

Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

L7 - How to obtain a class “HC” Driver Licence

Effective Date: 13 February 2009

“HC” (Heavy Combination) – Definition for Licensing Purposes

A motor vehicle that is a prime mover to which is attached a single semi trailer that has a GVM greater than 9 tonnes plus any unladen converter dolly;

OR

A rigid motor vehicle to which is attached a trailer that has a GVM greater than 9 tonnes plus any unladen converter trailer.

For practical test purposes, the vehicle which you provide for your test must be either:

- a 3 axled prime mover towing at least a 2 axled semi trailer, or
- at least a three axled rigid vehicle of more than 15 tonnes GVM towing a trailer of more than 9 tonnes GVM.

Points to Note

- Before you can be issued with a class “HC” (heavy combination) licence, you will need to have held a class “C” (car) licence for at least twenty four months and a class “MR” or class “HR” licence for at least twelve months.
- If you have been licensed for twenty-four months and have held a medium rigid or heavy rigid licence for twelve months, you may begin learning to drive a heavy combination vehicle at any time. You must be accompanied by a driver who holds a current class “HC” (or higher) licence.
- On the practical test drive, there is no requirement for you to provide a “licensed driver”, as this role is fulfilled by the testing officer. You need to be aware however, that you are not licensed to drive unaccompanied to, and possibly from the test location (depending on your test outcome).
- Because you are not a first time driver and have previously held “L” plates, you must instead display a “Driver Under Instruction” sign at the rear of the vehicle. The sign must be yellow, and no smaller than 530mm wide and 300mm high with black lettering at least 75mm high.
- The testing process currently in use is designed to assess drivers’ ability to operate the vehicle in an efficient manner with safety and adherence to the law.

Conduct of Practical Test

Tests will include compulsory manoeuvres:

1. Un-coupling and re-coupling the trailer and
2. a reversing exercise.

The remainder of the test will be conducted whilst driving on normal roads and streets.

Practical tests are conducted at select MVR offices (for information regarding Industry accredited Licence Assessment Officers please contact MVR).

Tests must be booked in advance, with the test fee being payable at the time of booking.

Failure to attend for a scheduled test, without reasonable notice, may result in forfeiture of the test fee. Failed tests may be re-booked at any time on payment of a new test fee.

Bookings for practical tests may be made at any MVR Office either in person, or by phone if you have a current credit card.

The vehicle that you supply for the test must be registered, roadworthy and provide a clean seating space for the testing officer.

Trailers/dollies must also be registered and roadworthy, and in the case of trailers registered in other jurisdictions, current certificates of insurance must be available for inspection. The rig must fall within the heavy combination category.

The **minimum** test rig will be a 3 axled prime mover towing a 2 axled semi trailer, OR a 3 axled rigid vehicle of more than 15 tonnes GVM towing a heavy trailer of more than 9 tonnes GVM.

The vehicle must clearly display a "Driver Under Instruction" sign on the rear.

When you attend for the practical test you must bring your current driver licence, and also your test fee receipt. Failure to do so may result in cancellation of the test and forfeiture of the test fee.

Once you pass the practical test, and pay the prescribed fee, you will be issued with a new Heavy Vehicle Driver Licence.

Your new class "HC" licence will be easily identifiable as a Heavy Vehicle Driver Licence by the distinct magenta surround.

You must carry your heavy vehicle driver licence with you at all times whilst driving.

Important Note: Your licence will now display the highest class of vehicle that you are licensed to drive. The holder of a licence of a class "HC" licence may, in addition to driving motor vehicles in that class, drive vehicles in any lower class, i.e. "C", "LR", "MR", and "HR".

Further information may be found in [Information Bulletin L11 – Heavy Vehicle Drivers Information](#).

In the event that your driver 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.

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