

Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

L24 – Your Driving Test – What’s Required?

Effective Date: 01 July 2008

You have your Learner Licence – what’s next?

Learning to drive of course! Before you embark on this huge undertaking, you will need to decide who’s going to teach you, and maybe who’s going to get into the car with you as you practice your skills between structured lessons. Your Mum, Dad, big brother/sister, husband/wife, a friend, or a professional driving instructor? The choice is entirely yours.

Qualified driving instructors are of course the most effective way to become familiar with the “**System of Vehicle Control**”. A qualified driving instructor will be able to teach you the current driving techniques and is experienced and skilled in teaching new drivers – just like you. To keep costs down, it’s a good plan to book driving lessons with an Instructor and practice with a trusted friend or relative between your structured lessons. That way you will only be paying to learn new skills, not for the practice you will need to do between lessons to improve and perfect them.

For some people, learning entirely with relatives and friends may be an alternative to learning with a qualified driving instructor. To this end the Learner Drivers’ Guide in the back of the [NT Road Users’ Handbook](#) sets out all aspects of the “**System of Vehicle Control**”, and will assist your licensed driver to help you to get it right.

Evidence contained within the Road Safety Taskforce Report of 2006 identified that an increase in supervised driving experience significantly reduces the crash risk for novice drivers. For example, 120 hours of supervised driving experience has been found to reduce the crash risk after the Learner phase by 35% compared to only 40 hours of supervised driving experience.

Legislative Requirements

All Learner Licenses issued on or after 01 July 2007 must be held for a continuous period of six (6) months prior to the issue of a Provisional Driver Licence. Therefore the Registrar has determined that you may not make a booking for a practical driving test until this 6 month period is completed.

If the above time frame is met, it’s probably time to make a booking at an MVR office for your driving test. You don’t have to do the driving test at the same office where you sat your theory test, as long as you do it in the community in which you live. You will have to pay the test fee at the time you book, so if you don’t want to go to an MVR office to book, it can be done over the telephone but only if you intend to pay by credit card.

Today's the big day

Ensure that you and your licenced driver arrive for your test at least ten minutes early. This will allow you to meet your Licence Testing Officer (LTO) who will do any necessary paperwork in plenty of time to begin your test without rushing. Your licenced driver may wish to bring along something to occupy themselves while they wait for you to complete your driving test.

Checklist - before you leave home

- You must take your test fee receipt and current Learner Licence with you. If you don't have your Learner Licence, you can't legally drive so the LTO won't be able to test you.
- Don't forget the car. Testing centres **do not** provide test vehicles.
- Is the car registered, in good working condition and clean and tidy inside? Does it have plenty of fuel?
- Is the car roadworthy? The LTO will perform a basic vehicle safety check before your test begins, including the headlights, brake lights, indicators, tyres, windscreen and windscreen wipers.
- Is the speedo working properly? Check it the day before the test. If it doesn't work you won't know how fast you're travelling and the LTO will stop the test, as the car is deemed unroadworthy.
- Are your "L" plates secured on the car without blocking your view through the windows, and visible to the front and rear? (Don't forget to bring "P" plates – you may need them after the test).
- Are there any training aids present? You will need to remove any training aids that have been used to help you learn to drive. You will be expected to show the LTO that you can drive without any help.
- Enough money to pay for your provisional licence on successful completion of your driving test.

Are you taking your mobile phone with you?

It's fine to take your mobile phone; you'll definitely want to let someone know that you've passed the test. Just remember recent amendments to legislation prohibits the use of mobile phones (even hands free) by learner and provisional licence holders while driving so please **turn your mobile phone off before the test begins.**

The serious bit – on the road during the test

The main thing the LTO will be looking for during the test is correct application of the “**System of Vehicle Control**”. All this means is how well you demonstrate a systematic approach to driving safely, legally and efficiently in a variety of road and traffic conditions.

To judge this, the LTO will watch for good observation skills, correct signalling procedure, smooth braking and gear changing, whether you leave sufficient gaps, and so on. Full instructions are included in the *Learner Driver's Guide* in the back of the [NT Road User Handbook](#).

The marking system used to score your driving test ensures that every test is assessed in the same way. To pass the driving test you must score at least 80%, and satisfactorily achieve at least 3 out of 4 compulsory manoeuvres. Your instructor (whether a professional or a relative or friend) will coach you in what's required (don't forget to follow the directions in the *Learner Driver's Guide*). In the meantime, here is a list of the main areas covered by the LTO's performance checks during a typical test.

- Mirrors – correct use before commencing any manoeuvre. The only time this does not apply is when moving off, when the first action should be selecting the correct gear.
- Signalling – in good time, and remembering to cancel indicators when required.
- Approach – speed, braking and use of gears into corners and when approaching other hazards.
- Positioning – in the lane you are travelling in, when approaching turns etc.
- Turning – safely efficiently and legally.
- Observation – of traffic, pedestrians, static obstacles etc.
- Judgement – of safe and unsafe gaps in the traffic.
- Unexpected situations – recognition of unusual situations, and safely manoeuvring through them.
- Car control – competent and efficient operation of the vehicle's major controls.
- Safety margins – between your vehicle and other hazards such as parked vehicles and other fixed objects.
- Progress – you must be able to keep up with the traffic flow – but not exceed the speed limit.

Compulsory Manoeuvres

You will be required to perform four (4) compulsory manoeuvres exactly as instructed in the *Learner Driver's Guide*. **NOTE** “dry steering” (turning the steering wheel whilst the vehicle is stationary) is not acceptable. The compulsory manoeuvres are:

- 90° angle parking – entry and exit.
- Reverse parallel parking – entry and exit.
- U-turn (180° turn).
- Moving off into traffic, usually uphill.

How you will be marked

The LTO will be making about 200 checks of various aspects of your driving performance throughout the test. The test scoring sheet starts with zero points, and each time you do something correctly, points will be awarded. Each of the compulsory manoeuvres gains 5 points if correctly executed and you must correctly execute at least 3 of the 4 to pass the test. As mentioned previously, you need to achieve a total overall score of at least 80% to pass the test, however, at the end of the test the LTO will only disclose whether you have passed or failed the test.

In addition to the point score, there are a number of "Immediate Fail" items that may lead to the test being terminated. In most cases, if the LTO considers it safe, you will be encouraged to complete your drive around the test route so that you have a good idea of what to expect at your next attempt.

The Immediate Fail Items are as follows:

- Failing to obey traffic lights, signs or road markings.
- Failing to give way.
- Driving without due care, attention or consideration for other road users, or in a manner dangerous.
- Exceeding the speed limit.
- Intervention by the LTO or other person in the car to prevent a crash or dangerous situation or if another person in the car provides any assistance to pass the test.
- Failure or refusal to follow reasonable directions from the LTO.

You have passed the test

When you have passed the test, you will be required to pay MVR for your Provisional Licence. If you are under 25 years of age you may only be issued with a Provisional Licence that is valid for 2 years. If you are 25 years of age or older the Provisional Licence will be valid for 1 year. There are some conditions that go with your Provisional Licence designed to help you get more driving experience as safely as possible;

- You must display "P" plates clearly visible from the front and the rear of your vehicle, or rear only for Motorcycles. This identifies you as a novice driver to others so that they can give you appropriate courtesy.
- Your top speed is limited to 100 km/h, but remember you must not exceed any other speed limits posted in any area. Your top speed is limited to give you time to fully understand the dynamics of your car or motorcycle on the road before you begin to travel at higher open-road speeds.
- You must have a zero percent (0.00%) blood alcohol concentration, no matter how old you are. As with the top speed limit, this is done so that you can get experience behind the wheel and to develop better hazard perception skills before you drive with even small amounts of alcohol in your system.
- For class "R"(r) Provisional licence holders you are not permitted to carry pillion passengers.
- As a Provisional licence holder under the Northern Territory Demerit Points Scheme (DPS) your action trigger point is set at 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](#).

What does it mean if you have an 'A' condition on your Licence?

It simply means that your driving test was conducted in a vehicle with an automatic transmission, so for the first twelve months you may only drive a car with an automatic transmission. If you want to drive a manual transmission car in the first twelve months after gaining your Provisional Licence you will need to be re-tested in a car with manual transmission.

What if you don't pass the test this time around?

Your LTO will be happy to explain where you can improve your driving skills. Many candidates find this very useful. You can book another driving test by paying another test fee. The test can be conducted at the same MVR office, or another of your choice provided it is within the community where you live.

Appointment details

1. Appointments may be cancelled or varied by telephone, at least **24 hours** before the test is due to begin. Failure to provide 24 hrs notice will result in the loss of the test fee and you will need to pay again before another booking can be made.
2. As stated earlier, applicants are encouraged to present themselves at least 10 minutes before the test is due to begin. Please do not be late for your test. If you arrive unreasonably late, the test will impinge on the next customer's booking and as a result your test will not be conducted. If this is the case, a new test fee will be required to make a further booking.
3. Telephone **1300 654 628** to cancel or vary a test booking from Casuarina, Palmerston or the Goyder Road (Parap) MVR Office. To cancel or vary a booking from any other MVR Office, please ask the operator to transfer you.

Refund of test fee

Refunds of test fees are in general not supported. However, any request for a refund must be in writing addressed to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and provide evidence in support of any reasons offered.

Contact Details	
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