



Road laws change from time to time.

Requirements for P1 and P2 probationary drivers may change accordingly. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the most recent edition of this booklet and any update sheets.

This booklet is a guide only and is not legal advice.



NEW RULES FOR P DRIVERS

Every P plate driver is at risk

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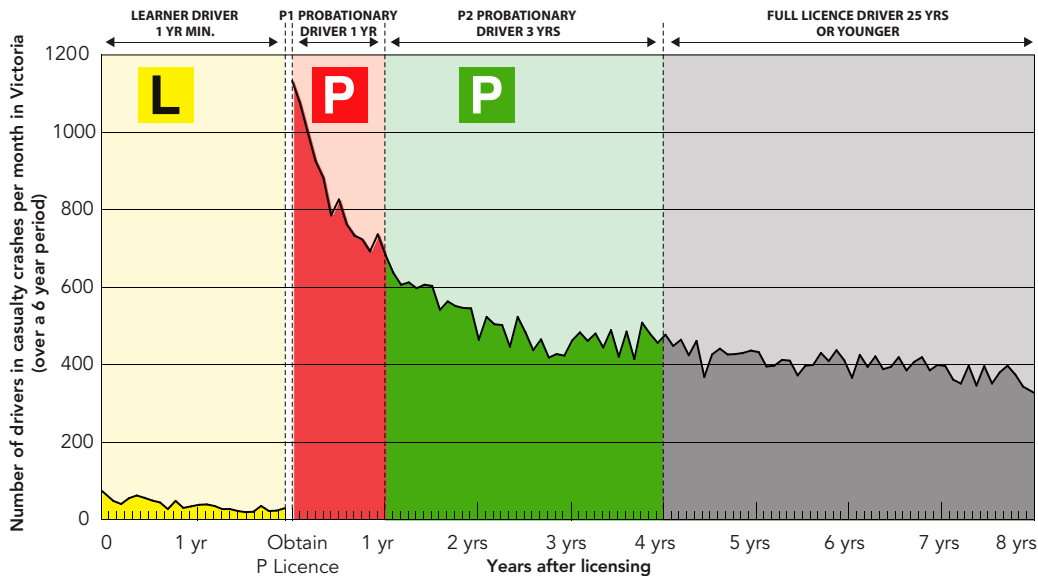
Graduated Licensing System
HELPING YOUNG DRIVERS BE SAFER DRIVERS

vic roads arrive
alive



P Plate drivers have more crashes than anyone else using the roads, and car crashes are the number one killer of young people.

This graph shows that your first year of driving is the most dangerous



**New rules have been introduced for P drivers
Make sure you know the new rules**



Your new P licence is important. It was an effort to get it, so you don't want to lose it. This booklet will help you keep your licence and stay alive.

The Victorian Graduated Licensing System will help you become a safer driver. You've already made it through the first part – the Learner period.

Now you're starting on the next stage and there are some things you need to know that will help you **keep your licence** and **stay as safe as possible**.

Keeping your licence

Most P drivers will spend four years on Ps – one year on a P1 licence (red P Plates must be displayed) and three years on a P2 licence (green P Plates must be displayed).

You need to have a good driving record to keep moving through the Graduated Licensing System. If you don't, you may end up spending more time as a P1 or P2 driver than you want.

All traffic offences result in a penalty. If you do the wrong thing you might be fined, get some demerit points or even lose your licence for a while.

These rules seem tough, but if you do the right thing you'll be a lot safer and you'll graduate to your next licence without any hassles.

There are special rules for P1 drivers. If you break these you will be fined and get some demerit points. If you break some of them you'll even have your P1 period extended for at least six months.

There are also some rules P2 drivers must obey.

If you get five or more demerit points in any 12 month period, your licence might be suspended for at least three months. If that happens, you'll also spend extra time on your current licence before moving to the next one.

It really pays to stick to the rules!



New rules for P1 drivers - your first year on Ps

To help make your first year on Ps safer, there are some important new rules.

If you stick to these rules, you will help to make the roads safer for everyone and you will keep your licence:

- You cannot drive with more than **one passenger** aged 16-21 years.
- You cannot use a **mobile phone** of any kind while driving (no hands-free, hand-held or messaging).
- You cannot **tow** unless for work or under instruction.
- You cannot drive a **high powered vehicle** (eg. no super or turbo charged petrol engines, eight cylinders, modified engines or specific six cylinder cars).
- Your time on your P1 licence will be **extended** by at least six months if you have a **bad driving record**, and you will have an even more stringent passenger limit (only one passenger of any age) for the rest of the time you are on a P1 licence.
- If you are caught **drink driving**, as well as losing your licence you will have to install an **expensive alcohol interlock** on your vehicle to stop you drink driving again when you get your licence back.
- Your vehicle will be taken away from you and impounded for hoon offences, drag racing and excessive speeding.

The special requirements for P1 and P2 drivers, and the consequences if you do not stick to these are shown in the tables at the end of this booklet.



Passenger restrictions for P1 drivers

You have a much higher risk of being in a serious crash when you carry more than one passenger.

All inexperienced drivers find it harder to drive safely with multiple passengers.

The graph below shows that P plate drivers with multiple passengers dramatically increase their risk of having a fatal crash.

One special restriction for P1 drivers is that they cannot carry any more than one passenger aged 16-21 years (inclusive) at any time, day or night.

Allowances will be made 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. Exemptions to passenger restrictions will be considered on a case-by-case basis on the grounds of hardship and for essential activities.

This restriction may be difficult to obey at times, but the graph shows what an important rule it is to keep you and your friends safe.

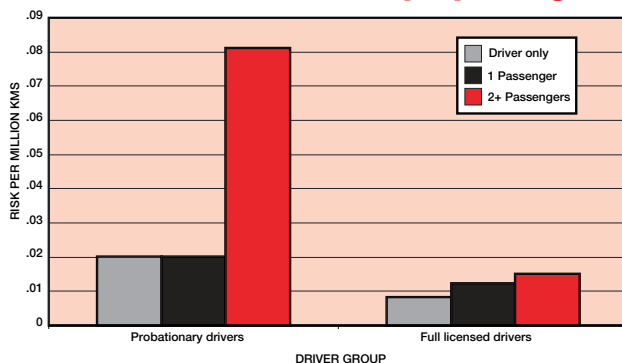
Ideas to help you stick to the passenger limit

Some young people have thought of the following ideas to help them with this new law:

- Share a taxi with friends.
- Drive with no more than one friend.
- Get a lift with a more experienced driver you know, such as a fully licensed driver or someone who has been driving on Ps for at least a year.
- Use public transport with friends.
- Ask your parents to drive you.

You can find out more about the P1 peer passenger restriction at: www.arrivealive.vic.gov.au/passengerrestriction

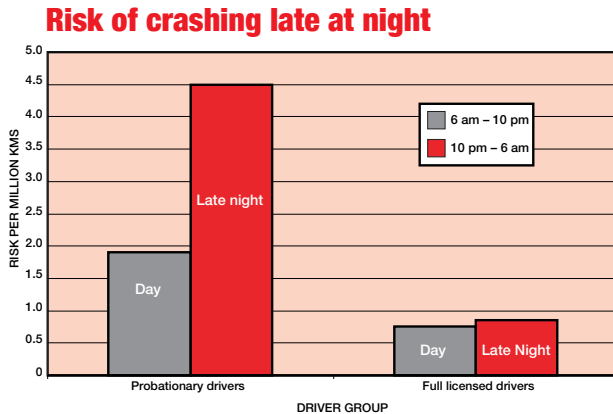
Fatal crash risk with multiple passengers





Plan not to drive late at night

Inexperienced drivers are most at risk when driving at night. Late night driving is a risk because of the effect of tiredness and it's harder to see and judge things. P plate drivers have an even higher risk late at night. The graph below shows that P drivers are much more likely to be involved in a crash late at night.



You can reduce your crash risk by limiting your night-time driving

- Share a taxi with friends.
- Drive yourself (reasonably early) with no more than one friend, stay the night if safe and drive home in the morning.
- Use public transport with friends, including late night buses, where available.
- Get a lift with a more experienced driver you know, such as a fully licensed driver or someone who has been driving on Ps for at least a year.
- Get a lift with a friend who is a more experienced driver and stay overnight.
- Ask your parents to drive you.



Keeping yourself safe when driving

Speed

If you drive too fast you're more likely to crash. You're also much more likely to be seriously injured if you do crash. Speed is involved in many fatal crashes.

You can reduce the risk of hurting yourself or others by choosing a safe speed:

- Always obey speed limit signs.
- Allow for heavy traffic, weather conditions, road works, curves and slippery roads, shops, parked cars and pedestrians.

Seatbelts

Seat belts really do save lives. Everyone in a vehicle must wear a seatbelt.

If you have younger people in the car, it's your responsibility to make sure they're restrained or you will be fined:

- Babies under 12 months must use a suitable approved child restraint that is properly adjusted, fastened and correctly installed.
- Children (aged 1-16 years) must use a seatbelt or an appropriate child restraint, which is properly adjusted, fastened and correctly installed.

Buy a safe car

When buying a car, consider newer cars which tend to be safer than older ones, and mid-size cars are usually safer than very small cars. Safety features like airbags, Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) and Electronic Stability Control (ESC) can save lives. It's worth checking out crash test and safety information at: www.howsafeisyourcar.com.au



Be a safe passenger

Young people are often hurt in crashes where they're a passenger. There are some things you can do to keep yourself safe as a passenger:

- Avoid being a multiple passenger in a car with a P1 driver because they have less than 12 months driving experience on Ps.
- Get a lift with the most experienced driver available.
- Don't distract the driver.
- Always wear a seat belt.
- Avoid being a passenger in a car when the driver is affected by alcohol or drugs.
- Watch out for signs that the driver is feeling tired, and encourage them to take breaks or a powernap on long trips.
- Ask the driver to slow down if they exceed the speed limit.
- Ask the driver to stop and let you out if you don't feel safe.

Turn off the mobile phone

Using a mobile phone while driving is illegal because it increases the risk of having a crash. Even a hands-free phone has this effect. Talking to someone on the phone is much more distracting than talking to a passenger.

So the safest thing to do is to turn your mobile off while driving. You can catch up with any missed calls or new messages when you turn your phone back on.

Avoid alcohol, drugs & fatigue

Being impaired and driving is a deadly combination to be completely avoided. A zero blood alcohol limit applies to all P drivers.

Requirements and Penalties

This table shows the requirements for P1 drivers, and the penalties that will be used if you do the wrong thing.

Probationary P1 drivers

You have a limit of 5 demerit points in 12 months, as well as 12 demerit points in 3 years.

REQUIREMENT	FINE	CONSEQUENCES
Good driving record required to progress to P2 probationary licence		A poor driving record will extend the period of a P1 probationary licence by at least six months, plus the period of licence suspension. You will only be allowed to drive with one passenger of any age.
Peer passenger restriction (can carry only one passenger aged 16-21 years)*	\$340	Three demerit points
No mobile phone use, hands free or hands held, or any messaging of any kind.	\$153	Three demerit points
No driving high powered vehicles such as eight cylinder cars, cars with turbocharged or supercharged petrol engines, and nominated high performance six cylinder cars.*	\$227	Three demerit points
No towing (unless for work or if under instruction).	\$170	
BAC up to 0.05	\$272	Ten demerit points plus extension of probationary period
BAC 0.05 to less than 0.07	\$340	Licence cancellation for minimum of six months
BAC of 0.07 to less than 0.15	\$340-\$476	Immediately taken off the road. 6-14 months licence cancellation. Alcohol interlock when re-licensed
BAC of 0.15 or more	Court fine of up to \$1,361	Immediately taken off the road. 15-24 months licence cancellation. Alcohol interlock when re-licensed
No drug driving	\$340	Ten demerit points
No speeding	\$142-\$1,134	One to six demerit points plus up to six months licence suspension
No speeding 45 km/h over the limit	\$488	Eight demerit points plus 12 months licence suspension Vehicle impoundment for 48 hours Vehicle impoundment for up to 3 months (second offence) Vehicle confiscation (third offence)
Hoon offences (such as improper use of motor vehicle) Drag racing	Heavy fines	Licence cancellation or suspension may apply Vehicle impoundment for 48 hours Vehicle impoundment for up to 3 months (second offence) Vehicle confiscation (third offence)
Must display red P1 plates	\$119	Three demerit points
Must carry licence when driving	\$57	
Must wear seatbelt	\$153	Three demerit points
Only drive cars suitable to your licence type (automatic or manual).	\$119	

*Exemptions are available for demonstrated hardship based on work or family reasons. These will be considered on a case by case basis. An application for an exemption must be in writing and will require supporting evidence. To find out how to apply for an exemption, please go to: www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

For further information on the new P1 requirements, please see the following website: www.arrivealive.vic.gov.au/p1
Note: If some of the above offences are taken to court, penalties can be higher and your licence can be cancelled.
Fines current as at 1 July 2008.

Requirements and Penalties

This table shows the requirements for P2 drivers, and the penalties that will be used if you do the wrong thing.

Probationary P2 drivers

You have a limit of 5 demerit points in 12 months, as well as 12 demerit points in 3 years.

REQUIREMENT	FINE	CONSEQUENCES
Good driving record required to progress to full licence		A poor driving record will extend the period of a P2 probationary licence by at least six months, plus the period of licence suspension.
No hand held mobile phone use	\$153	Three demerit points
No driving high powered vehicles such as eight cylinder cars, cars with turbocharged or supercharged petrol engines, and nominated high performance six cylinder cars.*	\$227	Three demerit points
BAC up to 0.05	\$272	Ten demerit points plus extension of probationary period
BAC 0.05 to less than 0.07	\$340	Licence cancellation for minimum of six months
BAC of 0.07 to less than 0.15	\$340-\$476	Immediately taken off the road. 6-14 months licence cancellation. Alcohol interlock when re-licensed
BAC of 0.15 or more	Court fine of up to \$1,361	Immediately taken off the road. 15-24 months licence cancellation. Alcohol interlock when re-licensed
No drug driving	\$340	Ten demerit points
No speeding	\$142-\$1,134	One to six demerit points plus up to six months licence suspension
No speeding 45 km/h over the limit	\$488	Eight demerit points plus 12 months licence suspension Vehicle impoundment for 48 hours Vehicle impoundment for up to 3 months (second offence) Vehicle confiscation (third offence)
Hoon offences (such as improper use of motor vehicle) Drag racing	Heavy fines	Licence cancellation or suspension may apply Vehicle impoundment for 48 hours Vehicle impoundment for up to 3 months (second offence) Vehicle confiscation (third offence)
Must display green P2 plates	\$119	Three demerit points
Must carry licence when driving	\$57	
Must wear seatbelt	\$153	Three demerit points
Only drive cars suitable to your licence type (automatic or manual).	\$119	
<small>*Exemptions are available for demonstrated hardship based on work or family reasons. These will be considered on a case by case basis. An application for an exemption must be in writing and will require supporting evidence. To find out how to apply for an exemption, please go to: www.vicroads.vic.gov.au</small>		<small>For further information on the new P2 requirements, please see the following website: www.arrivealive.vic.gov.au/p2 Note: If some of the above offences are taken to court, penalties can be higher and your licence can be cancelled. Fines current as at 1 July 2008.</small>