

Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

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

Effective Date: 01 July 2008

Who requires a Learner Licence?

In the Northern Territory, Learner Licences are only required for class “C” (car) and class “R(r)” (motorcycle rider).

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

- You must provide Evidence of Identity (EOI) and Evidence of Residency (EOR) in the Northern Territory (more information on EOI and EOR appears in this bulletin).
- You must be at least 16 years of age.
- If you are under 17 years of age, you must have Parental/Guardian consent.
- You must have passed an entry-level theory test based on information contained within the Northern Territory Road User Handbook or passed an approved training program (more details – see page 3).
- You must pass an eyesight test.

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

All requirements are the same as for class “C” (car).

You may have to pass an entry level theory test if you do not hold a class “C” licence or class “C” learner licence, and depending on the area of residence, applicants may also have to pass an entry level balance and stability practical test (the Alternate Motorcycle Operator Skills Test – MOST), or pass the METAL Basic course.

Parental/Guardian Consent

Applicants less than 17 years of age must have the written consent of a parent or legal guardian before a Learner Licence may be issued for both class “C” and class “R(r)”. Parental/guardian consent may be provided on [Form L3 - Parental Consent Statutory Declaration](#).

To obtain a Learner Licence - class “C” (car)

Firstly, as the theory test for a Learner Licence is based on the Northern Territory Road User Handbook, you will need to obtain a copy of this booklet to study. The booklet may be purchased from any Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) office or at Police Outstations in remote areas. It is also available free of charge online at www.mvr.nt.gov.au. The booklet also includes the Learner Driver’s Guide. This 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 office, agency, or Police Outstation if you live in a remote area. Make sure that you take along your Evidence of Identity and age together with Evidence of Residency documents.

You will be required to fill in Form [L1 - Application for a Northern Territory Driver/Rider Licence](#). If you are under 17, your parent or guardian will be asked to identify him/herself and fill in [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 on the first attempt, subsequent test attempts can be conducted verbally. Arrangements for this must be made in advance by contacting your local MVR office or Police Outstation.

You can also undertake the theory test with the assistance of an interpreter. This service is provided through the Northern Territory Translating and Interpreting Service. You will be required to make a booking through MVR for your interpreter and pay any fee/s applicable.

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

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 & stability test (the Alternate Motorcycle Operator Skills Test (MOST) must be undertaken if you reside in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek or Alice Springs;

OR

- Undertake a Motorcyclist Education Training And Licensing (METAL) Basic Riding Course, where available. Talk to the staff at your local MVR office 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. A list of Learner Approved Motorcycles can be found in 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 first having a class “R(r)” Learner Licence.

Issue of the Learner Licence

Your Learner Licence will be issued once you have passed the theory test (and practical test required for motorcycles) and paid the prescribed fee. The Learner Licence is valid for twenty four (24) months.

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 Northern Territory Demerit Points Scheme (DPS) you are subject to 5 demerit points or more within 12 months. If you don't reach this trigger you will be subject to 12 points within a 3 year trigger. See [Information Bulletin L28 – NT DPS and How it Affects You](#).

Important Note: You will not be eligible to book, or attempt, a Practical test until you have held your Learner Licence for 6 consecutive months. During this initial 6 month period you are encouraged to get as much supervised driving experience as possible.

Approved Training Courses

Approved Training Courses have been purpose-approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles for the delivery of driver/rider specific training programs.

1. NT Driver Training And Licensing (DTAL)

The DTAL program operates in the Greater Darwin area and Alice Springs, offering heavily subsidised theory and practical defensive driver training for sixteen (16) – nineteen (19) year-olds, predominantly through the secondary school system.

DTAL is administered by the Department of Employment, Education & Training and further detail of the program can be obtained from the DTAL website <http://www.deet.nt.gov.au/training/students/dtal/> or by contacting the NT DTAL Coordinator on 8901 1311.

2. Motorcyclist Education Training And Licensing (METAL)

The METAL program 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 talk to MVR staff.

3. Approved Training Providers (ATPs)

Approved Training Providers are Registered Training Organisations (RTO's) that deliver registered driver training programs for licensing purposes.

Approved Training Provider's deliver competency based driver training programs throughout the NT and a driver licence will be issued for up to 12 months from the date the Statement of Attainment was issued.

Becoming a Motor Vehicle Registry customer

To become a Motor Vehicle Registry customer, you will need to provide Evidence of Identity and Evidence of Residency documents.

Full details on what you need to provide are available from:

[Information Bulletin G08 – Evidence of Identity and Evidence of Residency for Individuals](#)

Privacy and your Information

The information you provide to MVR to obtain a driver licence is collected for the purpose of compliance with and enforcement of the *Northern Territory Motor Vehicles Act*.

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.

Contact Details	
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