

# THE NEW VICTORIAN GRADUATED LICENSING SYSTEM

## Fact sheet

### WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Victoria is making changes to the driver licensing system to help improve the safety of young drivers. The changes will ensure that the road safety gains of recent years continue. There will also be some new support programs for young drivers and their parents to promote safer driving.

### WHY MAKE THESE CHANGES?

There have been significant reductions in the road toll but young drivers continue to have more casualty crashes than any other group of drivers on the road.

The facts are simple:

- Each year 120 people are killed and 2,300 are seriously injured in crashes involving 18 - 25 year old drivers. This is one-third of the road toll.
- Probationary drivers are involved in casualty crashes at triple the rate of more experienced drivers.
- More young people die from road crashes than any other causes.

Young driver crashes are caused by many factors, such as inexperience, drink driving, driving in high risk situations, such as late at night or with multiple passengers, unsafe behaviours, such as speeding and risk taking and distractions from things like mobile phones.

Experience overseas shows that it is possible to have a significant effect on the safety of young drivers by improving the licensing system. The Victorian Government is making some significant changes to licensing for new drivers, and is introducing a broad range of support measures to help improve the safety of young drivers.

These changes are expected to reduce the number of people killed or injured in crashes by up to 800 per year.

### HOW WILL THE NEW SYSTEM WORK?

New learner requirements and a one year P1 and three year P2 licence will be introduced.

People under the age of 21 years, applying for a probationary licence:

- Must hold a learner permit for a minimum of 12 months
- Must obtain a minimum of 120 hours on-road supervised learner driving experience;
- Must go on to a minimum one year P1 licence, followed by a minimum three year P2 licence.

People aged 21 to under 25 years will be required to hold their learner permit for a minimum of six months and then go directly on to a minimum three year P2 licence.


People aged 25 years and over will be required to hold their learner permit for a minimum of three months and then go directly on to a minimum three year P2 licence.

Other new measures include:


- An improved driving test for all probationary licence applicants
- A ban on all mobile phone use for learner and P1 drivers
- A requirement for a good driving record to progress to the next stage of licence
- Alcohol interlocks for first time drink driving offenders on Ps or aged under 26 years
- A revised high powered vehicle restriction for P1 and P2 drivers
- Support programs for new drivers, supervising drivers, and driving instructors.

# FOR PEOPLE UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE WHEN APPLYING FOR A PROBATIONARY LICENCE


**ENTRY: Minimum age of 16 years & pass a computerised knowledge test**

 <p><b>Learner Drivers</b> <b>One year minimum</b></p> <p>Encourage and support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>supervised experience</li> <li>a gradual introduction to the complex world of driving.</li> </ul>	<p><b>New Learner Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A minimum of 120 hours of supervised driving experience (including 10 hours at night) with an official practice diary and declaration to be signed by the learner and supervising driver.</li> <li>A requirement to carry the learner permit when driving.</li> <li>No mobile phone use, hands free or hands held, or any messaging of any kind.</li> <li>Existing L provisions will apply: Zero BAC; accompanied by a fully licensed driver with BAC &lt;0.05; display L Plates; no towing; and five or more demerit points in any 12 month period may result in licence suspension.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Learner Support Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new 120 hour L Kit and Practice Diary.</li> <li>Expansion of the 'Keys Please' parent-learner program.</li> <li>Expansion of the L-Site interactive web site.</li> <li>Improved driving instruction.</li> <li>A trial community-based, volunteer mentor program to provide learner drivers who do not have easy access to a car or a supervising driver with the opportunity to get experience.</li> </ul>

**GRADUATION: Minimum age of 18 years & pass an improved on-road driving test and the Hazard Perception Test**

 <p><b>P1 Probationary Drivers</b> <b>One year minimum</b></p> <p>Safer transition to solo driving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>less driving in high risk situations encourage safe driving</li> </ul>	<p><b>New P1 Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No mobile phone use, hands free or hands held, or any messaging of any kind.</li> <li>No towing (unless for work or if under instruction).</li> <li>Restrictions on driving high powered vehicles such as eight cylinder cars, cars with turbocharged or supercharged engines, and nominated high performance six-cylinder cars. Offences will attract a fine and three demerit points.</li> <li>Drink-driving offenders will have to fit an alcohol ignition interlock for a minimum of six months when re-licensed.</li> <li>Any licence suspension, drink-driving offence with a BAC up to 0.05, or drug driving offence, will result in an extension of the P1 period for six months, plus the period of suspension. A passenger limit will apply for the balance of the P1 period.</li> <li>Existing P provisions will apply: Zero BAC; display P Plates; compulsory carriage of P licence; if tested in an automatic vehicle, can only drive a vehicle with automatic transmission; and five or more demerit points in any 12 month period may result in licence suspension.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>P1 Support Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new P1 Solo Driving Guide.</li> <li>A promotional campaign to encourage P1 drivers to minimise their risk by driving less at night and not carrying multiple passengers.</li> </ul>

**GRADUATION: A good driving record**


 <p><b>P2 Probationary Drivers</b> <b>Three year minimum</b></p> <p>Consolidate safe driving skills and encourage safe driving</p>	<p><b>New P2 Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restrictions on driving high powered vehicles such as eight cylinder cars, cars with turbocharged or supercharged engines, and nominated high performance six-cylinder cars. Offences will attract a fine and three demerit points.</li> <li>Drink-driving offenders will have to fit an alcohol ignition interlock for a minimum of six months when re-licensed.</li> <li>Any licence suspension, drink-driving offence with a BAC up to 0.05, or drug driving offence, will result in an extension of the P2 period for six months, plus the period of suspension.</li> <li>Existing P provisions will apply: Zero BAC; display P Plates; compulsory carriage of P licence; if tested in an automatic vehicle, can only drive a vehicle with automatic transmission; and five or more demerit points in any 12 month period may result in licence suspension.</li> </ul>
--	---

**GRADUATION: A good driving record**

<p><b>Full Licence Driver</b></p>	<p><b>New Full Licence Requirements if under 26 years of age</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drink-driving offenders will have to fit an alcohol ignition interlock for a minimum of six months when re-licensed.</li> <li>Licence loss mandatory at (or above) a BAC of 0.05.</li> </ul>
-----------------------------------	--


# FOR PEOPLE AGED 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER WHEN APPLYING FOR A PROBATIONARY LICENCE

**ENTRY:** Minimum age of 16 years & pass a computerised knowledge test

 <p><b>Learner Drivers</b></p> <p><b>21 to less than 25 years:</b> <b>Six month minimum</b></p> <p><b>25 years or over:</b> <b>Three month minimum</b></p> <p>Encourage and support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supervised experience</li> <li>• a gradual introduction to the complex world of driving.</li> </ul>	<p><b>New Learner Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A requirement to carry the learner permit when driving.</li> <li>• No mobile phone use, hands free or hands held, or any messaging of any kind.</li> <li>• Existing L provisions will apply: Zero BAC; accompanied by a fully licensed driver with BAC &lt;0.05; display L Plates; no towing; and five or more demerit points in any 12 month period may result in licence suspension.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Learner Support Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new 120 hour L Kit and Practice Diary.</li> <li>• Expansion of the 'Keys Please' parent-learner program.</li> <li>• Expansion of the L-Site interactive web site.</li> <li>• Improved driving instruction.</li> <li>• A trial community-based, volunteer mentor program to provide learner drivers who do not have easy access to a car or a supervising driver with the opportunity to get experience.</li> </ul>

**GRADUATION:** Minimum age of 21 years & pass an improved on-road driving test and the Hazard Perception Test

The P1 Probationary Licence period is not required for new drivers aged 21 years or over at the time of obtaining their first licence

 <p><b>P2 Probationary Drivers</b></p> <p><b>Three year minimum</b></p> <p>Consolidate safe driving skills and encourage safe driving</p>	<p><b>New P2 Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrictions on driving high powered vehicles such as eight cylinder cars, cars with turbocharged or supercharged engines, and nominated high performance six-cylinder cars. Offences will attract a fine and three demerit points.</li> <li>• Drink-driving offenders will have to fit an alcohol ignition interlock for a minimum of six months when re-licensed.</li> <li>• Any licence suspension, drink-driving offence with a BAC up to 0.05, or drug driving offence, will result in an extension of the P2 period for six months, plus the period of suspension.</li> <li>• Existing P provisions will apply: Zero BAC; display P Plates; compulsory carriage of P licence; if tested in an automatic vehicle, can only drive a vehicle with automatic transmission; and five or more demerit points in any 12 month period may result in licence suspension.</li> </ul>
---	---

**GRADUATION:** A good driving record

<p><b>Full Licence Driver</b></p>	<p><b>New Full Licence Requirements if under 26 years of age</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink-driving offenders will have to fit an alcohol ignition interlock for a minimum of six months when re-licensed.</li> <li>• Licence loss mandatory at (or above) a BAC of 0.05.</li> </ul>
-----------------------------------	--

---

## MOVING TO THE NEXT LICENCE STAGE

---

### **From the Learner Permit to P1 or P2**

Learners will have to take a new on-road driving test and the hazard perception test to get a Probationary licence.

The new on-road test will be designed to differentiate better between learners who have lots of driving experience and learners who have less experience. This will encourage learners to get as much experience as possible.

### **From P1 to P2 and From P2 to a Full Licence**

Moving from a P1 licence to a P2 licence, and from a P2 licence to a full driver licence, will require a good driving record.

Any licence suspension, drink-driving offence with a BAC up to 0.05, or drug driving offence, will result in an extension of the P1 or P2 period for six months plus the period of suspension. P1 drivers will also be subject to a passenger limit for the balance of their P1 period. This will help deter new drivers from driving unsafely.

Consistent with the current provision, probationary drivers who commit a drink driving offence with a BAC of 0.05 or above will have their licence cancelled and must start their probationary period again when relicensed.

### **What About Motorcyclists?**

All relevant probationary and age-based provisions will also apply to motorcycle riders, except for learner, towing, and high powered vehicle restrictions that are already dealt with separately for motorcycle riders.

---

## THE NEW SUPPORT MEASURES

---

The new graduated licensing system will include support measures that will help learner drivers, probationary drivers, parents, supervising drivers, and instructors meet the new requirements and maximise the safety of new drivers.

### **For Learner Drivers, Parents, and Supervisors**

There will be a new 120 hour L Kit and Practice Diary. Learners and their supervising drivers will use the Practice Diary to record practice sessions and lessons, and the 120 hour Kit will include advice to learners and their supervising drivers about how to make the best use of the new, extended learner period.

The 'Keys Please' program for learners and parents will be reviewed to ensure it is up-to-date and will be expanded to increase the number of young people and parents who have access to it.

The L-Site interactive web site will be reviewed and expanded to make it a key resource for young people, parents, and other supervising drivers.

VicRoads will work closely with Victoria's professional driving instructors to help them deliver the most effective driving instruction possible. As the new on-road driving test will test safety-related skills that develop with practice, the focus of driving instruction will be less about passing the test, and more about practising safe driving.

A community-based, supervisor program to assist learner drivers who might find it difficult to get the required amount of experience will be trialled and then implemented if successful. The Government is keen to ensure that all young people, whatever their circumstances, benefit from the new graduated licensing system.

There will be an exemption from the 120 hour requirement in cases of hardship. This would allow a highly restricted licence for essential travel for new drivers aged 18 - 20 years who are unable to access a community-based supervised driving program.

Information about the new system and how it affects young people and their parents will be made available in a broad range of community languages.

### **For P1 Drivers and Their Parents**

There will be a new P1 Solo Driving Guide to help P1 drivers and their parents in the transition to safe solo driving.

There will be a public education program and information targeting new solo drivers to encourage them to reduce their exposure to unsafe situations – such as driving late at night or with a car full of friends.

---

## WHEN DOES IT START?

---

The new graduated licensing system will be introduced gradually over the next two years to make sure that young drivers are prepared for each new requirement as it is implemented.

The new alcohol-interlock rules for drink drivers on P's or aged under 26 years will start in January 2007.

The new learner permit rules will start from July 2007, as will the new high powered vehicle restrictions for P drivers.

All the new P1/P2 rules and the new driving test will start from July 2008.

---

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

---

VicRoads has placed extra information about the new graduated licensing system on-line, including answers to many of the questions Victorian drivers will want to ask. You can access this on the internet at [www.arrivealive.vic.gov.au](http://www.arrivealive.vic.gov.au) or [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au), or you can contact VicRoads at one of our Customer Service Centres or by telephone on 13 11 71.