

Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

G10 - NT Registration & Licence Rules for Long Term Travellers

Effective Date: 01 September 2007

Northern Territory (NT) residents who are currently, or are intending to travel Australia for more than 12 months may be eligible to apply for Long Term Traveller (also known interstate as Itinerant Traveller) status, which will allow them to:

- renew the registration for NT registered vehicles from interstate; and,
- submit successive interstate roadworthy inspection certificates when necessary to maintain NT registration whilst travelling outside the Territory, and;
- renew their NT Driver licences, even if an eyesight test is required without returning to the Territory.

To qualify for Long Term Traveller status you must:

- Be the owner/operator of any NT registered vehicle/s you intend to use when travelling interstate and/or hold a current NT Driver Licence;
- Plan to be travelling outside the NT for an extended period but intend to return
- Provide a postal address for the service of registration and licensing documentation and any other notices such as speed camera fines etc. A friend or relative from anywhere in the NT's postal address will suffice.
- Provide a letter/fax/email from any nominated contact person authorising the use of their address and giving an undertaking to do all things to ensure that mail relating to registration, licensing and traffic issues will be redirected to the Long Term Traveller.
- Be a genuine tourist, traveller or visitor interstate travelling from one place to another principally for the purposes of recreation or pleasure.

How to apply for Long Term Traveller Status

- You must be an established Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) customer or be prepared to establish yourself as a customer by providing evidence of your identity and your present NT residential address;
- Supply all necessary documentation including the attached Long Term Traveller Statutory Declaration.
- Wherever possible apply for Long Term Traveller status prior to leaving the NT.
- Make separate application for each vehicle being used for the intended travel

Interstate Roadworthy Inspections

MVR will accept roadworthy inspection certificates from interstate registration authorities, however Long Term Travellers are strongly advised to confirm the acceptability of any interstate inspection certificate prior to arranging the inspection.

Long Term Travellers should consider arranging roadworthiness inspections up to 6 weeks prior to attempting to renew their registration.

Note:

1. Some States and Territories require advanced booking of up to 2 weeks for inspections.
2. Roadworthy Inspection certificates (NT and Interstate) are only valid for six weeks from the date of issue.

Other Legislative Requirements

NT Approved Long Term Travellers are strongly advised to enquire about any local vehicle/licence requirements when outside the NT, as Long Term status granted here may not be recognised in some other states/territories.

For example, under NT legislation, Long Term Traveller status granted elsewhere does not automatically exempt interstate registered vehicles from holding NT registration after a stay of 3 months. Such exemption is available, but only on application.

You are also advised to contact your vehicle insurer to confirm that the terms of your policy are unaffected during the extended period that the vehicle will be outside the NT.

Traffic Infringement Notices served on Long Term Travellers (in person or by mail) while interstate when finalised will be sent to the NT by the Australian state or territory authorities. Those offences that incur demerit points will be received by the NT MVR and recorded against the Traveller's NT driver licence. If sufficient demerit points are accumulated, action may be taken by MVR against the Traveller's NT driver licence. For more information see [Information Bulletin L28 – NT Demerit Points Scheme and How it Affects You.](#)

Driver's Licence Expiry

NT licences may be renewed at any time for up to a total of 5 years. Prior to departing the NT, Long Term Travellers should ensure that their licences are current for the maximum possible duration to minimise any inconvenience when interstate.

Where a Long Term Traveller's Driver Licence is due to expire whilst outside the Territory, they should contact MVR several weeks prior to the date of licence expiry to organise a renewal.

Interstate renewals are only available if the Traveller has an NT credit card style licence. This means that MVR will most likely have your licence photo digitally stored.

Where an eyesight test is due, you will need to provide a certificate from an appropriate health professional (eg, doctor or optometrist) indicating that your eyesight meets national driver eyesight requirements. Any requirement for corrective lenses must also be indicated on the health professional's report.

Replacement Vehicle

Should a Long Term Traveller replace a vehicle whilst outside the NT, the replacement vehicle may be granted NT registration.

To obtain NT registration the replacement vehicle will need to be inspected to ensure that it complies with Australian design rules, is correctly identified, and in some cases depending on its age, is roadworthy.

Prior to buying any replacement vehicle, Travellers should contact the Northern Territory MVR on telephone 1300 654 628 to ensure that NT registration will be granted.

Interstate Long Term Travellers Visiting the NT

Long Term Travellers (also know interstate as Itinerant Travellers) visiting the NT for a continuous period of more than 3 months should make application to MVR for exemption from the requirement to hold an NT Driver Licence and/or have their vehicle NT registered.

Exemptions are conditional on the interstate licence and/or registration remains current for the term of the exemption and are granted on a case by case basis. Applicants will need to prove their interstate Long Term (Itinerant) Traveller status or provide evidence that they are genuine visitors to the NT, not residents.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

MVR takes no responsibility for correspondence sent to the Long Term Traveller's nominated contact address whilst travelling. The 'return to sender' of any MVR correspondence may result in revocation of Long Term Traveller status.

Should you require further information or details of any necessary documentation you may need to provide, please contact on the details below.

| Contact Details | |
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| 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 |