

Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

L1 – How to Obtain a class “C” or class “R(r)” Learner Licence

Who requires a Learner licence?

In the Northern Territory, Learner licences are only required for class “C” (Car) and class “R(r)” (Restricted Motorcycle Rider).

Requirements for class “C” Learner - (Car Learner)

- You must provide Evidence of Identity (EOI) and Evidence of NT Residency (EOR). Refer to [Information Bulletin G8 – Evidence of Identity and Evidence of Residency for Individuals](#)
- You must be at least 16 years of age.
- If you are under 17 years of age, you must have written Parental/Legal Guardian consent. Refer to [Form L3 - Parental Consent Statutory Declaration](#)
- You must pass the entry level theory test based on NT Road Laws. Refer to [NT Road Users' Handbook](#) or pass an approved training program (more details – see page 3).
- You must pass an eyesight test.

Requirements for class “R(r)” Learner - (Restricted Rider Learner)

All requirements are the same as for class “C” Learner.

You are only required to pass the entry level theory test if this is your first licence i.e. you do not hold any other licence.

Depending on the area of residence, applicants may also have to pass a Balance and Stability practical riding test (Motorcycle Operator Skills Test (MOST)), or pass the Motorcyclist Education Training and Licensing (METAL) Basic course.

To obtain a class “C” Learner Licence

As the theory test for a Learner Licence is based on the Northern Territory Road Users' Handbook, you will need to obtain a copy of this booklet to study. The booklet may be purchased from any Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) outlet or NT Police Outstations in remote areas. Alternatively, It is available free of charge online at www.mvr.nt.gov.au. The booklet also includes the Learner Driver's Guide which is invaluable in explaining the driving techniques you will need to demonstrate when it is time to attempt your practical driving test.

When you feel that you are ready to attempt the theory test, attend your nearest MVR outlet or NT Police Outstation if you live in a remote area. Make sure that you take along your [Evidence of Identity and Evidence of Residency](#) documents.

You will be required to complete [Form L1 - Application for a Northern Territory Driver/Rider Licence](#). If you are under 17 years of age, your parent or guardian will be asked to identify him/herself and complete [Form L3 - Parental Consent Statutory Declaration](#).

Once the forms have been completed and signatures witnessed by MVR staff, or a Police Officer, you will then be able to attempt the theory test. The theory test consists of questions in a multiple-choice format.

For those who have difficulty reading or writing, you may elect to attempt a verbal test with the assistance of an interpreter. Booking for a verbal test appointment may be done through your local MVR outlet or NT Police Outstation.

Interpreting service is provided by Interpreting and Translating Service NT (ITSNT). Please note that if you are not an Australian resident or citizen, you will be required to pay a fee directly to ITSNT.

To obtain a Class “R(r)” Learner Licence

Requirements are the same as for a class “C” Learner, except:

- If you already hold a class “C” Learner, Provisional or Open licence a theory test is not required;
- A Balance and Stability (Motorcycle Operator Skills Test (MOST)) test must be undertaken if you reside in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek or Alice Springs;
- or
- Undertake a METAL Basic Riding Course, where available. Contact your local MVR outlet for further information.

Should you be required to undertake a Balance and Stability (MOST) test, the motorcycle you provide must be a Learner Approved Motorcycle, and must be registered and road worthy. Refer to [Information Bulletin L39 - LAMS List of Approved Motorcycles](#).

You must also wear an approved helmet bearing an Australian Standards Association sticker (ASA 1698), and which is in a legal and safe condition.

As you hold no licence to ride, you will need to make arrangements to get your motorcycle to and, possibly, from the test venue.

Important Note: You cannot legally ride a motorcycle (motorcycles defined as a moped may be ridden on a class “C” licence) without a current class “R(r)” Learner licence.

Issue and Validity

Your Learner licence will be issued once you pass the theory test (and MOST or Basic METAL required for motorcycles) and paid the prescribed fee. The Learner licence is valid for two (2) years.

Important Note:

If the event that your Learner Licence card is lost/misplaced and the card is returned to MVR (e.g. by someone from the place where you have left your card behind, Police, etc), the card will be destroyed. You will need to reapply and pay the prescribed fee for a replacement card.

Conditions

All Learner licences are issued subject to the following conditions:

1. Zero blood alcohol concentration.
2. Not to exceed 80 kilometres per hour unless under the direct supervision of an instructor conducting an approved training program.
3. Must display L plates clearly visible to the front and rear on cars, and to the rear only on motorcycles.
4. Must be accompanied (in the passenger seat) by a fully licensed driver (not provisional) at all times whilst driving (for cars only).
5. Must not carry pillion passengers (for motorcycles only).
6. Must not use a mobile phone while the vehicle is moving, or is stationary but not parked. All mobile telephone use including hands-free operation is prohibited whilst driving/riding for the duration of the learner period.
7. Under the NT Demerit Points Scheme (DPS) all drivers are subject to a points action trigger of 12 demerit points in 3 years. Additionally, Learner, Provisional and overseas licence holders are also subject to a points action trigger of 5 demerit points in 1 year.
See [Information Bulletin L28 – NT DPS and How it Affects You](#).

Important Note:

You will not be eligible to book, or attempt, a practical driving/riding test until you have held your Learner licence for 6 continuous months immediately prior to booking. During this initial 6 month period you are encouraged to get as much supervised driving/riding experience as possible.

Approved Training Courses

The following are driver/rider-specific training programs approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

1. Driver Training and Licensing (DTAL)

DTAL operates in the Greater Darwin area and Alice Springs offering heavily subsidised theory and practical driver training for applicants aged between 16 and 19 years, predominantly through the secondary school system.

For further information, please contact the DTAL Manager on 1300 654 628 or visit www.nt.gov.au/dtal

2. Motorcyclist Education Training And Licensing (METAL)

METAL currently operates at centres in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs, and offers two (2) defensive rider training courses (Basic and Intermediate) that lead to the issue of a licence. Other courses are available such as the Transitional Course for Learner Riders, and the Advanced Skills course for holders of an R(r) or open R licence.

For information regarding the METAL Courses, please contact your local MVR office or visit <http://www.nt.gov.au/transport/mvr/licensing/fag/metal.shtml>

3. Approved Training Providers

Approved training providers are Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) that deliver competency-based driver training programs for licensing purposes throughout the NT.

On completion of a driver training program, the approved training provider will issue a Statement of Attainment which is valid, and may be used for licence application, for up to 12 months from date of issue.

Privacy and your Information

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles is required to collect information for registrations, licences and permits under Section 92 of the *Motor Vehicles Act*. The Registrar adheres to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's Privacy Statement and the *Information Act*. Further information on privacy can be found at www.dpi.nt.gov.au.

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