable to comply with the requirement to only drive a nominated vehicle fitted with an approved interlock, you may be eligible for an exemption but exemptions are considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with strict guidelines.

If you decide not to follow the conditions of the program, you will not be allowed to drive for two years from the end of your disqualification period.

For further information on the alcohol ignition interlock program, visit www.qld.gov.au.

Cumulative disqualifications

A cumulative disqualification period applies when you have been convicted and disqualified for:

- two or more drink or drug driving offences
- a drink or drug driving offence and at the same time you commit the offence of driving without a valid licence.

This means that if you are convicted and disqualified for these offences the disqualification periods will be served one after the other (cumulatively). You will start the first disqualification period on the date of the court conviction. The second disqualification period will not start until your first disqualification period has been served.

A full list of offences can be found at the Department of Transport and Main Roads website www.qld.gov.au.

If you receive a cumulative disqualification, you will not be able to apply for a restricted (work) licence.

After serving your cumulative disqualification, you will need to contact your nearest licence issuing centre to get your licence back.

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 an order of an Australian court if you have been convicted of:

- a drink or drug driving offence
- a dangerous driving offence
- a criminal offence involving driving a vehicle.

If you are found driving a vehicle while you are still disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence because of a court order, you will be charged with disqualified driving.

If the court finds you guilty of disqualified driving, the court must further disqualify you from holding or obtaining a licence for a period of at least two years up to a maximum period of five years. You may also be given a fine in excess of \$6600, and you could be jailed for up to 18 months.

Driving while your Queensland driver licence or your authority to drive is suspended

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

- not paid any fines imposed on you
- accumulated too many demerit points on your traffic history – see *Accumulation of demerit points – Queensland licence holders*, page 159 and *Accumulation of demerit points – interstate and foreign licence holders*, page 160
- been convicted of driving more than 40km/h over the speed limit – see *High speed suspension*, page 159
- been charged with an offence that is subject to an immediate licence suspension – see *Immediate suspension*, page 158.

If you are found driving a vehicle while your licence is suspended or your authority to drive in Queensland under your non-Queensland driver licence is withdrawn because of any of the above reasons, you will be charged with unlicensed driving.

If the court finds you guilty of the unlicensed driving offence, the court will disqualify you from holding or obtaining a licence. You may also be given a fine in excess of \$4400, and you could be jailed for up to one year.

Driving while your authority to drive is withdrawn

Your authority to drive in Queensland under your non-Queensland driver licence is also withdrawn if:

- the Department of Transport and Main Roads reasonably believes that you have a mental or physical incapacity that adversely affects your ability to drive safely
- the three months residency rule applies to you – see *When the three months residency rule applies*, page 56
- you fail your Q-Safe practical driving test.

If you are found driving a vehicle when your authority to drive has been withdrawn because of any of the above reasons, you may be given an infringement notice, or be dealt with by a court, for unlicensed driving.

If the matter is dealt with by a court and you are found guilty of the unlicensed driving offence, you may be fined in excess of \$4400 and you could be jailed for up to one year.

Driving when you do not hold a driver licence

You are taken to not hold a valid licence if:

- your licence is suspended
- your licence is cancelled as a result of a court disqualification
- your licence has expired
- you have voluntarily surrendered your licence
- your licence has been suspended or cancelled because you have a mental or physical incapacity that adversely affects your ability to drive safely
- you do not hold the class of licence for the vehicle you are found driving
- you have never held a licence
- after completing a period of disqualification, you do not obtain a further licence before starting to drive again.

If you are found driving a vehicle and you do not hold a licence because of any of the above reasons, you may be given an infringement notice for the offence, or be dealt with by a court, for unlicensed driving.

If the matter is dealt with by a court and you are found guilty of the unlicensed driving offence, you may be fined in excess of \$4400 and you could be jailed for up to one year.

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



Your vehicle

- Buying a vehicle – safety considerations
- Registering your vehicle

Buying a vehicle – safety considerations

Making good choices when it comes to buying a new or used vehicle can make a big difference to your chances of avoiding a crash in the first place, and can greatly improve your chance of survival if you are involved in a crash that could not be avoided.

Safety features checklist

To help you avoid a crash in the first place and minimise the possibility of a fatal or serious injury in a crash that could not be avoided, always ask the following questions when buying a vehicle.

- *What is the safety rating?* Four or five stars are recommended for both new and used vehicles.
- *Are airbags fitted for both side and front impacts?* Research by the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety* estimates that head-protecting side airbags can reduce driver deaths in side impact crashes by 37 per cent. Torso airbags provide no dedicated head protection but still offer a 26 per cent reduction in death and injuries compared with no side airbags.
- *Does it have electronic stability control?* Electronic stability control has been internationally recognised to significantly reduce crash rates by helping drivers maintain control of their vehicles in difficult driving situations.
- *What restraints does the vehicle have?*
 - three-point (lap-sash) seatbelts for all seats
 - adjustable head restraints for all seats – look for active head restraints that reduce the distance your head moves during an impact
 - pre-tensioning seatbelts – actively tighten in a crash
 - load-limiting seatbelts – minimise the force on the body during a crash
 - child restraint anchor points – sufficient for the number of child seats required
 - seatbelt reminder – sound or dashboard light warns when belts are not in use, or confirms which belts are fastened.

For more information on vehicle safety considerations, please visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au/buyingsafety.

* Insurance Institute of Highway Safety (2006). Side airbags substantially reduce death risk in cars and SUVs. Those that protect people's heads are especially effective.

Environmentally friendly vehicles

To help choose the best ‘green’ car for you, the Commonwealth Government’s *Green Vehicle Guide* (www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au) provides information on vehicle fuel consumption for both new and used vehicles and greenhouse and air pollution ratings for new vehicles. It also includes a fuel consumption database for vehicles manufactured between 1986 and 2003, plus more ‘greener’ motoring information about how to drive and maintain any vehicle efficiently.

A Department of Transport and Main Roads transport inspector may pull over your vehicle anywhere, anytime in Queensland to test your vehicle’s pollution levels. Your vehicle will be given a good, fair or poor pollution rating.

For more information about Aircare, the Department of Transport and Main Roads’ program for promoting clean air practices, visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au/environment.

Buyer’s checklist for a registered vehicle

- The vehicle has a current Queensland safety certificate.
- The safety certificate is displayed on the vehicle.
- The issuing approved inspection station’s name is on it.
- The safety certificate is still valid.
- An independent mechanic has inspected the vehicle.
- The seller has a registration certificate in their name – although this is not proof of legal ownership.
- You should use the search function on the Personal Property Securities Register, by visiting www.ppsr.gov.au or by calling **1300 007 777***, to make sure that the vehicle you are buying does not have a security interest over it. For example, if you buy a vehicle that still has money owing on it, the vehicle could be repossessed by the person who lent money against it.

Note: this search will also advise whether the vehicle has been reported as stolen or written-off.

- If the vehicle runs on gas or has gas fittings or systems, it may require a gas certificate.
- Ensure a transfer application is completed and signed by yourself and the seller and lodge it with the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

* Check with your service provider for call costs.

Registering your vehicle

A vehicle must be registered before you can use it on the road, including driving and parking. Registration fees help fund the development and maintenance of the road network. Registration includes the cost of compulsory third party (CTP) insurance, which covers the owner and driver of a motor vehicle for legal liability arising from the use of the vehicle causing injury to another person.

CTP insurance does not cover damage to property, including vehicles.

The person in whose name a vehicle is registered is the ‘registered operator’. This person is responsible for its operation on the road. The registered operator must be a person or other legal entity. If the vehicle is a heavy vehicle, the person must be 18 years or older. The Department of Transport and Main Roads will currently allow two individual registered operators to be recorded. However, further transactions for this vehicle may be authorised by either operator.

Registration is not proof of legal ownership.

You can only register a vehicle in Queensland if its garage address (where it is based or from where it regularly operates) is in Queensland. You must provide evidence of a Queensland garage address when registering a vehicle. You must notify any change of address within 14 days.

If you have a vehicle registered in another state and you are living in Queensland, you must register the vehicle in Queensland within 14 days of Queensland becoming the vehicle’s garage address.

For more information including how to register a motor vehicle, please visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au/registration/registering-vehicles.

Transferring registration

If you have acquired a registered, second-hand vehicle you will need to transfer the registration to your name within 14 days.

For more information on transferring registration, please visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au/registration/transferring-registration.

Renewing registration

You will need to renew your registration. A vehicle registration notice will be sent to you about four weeks before your registration expiry date. Notify the Department of Transport and Main Roads when you change your address so the vehicle registration notice reaches you.

If you do not receive a vehicle registration notice, you are still responsible for paying the registration fee and CTP insurance by the expiry date. If you do not renew your registration by the expiry date, your registration lapses and a reinstatement fee will be payable. Once the registration lapses, the vehicle is unregistered and cannot be used on a road.

For more information on renewing registration, please visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au/registration/renewing-registration.



Organ donation

Organ donation

Being a donor

Call the Australian Organ Donor Register on **1800 777 203** for a brochure and form, or pick one up from a Department of Transport and Main Roads customer service centre, Medicare offices, Queensland Government Agent Program offices or your local police station if you are in a rural area.

For more information on organ donation, visit the Medicare Australia website www.medicareaustralia.gov.au.

Once you have registered, it is important to tell your family and friends about your decision.



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