

Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

G6 - Information for New Residents to the Northern Territory

Effective Date: 01 September 2007

When do I become a resident of the NT for registration and licence purposes?

You become a resident of the NT when you:

- have resided in the Territory for a continuous period of 3 months; or
- when you transfer your interstate driver licence and are issued with an NT driver licence; or
- transfer an interstate registered vehicle and are issued NT vehicle registration.
- apply for and are issued with an NT driver licence; or
- apply for and are issued with NT vehicle registration.

Effect of NT Law on Driver Licences

If you are a resident of the NT (as identified above) and you wish to drive a motor vehicle in the NT, you must hold a current NT Driver Licence.

If you hold a licence from interstate, or another jurisdiction, and you have been continuously in the NT for a period exceeding 3 months, you must not drive a motor vehicle on a public street or place. After you become a NT resident, or have resided in the NT for a continuous period of 3 months, your interstate drivers licence may be deemed to be void.

Effect of NT Law on Vehicle Registration

A motor vehicle registered in another state or jurisdiction may be deemed to be not registered, regardless of whether or not it has current registration in another state or jurisdiction, if:

1. You, as the owner of the interstate registered vehicle, are a resident of the NT and the vehicle has been in the NT continuously for more that 28 days.
2. You are a resident of the NT, and you purchase an interstate registered vehicle which has been in the NT continuously for more that 28 days;
3. You are an NT resident and you drive a vehicle with interstate registration that has been in the NT for a continuous period of three (3) months (so the vehicle is no longer classed as a "visiting motor vehicle").
4. You hold an interstate driver licence, and you are driving a vehicle with interstate registration, which has been in the NT for a continuous period of three (3) months (so the vehicle is no longer classed as a "visiting motor vehicle").

For determining whether a vehicle registration must be transferred to the NT (as above), a person shall be deemed to be the owner of a motor vehicle if it is registered under a law of another country or of a State or another Territory of the Commonwealth in the name of that person or in the name of a spouse, de facto partner, dependant or parent, who is a resident of the Territory, of that person

Australian Defence Force (ADF) Personnel and Families

The above laws also apply to members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and their families.

Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) Information

Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) provides motor vehicle inspection, registration, and driver licensing services throughout the NT. Transport Inspectors also monitor vehicles on-road, for both roadworthiness, and to ensure that load limits are observed. This has the dual aim of improving road safety, and protecting roads from damage caused by the transporting of excessive loads.

Becoming a Customer and Conducting Business with MVR

To conduct business with you (e.g. register your vehicle in the NT or issue you with an NT Driver Licence), we need to establish you as a customer. To allow this to happen, you will need to provide Evidence of Identity (EOI) and Evidence of Residency (EOR) documentation.

See [Information Bulletin G08 – Evidence of Identity \(EOI\) and Evidence of Residency \(EOR\) for Individuals](#) for further information

Registering or Transferring your Vehicle Registration

To register your vehicle in the Northern Territory, in addition to providing evidence of your identity and residency in the NT, you must also:

- Proof of acquisition (POA), or ownership of the vehicle;
- Have the vehicle inspected for roadworthiness (depending on the age vehicle). This may be done by an authorised vehicle inspector (most vehicle repairers), or in Alice Springs and Darwin, at the MVR Vehicle Compliance Centre.
- You must also have a compliance check when first registering a vehicle in the NT. A compliance check is an inspection of the vehicles identifiers by an approved person. Its aim is to ensure that the vehicle identifiers are not missing or altered in any way and to also ensure that the vehicle corresponds with the registration application and the information contained on the registration authorities date base. A compliance check is required regardless of the age of your vehicle, and may only be done by specifically authorised vehicle inspectors (see section on Vehicle Compliance Check and Roadworthy Inspections).

Proof of Acquisition/Ownership (POA)

To register a vehicle or transfer the ownership, you must provide documents that identify the person from whom you acquired the vehicle and confirm the legal transfer of ownership. This is called Proof of Acquisition/Ownership (POA). Proof of Acquisition or ownership (POA) may be comprised of:

- a) The most recent certificate of Registration, in the name of, and signed by the most recent registered owner(s). Please note: If the certificate only records the Registered or Responsible Operator (RO), or if it is not clear whether the name and address is for the RO or owner, the certificate may not be acceptable.
- b) A bill of sale from a recognised auction house or a licensed motor vehicle dealer;

- c) A copy of a will or probate advice, written advice from a solicitor, or letter from a public trustee, indicating that the vehicle is bequeathed to you. In cases where a vehicle is registered in joint names and one of the parties dies, then a copy of a will, probate, letters from a solicitor or public trustees is still required. This is a complicated issue and all applications will be assessed by the Registrar on a case-by-case basis.
- d) Documents from a court of law allocating ownership of a vehicle, (e.g. Family Law);
- e) A letter, receipt, or notice of disposal from the last registered owner of the vehicle, clearly identifying themselves, the vehicle, and the buyer. The letter must include the registration number, VIN or chassis number, and engine number of the vehicle;

Stamp Duty

If you have previously paid stamp duty when the vehicle was first registered in your name, you are not required to pay it again when transferring the registration into your name.

If you did not transfer the ownership of the vehicle into your name in your previous State/Territory, you will need to provide Proof of Acquisition/Ownership as above, and pay the necessary stamp duty before NT registration will be granted in your name.

Stamp Duty is calculated at 3% of the purchase price of vehicle or the market value of the vehicle - whichever ever is greater. For more information please contact MVR on 1300 654 628 (for the cost of a local call).

Unable to provide the current Registration Certificate

If you cannot provide a current registration certificate, you can request that MVR undertake a search of your former State/Territory authority's records to provide you with Proof of Ownership (POA). This search takes approximately 24 – 48 hours and will likely attract a "search fee". Where convenient, please phone the MVR office conducting your search to ensure that your information has been received prior to returning to the office in person to complete the registration transaction.

Vehicle Compliance Check and Roadworthy Inspection

In addition to a roadworthiness inspection for many vehicles, a Compliance Check is required for the first time registration of every vehicle brought into the NT to ensure that the vehicle is correctly identified (Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)) and engine number matches the vehicle records and that the vehicle complies with Australian Design Rules. The compliance check is required only on first time registration in the NT.

Vehicle Roadworthy Inspections are required once the vehicle is 3 years old. Vehicles older than 3 years, but less than 10 years old, require a Roadworthy Inspection every 2 years until they reach their 10th year. Vehicles over 10 years old require a roadworthy inspection every year.

Where to have your vehicle inspected

Compliance Check

Compliance Checks are carried out by Transport Inspectors located in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs. Other areas may be available. Contact the MVR Hotline 1300 654 628 (for the cost of a local call) for further details.

See also [Information Bulletin G05 – Motor Vehicle Registry \(MVR\) Service Centres](#)

Roadworthy Inspection

Authorised Inspection Stations located throughout the NT (usually at service stations and vehicle repairers) can carry out Vehicle Roadworthy Inspections. Payment of the inspection fee is made to the Authorised Inspector. A list is provided on the internet at:

<http://www.nt.gov.au/transport/mvr/registration/inspections/index.shtml>

Registration Fees and Charges

Registration fees for private vehicles are based on the cubic capacity of your car's engine, whilst fees for larger vehicles (greater than 4.5 tonnes Gross Vehicle Mass) vary on the type of vehicle and its operation.

MVR collects the Registration Fee and Compulsory Third Party Insurance at the time you register your vehicle. Other fees may also apply.

Joint Vehicle Owners and Infringement Notices

When first registering a vehicle in joint names customers may nominate who is to be first named on the registration certificate. If no nomination is made, MVR may record joint owners alphabetically. In situations where owners wish to jointly register a vehicle for the first time, both must attend an MVR Office or provide written authority for one to act on behalf of the other (Agent's Authority) to authorise the application.

The NT *Traffic Regulations* provide for the operation of Infringement Notice Schemes for certain traffic offences. For traffic infringements detected by camera (red light or speed camera), only the offending vehicle is identified. Motor vehicle records are then used to identify the vehicle's registered owner who is served with any infringement notice. In situations where there are joint (or multiple) registered owners of a vehicle, the NT *Traffic Regulations* require that the first person named on the registration certificate is taken to be the responsible registered owner or, if the vehicle is unregistered, the last registered owner, eg, if the MVR record shows that a vehicle is jointly owned by ADAM JONES and ZENA JONES, any infringement notice will be sent to ADAM JONES.

Body Corporate Registered Owners

Bodies corporate with vehicles registered in the body corporate name should be aware that when an infringement notice for a demerit point offence is issued against their vehicle, significantly higher penalties exist for failing to identify the driver. The same penalties also exist in the situation where a body corporate has control of a vehicle (whether as the hirer or lessee) and that vehicle is involved in a camera detected demerit points offence.

See also the NT Police Traffic Infringement Notice or MVR [Information Bulletin L30 – NT Demerit Points Scheme](#).

Compulsory Third Party Insurance

Motor Accident Compensation Act – (MACA)

Third Party Insurance is compulsory for all NT registered vehicles. The Territory Insurance Office (TIO) is the only recognised provider of the no fault scheme that provides compensation to victims of road trauma involving NT citizens and/or vehicles. All types of road users are protected by the scheme including pedestrians, drivers, passengers, motorcyclists and cyclists, and compensation is paid according to a scale of benefits.

More information is available from TIO at: <http://www.tiofi.com.au/tioweb.nsf>

Transferring Your Driver Licence

To transfer your Australian issued Driver Licence to the NT, it must be current (or may be expired up to 5 years – a fee applies) at the time of transfer, and you are required to present the following to an MVR Office:

- a) Your current Photographic Driver Licence
- b) The completed Application for a Driver Licence form
- c) Evidence of Identity and Evidence of Residency (See Information Bulletin G08 – Evidence of Identity and Evidence of Residency for Individuals)

Important Notes:

If your licence from another jurisdiction is currently cancelled or suspended for any reason (including for outstanding fines), the licence cannot be transferred to the NT. No action is possible until you are once again entitled to hold a licence in the other jurisdiction.

If you have a conditional licence such as interlock or a work permit licence, you will not be able to transfer it until the licence is restored to a full open licence by the original jurisdiction. The NT does not issue such conditional licences.

NT Demerit Points Scheme

The Northern Territory (NT) Demerit Points Scheme (DPS) is based on similar DPS's that already operate in all other Australian states and territories. A particular legal requirement of the NT's DPS is that when you as a licence holder from interstate apply for an NT driver licence; a check must be made with your home state or territory; for any active demerit points. In most cases the check for active demerit points will be made some time after your application for an NT driver licence has been processed; and you have received your new NT Licence.

In some circumstances you may have demerit points action taken against your new NT licence. This demerit points action could be as a result of your active demerit points received from your home state or territory; and/or because of subsequent demerit point offences committed by you. See [Information Bulletin L31 – Interstate Licence Transfers & the NT DPS](#) and [Information Bulletin L28 – NT DPS and How it Affects You](#).

Medical Self-Assessment for Driver Licences

In the NT it is a legal requirement that drivers and their health professionals alike report any medical, psychiatric, or physical condition that may affect the ability to drive safely and legally.

For your convenience, driver licensing forms in the NT provide the opportunity for you to declare any potential problem in this regard. Where you identify a problem, you may need to provide Motor Vehicle Registry with a medical certificate. Remember, you are required by law to complete the section truthfully.

Eyesight Test for Driver Licences

All NT Driver Licence holders must satisfy basic eyesight standards, and you will therefore be asked to either undertake an MVR or police eyesight test, or provide a certificate from a health professional when an NT licence is first issued, and at least every 5 years thereafter. Eyesight test certificates issued more than 6 months ago will not be accepted.

In general, Motor Vehicle Registry offices use eyesight-testing machines, whilst Police outstations use eyesight test charts. Customers who have passed an eyesight test in the previous 5 years are exempt from eyesight testing (unless the Registrar has altered the eyesight test cycle due to a problem being identified).

Zero Alcohol Condition on Driver Licences

When transferring a licence from another State or Territory, a “Z” Condition (no alcohol) will be automatically placed on the licence if you are under the age of 25. This is done to ensure that the Northern Territory 3 year zero alcohol condition is not overlooked (as licences from other jurisdictions seldom provide details of first issue date).

This “Z” Condition will be removed if you can prove that you have already held a licence in another State or Territory for 3 consecutive years. Verification of your licence history is not automatic, and will only be undertaken at your request. A search of your previous jurisdiction’s licensing records usually takes 24 – 48 hours, and in the meantime, your NT licence will usually be issued with a “Z” Condition until the search confirms your eligibility to have it removed. Further information on other Licence conditions is available from: [Information Bulletin L23 – Driver Licence Conditions Explained](#).

Unable to provide a current licence

If you are unable to provide a current licence (for example - lost) then you can request MVR to conduct a search of the State/Territory where the licence was issued. This search will take 24 – 48 hours and a fee may be charged. You will need to apply in person and provide Evidence of Identity (EOI) and Evidence of Residency (EOR) to perform this search and subsequently receive an NT licence.

Contact Details	
Motor Vehicle Registry	
Telephone	1300 654 628
Facsimile	(08) 8999 3103
Email	mvr@nt.gov.au
Web	www.mvr.nt.gov.au
Postal Address	GPO Box 530 Darwin NT 0801