

Road to Solo Driving



August 2016



GraduatedLicensingSystem
HELPING YOUNG DRIVERS BE SAFER DRIVERS

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Several organisations have contributed to the preparation of this handbook, and their help is gratefully acknowledged.

Road laws and legal requirements

Road laws change from time to time. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the most recent edition of this handbook which you can check by visiting **vicroads.vic.gov.au** If you are in doubt, check with any of the VicRoads Customer Service Centres listed on the inside back cover.

This handbook sets out many of the legal requirements for drivers. It is intended as a guide only. It does not set out in full all of the requirements of the law.

You will need to consult the appropriate Acts and Regulations if you want a complete knowledge of the road law. Remember that ignorance of what the law says on a particular subject is not accepted as an excuse by the courts. Victorian legislation can be found at **legislation.vic.gov.au**

Most things in this handbook apply to drivers. Motorcycle riders should also refer to the **Victorian Rider Handbook** for further information. Bus and heavy vehicle drivers should refer to the **Victorian Bus and Truck Driver Handbook** for further information. Much of the information in the **Road to Solo Driving** also applies to pedal cyclists.

The term driver is generally used to cover different road users and simplify the language. It does not mean that one group is more important than the other.

The **Road to Solo Driving** handbook is designed to help you understand the road rules, know your legal responsibilities and prepare you for the challenges of driving. The learner permit test questions are based on this handbook. You will also need to know the information in the **Road to Solo Driving** to pass your drive test to get your licence.

The **Road to Solo Driving** is the first of a series of handbooks. When you become a learner driver you will be given the **Learner Kit. The Learner Kit** includes:

- the **Guide for Learners** (with the **Learner Log Book**)
- the **Guide for Supervising Drivers.**

The **Guide for Learners** helps you structure your driving practice and keep track of your progress as you work towards your Ps. The **Guide for Learners** includes the **Learner Log Book** that you must use to show you have gained at least 120 hours driving practice to get a licence, if you are under 21 years of age at the time of your licence test. The **Guide for Learners** and the **Learner Log Book** will help you make the most of your minimum 120 hours of driving experience and help you to become a safer driver.

The **Guide for Supervising Drivers** booklet explains how your supervising driver can help you right through your learner period.

The Victorian Government is committed to improving road safety. The **Road to Solo Driving** is one of the important initiatives that help to do this.

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Welcome

Welcome to the Road to Solo Driving

This handbook will help you if you are going for a learner permit, a probationary licence, or converting an interstate or overseas licence to a Victorian licence.

The aim of this handbook is to help you:

- prepare for the challenges of driving
- find out how you will learn to drive
- manage and reduce your risks as a new driver
- understand the rules and responsibilities of driving.

There is a lot to know before you get your learner permit, such as:

- the age requirements
- the Graduated Licensing System
- the **Learner Log Book**
- learner permits
- P licences (P1, P2)
- demerit points
- road rules
- licence tests

- hazards and risks
- problems caused by alcohol and drugs, and so on.

The **Road to Solo Driving** will help make all this information a bit clearer. Your learner permit test will be based on the information in this book. You will also need this information to pass your drive test and get your probationary licence.

New drivers are three times more likely to be involved in casualty crashes than more experienced drivers. Learning the information in the **Road to Solo Driving** is the first step to becoming a safer driver. Reading this handbook alone won't make you a safer driver. What matters is how you use the information.

How to use this handbook

This handbook is divided into five sections. Each is colour coded with a vertical band on the outside edge of each page.

The next section explains the steps to getting your licence and becoming a driver.

Chapter 1 explains the challenges facing new drivers.

Chapter 2 covers the process of learning to drive and the importance of supervised driving practice.

Chapter 3 describes the risks of driving and strategies to manage these risks.

Chapter 4 describes some of the most important road rules and responsibilities.

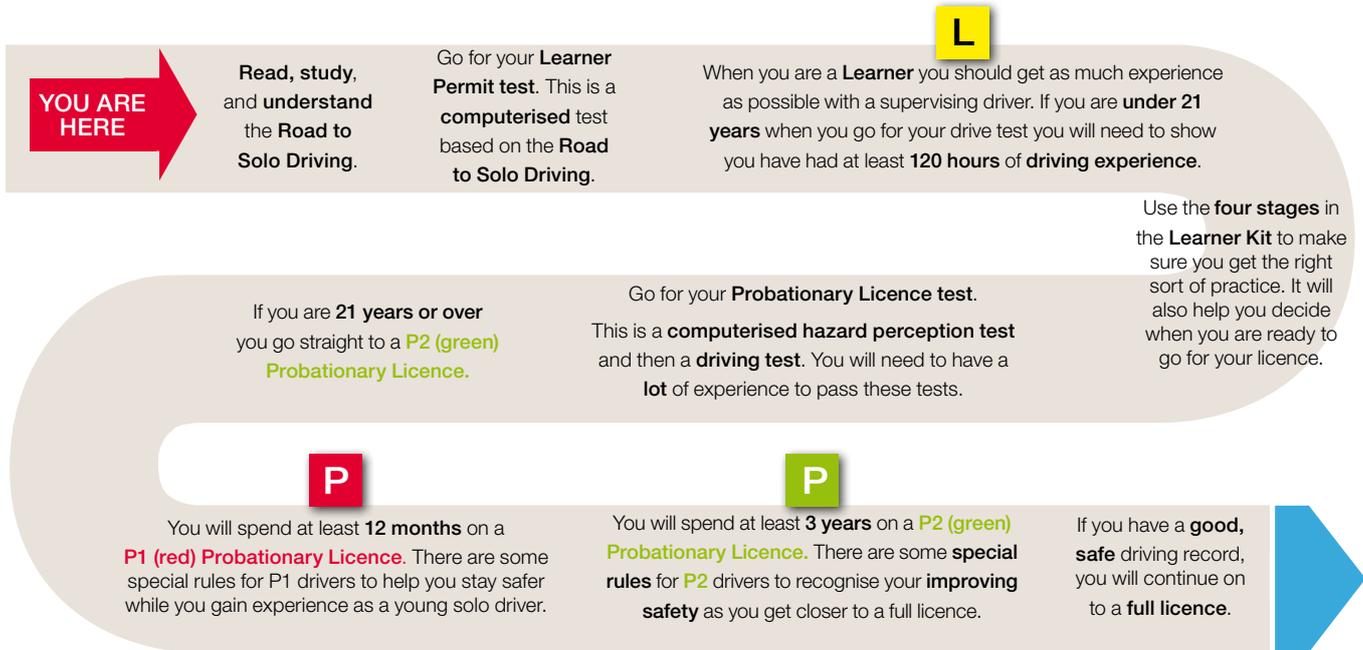
Important information

It is important to know that when there is a statement of road law, the word 'must' is used.



The licensing journey

You are starting on your licensing journey. Here is a quick overview of the path ahead.



The 10 steps to getting your licence

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Step 1 - Read and understand Road to Solo Driving

Make sure you have the latest edition of this handbook and read it thoroughly. You can check whether you have the latest version of this handbook by visiting vicroads.vic.gov.au which will tell you when the latest edition was printed.

Learning the information in this handbook and knowing the road rules are the first step to being ready to take the learner permit test.

Language options

When you sit for your learner permit test or your probationary licence test, you can choose to do the learner permit test and the Hazard Perception Test on the computer in any of the 20 languages available (for a full list, visit vicroads.vic.gov.au).



The 10 steps to getting your licence

Step 2 - Book your learner permit test

You must be at least 16 years old before you can sit the test.

You can book your learner permit test:

- online at **vicroads.vic.gov.au** (using a valid Mastercard or Visa*)
- by phone (using a valid Mastercard or Visa*)
Call: 13 11 71
International calls: + 61 3 9854 7764 (licensing)
TTY: 13 36 77
Speak and Listen: 1300 555 727
- in person (go to any VicRoads Customer Service Centre, for locations visit **vicroads.vic.gov.au** or call 13 11 71).

*Please note: a card payment fee will apply when using Mastercard or Visa. For further information visit **vicroads.vic.gov.au**.

You will be asked:

- your full name
- date of birth
- address
- phone number
- when and where you would like to be tested.

Booking and test fees apply and must be paid at the time of booking.

You will be given an appointment number that you should write down. You will need to bring this number with you for your test.

Note: If you cannot keep your appointment, you need to give VicRoads 24 hours notice to cancel your test. Otherwise fees will not be refunded unless you produce a medical certificate or other supporting evidence. If you transfer your appointment, regardless of when you contact VicRoads, an additional appointment fee will apply.

Step 3 - Pass your learner permit test

You need to bring:

- your appointment number
- evidence of identity and age, as set out on page 12
- payment for your 10 year learner permit.

If you have poor vision you must bring an eyesight certificate from an optometrist or ophthalmologist (eye doctor). If you have a disability or illness that may affect your driving, you will need to bring a medical report from your doctor stating that you are medically fit to drive. If you are unsure or would like advice, contact VicRoads for further information.

Once you have a learner permit, you must tell VicRoads if you develop any medical condition that may affect your driving.

The learner permit test includes:

- reading an eyesight chart to test your vision
- a computerised, multiple-choice test based on this handbook to test your knowledge of road law and road safety.

The best way to prepare for the test is:

- read and study this handbook until you understand it all
- when you understand the handbook, use the practice test on the VicRoads website at **vicroads.vic.gov.au** to help revise.

The practice test items on the website are good, but they don't test all the information you will need to know to pass the learner test and the probationary licence test later on. That information is in this handbook.

The 10 steps to getting your licence

Evidence of identity

Before you sit for your learner permit or your probationary licence you **must** prove who you are and that you live in Victoria by bringing certain documents to a VicRoads Customer Service Centre.

All evidence of identity documents must be **originals** and you must also ensure that all names on each of the documents match and are in the same/correct order. Photocopies, certified or otherwise, are **not** acceptable.

You need to bring:

- **one category A evidence document**
For example a passport (current or expired by up to two years) or Australian birth certificate (birth extracts and commemorative certificates are not acceptable).
- **one category B evidence document**
For example a phone, gas or electricity bill (no more than one year old); or a current Medicare card, entitlement card issued by the Commonwealth, student identity card, credit or account card issued by a bank, building society or credit union.

- **evidence of Victorian residence**
If not shown on the category A or B evidence documents or if you have changed address. If documents cannot be provided, you can ask a referee (who has known you at least 12 months and holds a current Victorian licence) to complete the 'Victorian residence declaration' on your *Licence or learner permit application* form.
- **evidence of change of name or differing names**
If there is a difference in names between the category A and B evidence documents or if you have changed your name, one document that shows your correct name, for example a marriage or Change of Name certificate.

For more information and a complete list of evidence of identity documents visit **vicroads.vic.gov.au**

Step 4 - Pay for and be granted your learner permit

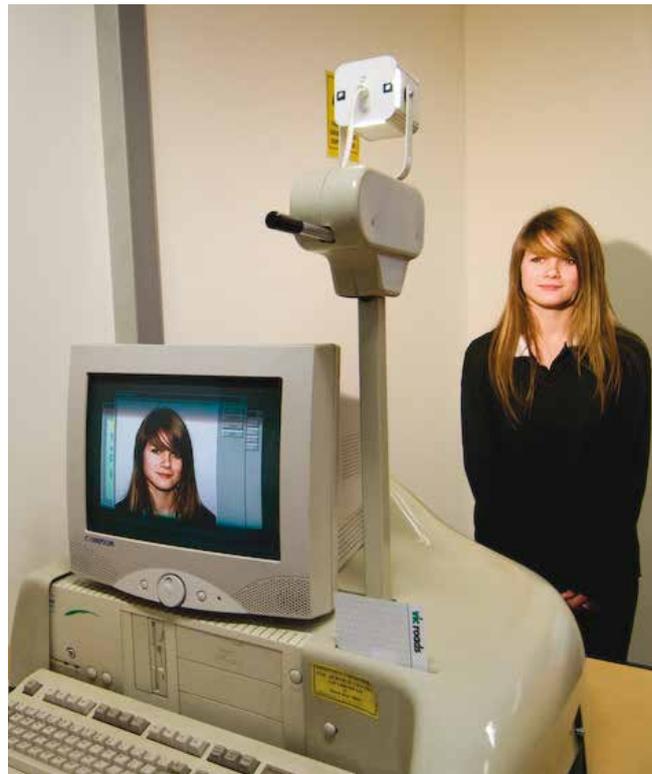
After you pass the test you will:

- pay for your learner permit, which is valid for ten years
- have your photo taken for your learner permit
- be given a paper learner permit receipt
- receive a **Learner Kit** containing the **Guide for Learners** with the **Learner Log Book** and the **Guide for Supervising Drivers**.

The **Learner Kit** will help you get through your learner period and pass the probationary licence test. If you are not given a **Learner Kit**, you should ask for one.

You will be able to practice driving on the paper learner receipt until you receive your learner permit card.

Your learner permit card will be sent to you through the mail in about a week. Make sure VicRoads has your correct current address.



The 10 steps to getting your licence

Step 5 - Get as much driving experience as possible

The best way to prepare for the Drive Test at the end of the learner period is to get as much supervised experience as possible in many different driving situations. This is true for all learner drivers – it is much harder to pass the test if you only have a small amount of experience.

If you are less than 21 years old when you go for your licence test you must:

- complete a minimum of 120 hours supervised driving experience including 10 hours of driving at night.
- take your completed **Learner Log Book** with you when you go for your probationary licence test. This will be checked before you take the drive test to make sure everything has been completed correctly.

If you are 21 years or over you are encouraged to use the **Learner Kit**, but you do not need to present the **Learner Log Book** when you go for your probationary licence test.

This handbook and the **Learner Kit** are essential in getting your 120 hours of driving experience.

- The **Road to Solo Driving** has important information about road rules that all drivers need to know. You are expected to know and comply with the road rules when you attempt the probationary licence test.
- The **Guide for Learners** gives you a four stage plan for your 120 hours.
- The **Guide for Supervising Drivers** explains the four stage plan to your supervisor so they know how to help.
- The **Learner Log Book** is your record of your progress – and is essential proof that you have achieved your 120 hours.

Do not practise without a learner permit.

Remember, you can't get behind the wheel unless you have a learner permit.

Without a learner permit you can't practise on public roads and in car parks. Doing so can result in you being charged with unlicensed driving.

Driving safely requires a number of skills. Getting your learner permit helps you understand the road rules, know your legal responsibilities and prepare for the challenges of driving.

Learner permit restrictions

All car learner permit holders must:

- carry their learner permit card or receipt at all times while driving
- display L plates on the front and rear of the vehicle, visible from a distance of 20 metres
- be accompanied by an experienced driver holding a full (not probationary) driver licence at all times while driving
- must have a zero **Blood Alcohol Concentration** (BAC) at all times while driving (see pages 71-74 for more information)
- not use a mobile phone, including hands-free or hand-held, or messaging of any kind
- not tow a trailer or vehicle
- only drive a car (not a bus or truck).

Definition

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is a measure of the amount of alcohol you have in your blood.



The 10 steps to getting your licence

Step 6 - Book your probationary licence test

To get your probationary licence, you must:

- be at least 18 years
- have held a learner permit for a **continuous period** of at least:
 - 12 months in the period immediately before applying for a driver licence if you are under 21 years
 - 6 months in the period immediately before applying for a driver licence if you are over 21 years but under 25 years
 - 3 months in the period immediately before applying for a driver licence if you are 25 years or over.

These periods may be reduced if you are the holder of a motorcycle licence or permit and have held this for 12 or more months.

- not be disqualified from driving in Victoria, in Australia or overseas
- pass a computerised Hazard Perception Test and then pass the driving test (see Drive Test on pages 19-20).

Definition

Continuous period means that the permit must not have been broken by a suspension, cancellation or a break in continuity such as allowing the permit to expire before regaining a new permit.

- If you are under 21 years when you apply for a probationary licence, you must produce evidence of having completed 120 hours of supervised driving (including at least 10 hours at night) by presenting the **Learner Log Book**:
 - All necessary details must be completed and each entry signed.
 - The Declaration of Completion must be signed by both the applicant and a supervising driver. The List of Supervising Drivers must be completed and signed by all supervising drivers.
 - You should carefully read the instructions on the front of the **Learner Log Book** to understand how to fill in the log book correctly.

Fact

An incomplete or incorrect **Learner Log Book** will not be accepted. You will not be able to take your driving test, all your fees will be forfeited, and you cannot take your test for six weeks.

There are serious consequences if entries in the **Learner Log Book** are found to be incomplete or incorrect. You will lose your booking and test fees, and be prevented from taking the probationary licence test for at least six weeks. You may also be liable to penalties under the Road Safety Act 1986.

You can book your test:

- online by visiting **vicroads.vic.gov.au** (using a valid Mastercard or Visa*)
- by phone (using a valid Mastercard or Visa*). See page 10 for contact numbers
- in person (go to any VicRoads Customer Service Centre, for locations visit **vicroads.vic.gov.au** or call 13 11 71).

*Please note: a card payment fee will apply when using Mastercard or Visa.

For further information visit **vicroads.vic.gov.au**.



Note: If you cannot keep an appointment you will need to give VicRoads 24 hours notice to cancel your test, otherwise fees will not be refunded unless you produce a medical certificate or other supporting evidence. If you transfer your appointment, regardless of when you contact VicRoads, an additional appointment fee will apply.

The 10 steps to getting your licence

Step 7 - Pass your probationary licence test

You can be tested at any of the VicRoads Customer Service Centres listed on the inside back cover of this handbook.

Your driving supervisor or instructor has to provide a registered, roadworthy car with a speed display on the dashboard that the testing officer is able to easily see, have seatbelts for all occupants and that is fitted with L plates for the drive test. The car needs to also have a centrally mounted handbrake accessible to the VicRoads testing officer if you will be sitting the driving test without a driving instructor.

You need to bring your:

- appointment number
- current learner permit
- completed **Learner Log Book** which includes the completed Declaration of Completion and List of Supervising Drivers (if you are under 21 years, when you apply for a probationary licence)
- payment for your probationary licence.

If you cannot prove that you have completed 120 hours of driving practice, including 10 hours at night, you will not be permitted to sit the test. Your appointment and test fees will be forfeited and you will also have to wait at least six weeks before you can take the driving test.

If you have a medical condition that may affect your driving and you have not previously told VicRoads, you must provide a medical certificate which states your fitness to drive. Once you hold a probationary licence, you must tell VicRoads if you develop any medical condition that might affect your driving.

The test includes:

- reading an eyesight chart to test your vision
- a computerised Hazard Perception Test to see how safely you respond to traffic situations
- a driving test to assess your driving skills (see Drive Test, pages 19-20).

The Hazard Perception Test

The Hazard Perception Test is designed to see how safely you respond to traffic situations.

- For each item in the Hazard Perception Test, you will watch a video of a traffic situation where you are asked when it is safe to do something like slow down or make a turn.
- You have to respond safely to each traffic situation.
- For some items, you click the mouse button when it is safe to perform the driving task.
- For other items, there is no time when it is safe to perform the driving task and you should not click the mouse button.

You can take this test when you are 17 years and 11 months. You have to pass the Hazard Perception Test before you can sit the Drive Test. The Hazard Perception Test will indicate how well you are able to observe the whole road environment and anticipate **potential hazards** (see Practice is the best way on pages 41-42).

Facing the real challenges of driving 00

Definition

A **potential hazard** can be anything in the road environment that could present a danger or a risk while driving.

Drive Test

The on-road driving test is designed to identify drivers with the safe driving skills that develop with driving experience.

You are more likely to pass the drive test if you:

- have had more than 120 hours of driving experience
- have had driving experience in a broad range of different driving conditions – such as at night, in wet weather, and on roads with different speed zones.

However 120 hours experience does not guarantee that you will pass. You need to also demonstrate safe and legal driving during the test (so you should brush up on your road rules or read this handbook again before you attempt the drive test).

The 10 steps to getting your licence

You will drive for about 30 minutes during the test and the test route will include a range of driving conditions and tasks.

You will have to show that you can:

- control the vehicle correctly
- obey the road rules
- cooperate with other road users
- demonstrate safe driving skills.

Your ability to drive safely in less demanding situations will be assessed first. This is to make sure that you have basic car control and traffic skills. If you pass this part of the test, you will then be assessed in a broad range of traffic situations.

If you do something that is unsafe in the test, the test will be stopped and you will fail.

Further information about the Drive Test is available at vicroads.vic.gov.au

If you are tested in a car that has **dual controls** and your instructor holds a current Driving Instructor Authority Number, you can have your driving instructor with you. Otherwise, only the VicRoads testing officer will be with you. Other passengers are not usually permitted.

Definition

If a car has **dual controls**, it has additional pedal(s) on the passenger side for use by the accompanying driver.

If you are tested in a vehicle that is fitted with an automatic transmission you will be restricted to driving only vehicles that are fitted with an automatic transmission during your probationary period. The only way this restriction can be removed earlier is by passing another drive test in a manual car.

If you hold a probationary licence and you are undergoing instruction or testing in a manual vehicle, you must display a yellow plate measuring approximately 150 mm by 150 mm inscribed in black letters with the words 'Driver under instruction'. Your P plates must also be displayed.

Step 8 - Pay for and be granted your probationary licence

Once you have passed the test, you will:

- pay for your probationary licence
- have your photo taken for your probationary licence
- be given a paper probationary licence receipt.

You will be able to drive on the paper probationary licence receipt until you receive your probationary licence card.

Your probationary licence card will be sent to you through the mail in about a week. Make sure VicRoads has your current and valid address.

Step 9 - Follow the P plate rules, stay safe and keep your licence

Having your probationary licence will mean you have demonstrated the minimum skills required to drive solo. New probationary drivers have three times the risk of crashing compared to experienced drivers. There are some rules for probationary drivers to help them stay as safe as possible.

Severe penalties may be applied for breaching any of the rules, including licence suspension, extension of your probationary period, or licence cancellation. Additional penalties for drink driving offences also include fitting of alcohol ignition interlocks and other heavy penalties.

You will need a good driving record to progress through the licence system. A good driving record means your licence has not been cancelled or suspended and you have not had any drink and/or drug driving offences. Your licence may also be suspended if you get too many demerit points – probationary drivers have a stricter limit than other drivers.

The 10 steps to getting your licence

If you are less than 21 years old when applying for a probationary licence:

- you will start on a P1 probationary licence (the P1 licence period lasts for a minimum of one year)
- if you have a good driving record you then progress to the P2 licence period that lasts for a minimum of three years
- after holding your probationary licence for a minimum of four years with a good driving record, you can then be issued with a full driver licence.

If you are 21 years or over when applying for a probationary licence:

- you will start on a P2 probationary licence (the P2 probationary licence period lasts for a minimum of three years)
- after holding your probationary licence for a minimum of three years with a good driving record, you can then be issued with a full driver licence.

P1 probationary licence

In addition to obeying the rules that apply to all drivers, when you are driving on a P1 probationary licence, you must:

- display red P plates on the front and rear of your vehicle (plates measuring approximately 150 mm square bearing a white letter P on a red background) and must be clearly visible from a distance of 20 metres
- carry your probationary licence (or valid paper receipt) with you at all times
- have a zero blood alcohol concentration (BAC) (see Alcohol on pages 71-75)
- not drive a **probationary prohibited vehicle** (unless you are driving the vehicle during working hours at the request of your employer or have been granted a written exemption by VicRoads)
- not use a mobile phone, including hands-free or hand-held, or messaging of any kind
- not tow a caravan or a trailer (unless for work and at the request of your employer, or for driving solely in connection with agriculture, horticulture, dairying, pastoral or commercial fishing or under instruction with an experienced driver present in the vehicle).

- not carry more than one passenger aged between 16 and less than 22 years (unless exempt). Automatic exemptions exist for carrying immediate family members, when you're with a fully licensed supervising driver (as is the case for learner drivers) or for driving an emergency vehicle
- drive only a vehicle fitted with an automatic transmission if you passed the drive test in a vehicle fitted with an automatic transmission
- have less than five demerit points in twelve months
- have a good driving record to progress to a P2 licence – if you don't, your P1 licence will be extended and you will have a stricter passenger limit.

Tip

For more information about Probationary prohibited vehicles (PPV) or the passenger restriction, visit the VicRoads website vicroads.vic.gov.au.

P2 probationary licence

In addition to obeying the rules that apply to all drivers, when you are driving on a P2 probationary licence, you must:

- display green P plates on the front and rear of your vehicle (plates measuring approximately 150 mm square bearing a white letter P on a green background) and must be clearly visible from a distance of 20 metres
- carry your probationary licence (or valid paper receipt) with you at all times
- have less than five demerit points in twelve months
- have a good driving record to progress to a full driver licence – if you don't, your P2 licence will be extended
- not use a hands-free or hand-held mobile phone, or send or read text messages
- have a zero blood alcohol concentration (BAC) (see Alcohol on pages 71-75)
- not drive a **probationary prohibited vehicle** (unless you are driving the vehicle during working hours at the request of your employer or have been granted a written exemption by VicRoads)
- drive only a vehicle fitted with an automatic transmission if you passed a drive test in a vehicle fitted with an automatic transmission.

The 10 steps to getting your licence

Probationary prohibited vehicles (PPV)

A probationary licence holder cannot drive a probationary prohibited vehicle.

Vehicles manufactured on or after 1 January 2010

A vehicle manufactured on or after 1 January 2010 will be defined as a probationary prohibited vehicle if it has:

- a power to mass ratio of greater than 130 kilowatts per tonne, or
- an engine that has been modified to increase performance (other than a modification made by the manufacturer in the course of the manufacture of the vehicle).

Vehicles manufactured before 1 January 2010

A vehicle manufactured before 1 January 2010 will be defined as a probationary prohibited vehicle if it:

- has an engine with eight or more cylinders
- has a turbocharged or supercharged engine (except diesel powered vehicles or some lower powered turbocharged or supercharged vehicles which have been exempted and can be operated by a probationary driver who has been granted a written exemption by VicRoads)

- has an engine that has been modified to increase the vehicle's performance (other than a modification made by the manufacturer in the course of the manufacture of the vehicle) or
- has a VicRoads nominated high performance six cylinder engine.

You may drive a PPV if you are exempted to do so by VicRoads. Application forms can be obtained from **vicroads.vic.gov.au**. If granted an exemption to drive a PPV you should carry the letter given to you by VicRoads during your probationary period.

For further information on probationary prohibited vehicles and restrictions, please visit **vicroads.vic.gov.au**.

Step 10 - Receive your full driver licence

Before your P2 probationary licence expires, you will be sent a notice to renew it. You will need to take the renewal notice to any photo point listed at vicroads.vic.gov.au, pay the renewal fee and be photographed. You will then be issued with a full driver licence paper receipt and your licence card will be sent to you in the mail.

You must have a good driving record to graduate from a P2 licence to a full driver licence. If you do not have a good record, you might have to remain on your P2 licence for longer than three years.

If you do not receive a renewal notice, it is still your responsibility to renew your licence by the expiry date.

Free Licence Scheme

The Free Licence Scheme rewards Victoria's most responsible young drivers. If you are under 25 and have completed your entire P1 and P2 probationary periods and have a good driving record, you may be eligible for a free three year driver licence.

To check the rules for eligibility, go to vicroads.vic.gov.au.

Language options

When you sit for your learner permit test or your probationary licence test, the road law questions and the Hazard Perception Test are available in some languages, please check vicroads.vic.gov.au for the current list.

If you speak a language or dialect that is not on this list, you can have an interpreter present during the test. If you are hearing impaired, you can ask to have an Auslan or sign language interpreter present. Interpreters are provided free of charge. When you book your test, let the VicRoads officer know you need an interpreter.

Key points

The **Graduated Licensing System** for people who are **under 21 years** when they apply for a probationary licence.

DRIVER'S MINIMUM AGE	LEARNER PERMIT	P1 PROBATIONARY LICENCE	P2 PROBATIONARY LICENCE	FULL DRIVER LICENCE
	16 years	18 years	19 years	22 years
DRIVER'S ELIGIBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> medically fit evidence of identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> medically fit evidence of identity learner permit held continuously for a minimum of one year Learner Log Book kept with a minimum of 120 hours supervised driving practice including 10 hours at night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P1 probationary licence held for a minimum of one year (with no licence suspension) medically fit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P2 probationary licence held for a minimum of 3 years (with no licence suspensions)
ASSESSMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> eyesight test knowledge test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> eyesight test hazard perception test <i>(This test must be passed before the practical driving test can be conducted. This test can be undertaken at the age of 17 years and 11 months)</i> practical driving test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> good driving record 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> good driving record
CONDITIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> L plates displayed at front & rear of vehicle when driving must carry learner permit when driving accompanied by a driver who has a full car licence (non probationary) zero BAC no mobile phone use, hands-free or hand-held, or messaging of any kind no towing a caravan or trailer drives a car only (not a bus, truck or motorcycle) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RED P plates displayed at front & rear of vehicle when driving must carry licence when driving zero BAC no mobile phone use, hands-free or hand-held, or messaging of any kind probationary prohibited vehicle restriction no towing a caravan or trailer (unless for work or if under instruction) not carry more than one passenger aged between 16 and under 22 years of age if tested in an automatic vehicle, only drives a vehicle with automatic transmission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GREEN P plates displayed at front & rear of vehicle when driving must carry licence when driving zero BAC no mobile phone use, hands-free or hand-held, or messaging of any kind probationary prohibited vehicle restriction if tested in an automatic vehicle, only drives a vehicle with automatic transmission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> under .05 BAC must carry licence when driving if under 26 years of age must not use a hand-held mobile phone while driving
DURATION	L 10 years	P 1 year (P1)	P 3 years (P2)	3 years or 10 years

The **Graduated Licensing System** for people who are **21 years and older** when they apply for a probationary licence.

	LEARNER PERMIT	P2 PROBATIONARY LICENCE	FULL DRIVER LICENCE
DRIVER'S MINIMUM AGE	16 years	21 years	24 years
DRIVER'S ELIGIBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> medically fit evidence of identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> medically fit evidence of identity learner permit held continuously for a minimum of 6 months if 21 to 24 years, or 3 months if 25 years or over 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> probationary licence held for a minimum of 3 years (with no licence suspensions)
ASSESSMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> eyesight test knowledge test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> eyesight test hazard perception test <i>(this test must be passed before the practical driving test can be conducted)</i> practical driving test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> good driving record
CONDITIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> L plates displayed at front & rear of vehicle when driving must carry learner permit when driving accompanied by a driver who has a full car licence (non probationary) zero BAC no mobile phone use, hands-free or hand-held, or messaging of any kind no towing a caravan or trailer drives a car only (not a bus, truck or motorcycle) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GREEN P plates displayed at front & rear of vehicle when driving must carry licence when driving zero BAC probationary prohibited vehicle restriction if tested in an automatic vehicle, only drives a vehicle with automatic transmission no mobile phone use, hands-free or hand-held, or messaging of any kind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> under .05 BAC must carry licence when driving if under 26 years of age not use a hand-held mobile phone while driving
DURATION	L 10 years	P 3 years (P2)	3 years or 10 years

Key points

The risk of being killed or injured in a crash is much higher during the first few months and years of driving than it is later on.

Victoria's Graduated Licensing System (GLS) aims to reduce this risk. New drivers are introduced to driving progressively. This ensures they can move through the learner permit and the P1 and P2 probationary licence stages to earn their full driver licence without being exposed to challenging driving situations before they are ready.

The conditions of the GLS for those aged under 21 years when they apply for a probationary licence are on page 26. The conditions for those aged 21 years or over when they apply for a probationary licence are on page 27.

Fact

The rules for drivers vary from state to state. You should contact the Interstate Transport Authority to check if additional rules apply.

