

Learning to ride

Getting your motorcycle licence

Factsheet

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This factsheet tells you how to get your motorcycle licence. It outlines the three graduated stages, the process to get each stage and any conditions which you must comply with when riding.

Motorcycle riding requires skills that you can only gain by spending time on a motorcycle. For this reason, you can't legally ride a motorcycle on the road using a car driver licence. You need a Class 6 (motorcycle) licence to ride a motorcycle on the road.

Three stages to get your licence

The graduated driver licensing system has three stages: learner, restricted and full.

Each stage has a test you have to pass. There's a basic handling skills test and a theory test to begin stage one, and practical riding tests or approved courses to begin stages two and three.

See the chart at the end of this factsheet for an overview of the three-stage graduated driver licensing system.

As you move from one stage to the next you're given a new licence, with different requirements and more responsibilities. Normal road rules apply at all times.

Basic handling skills test

Before you can apply for a learner licence you must pass a basic handling skills test, conducted by an approved motorcycle riding instructor.

Check our website (www.nzta.govt.nz/licence/getting/motorcycles/skills-test.html) or look in the *Yellow pages* under motorcycle riding schools to find a basic handling skills test provider near you.

Before your test you can practise basic motorcycle handling skills on your own private property or at a motorcycle training school. You cannot practise on a road, as you don't yet hold a learner licence.

For more information on the riding exercises in the basic handling skills test, see the latest version of *The official New Zealand road code for motorcyclists*. The road code is available online at www.nzta.govt.nz/roadcode, or can be purchased from many bookstores and driver licensing agents.

Where to apply

You can apply for your licence at any NZ Transport Agency driver licensing agent. These are selected branches of:

- Automobile Association (AA)
- Vehicle Inspection New Zealand (VINZ)
- Vehicle Testing New Zealand (VTNZ).

Check our website (www.nzta.govt.nz/licence/getting/where-to-go/index.html) or look in the *Yellow pages* to find a branch near you.

Making your application

Each time you apply for a licence stage, you will need to:

- fill out an application form (DL1)
- present evidence of your identity (see the Identification requirements section)
- prove your eyesight meets the required standard (see the Eyesight requirements section)
- have your photograph taken and provide a signature
- pay the appropriate application fee (see the What it costs section).

Stage 1 - learner licence (6L)

You must get a learner licence before you learn to ride on the road. To apply for a learner licence, you must be at least 16 years old.

Obtaining a learner licence

To get your learner licence, you must apply at a driver licensing agent and:

- meet the application requirements (see the Making your application section)
- present your motorcycle competency certificate or basic handling skills certificate
- pay the learner licence test fee (see the What it costs section)
- pass the learner licence theory test (see the Passing your theory test section).

Learner licence conditions

- You must not ride between 10pm and 5am.
- You must not carry any passengers on your motorcycle or moped or in any sidecar.
- You must not tow another vehicle.
- You must always have a learner (L) plate attached to the rear of your motorcycle or moped. You can obtain L plates from most driver licensing agents.
- You must only ride a LAMS-approved motorcycle. (See www.nzta.govt.nz/lams for a list of suitable motorcycles).

Your new learner licence will be valid for five years. You can now ride on the open road and gain the skills and experience that will enable you to progress to the next stage. When you feel you are ready you can apply for your restricted licence.

If you do not progress during the five-year period, you will need to pass a theory test once your licence has expired before your learner licence can be issued for a further five years.

Stage 2 - restricted licence (6R)

To apply for a restricted licence, you must be at least 16½ years old. If you are going to sit a practical test, you must have held a current learner licence for at least six months.

If you are presenting a 6R CBTA certificate (see the Competency based training assessment (CBTA) section) this minimum period does not apply.

Obtaining a restricted licence

To get your restricted licence, you must apply at a driver licensing agent and meet the application requirements (see the Making your application section).

You will also need to either:

- book a time to sit the restricted practical test (see the Booking your practical test section), and
- pay the restricted licence test fee (see the What it costs section), and
- pass the restricted licence practical riding test (see the Passing your practical tests section)

or

- present a Class 6R CBTA course certificate (see the CBTA section).

Restricted licence conditions

- You must not ride between 10pm and 5am.
- You must not carry any passengers on your motorcycle or moped or in any sidecar.
- You must not tow another vehicle.
- You must only ride a LAMS-approved motorcycle. (See www.nzta.govt.nz/lams for a list of approved motorcycles).

Your new restricted licence will be valid for five years. During this time you should continue to build on your existing skills and experience to enable you to progress to a full licence with no restrictions. When you feel you are ready you can apply for your full licence.

If you do not progress during the five-year period, you will need to pass a theory test once your licence has expired before your restricted licence can be issued for a further five years.

Stage 3 – full licence

To apply for your full licence and sit your practical full riding test, you will need to be at least 18 years old and have held a current restricted licence for at least 18 months.

If you are presenting a 6F CBTA certificate (see the CBTA section) the minimum age is reduced to 17½ and you must have held your restricted licence for at least 12 months.

Obtaining a full licence

To get your full licence, you must apply at a driver licensing agent and meet the application requirements (see the Making your application section).

You will also need to either:

- book a time to sit the full practical test (see the Booking your practical test section), and
- pay the full licence test fee (see the What it costs section), and
- pass the full licence practical riding test (see the Passing your practical tests section)

or

- present a Class 6F CBTA course certificate (see the CBTA section).

Identification requirements

You must present evidence of your identity each time you apply for a driver licence.

Evidence of identity

Acceptable evidence of your identity must confirm your full name and date of birth.

You may only have to provide a single document if you have one of the following:

- your New Zealand photographic licence (which can be current or expired up to two years), or
- your current New Zealand passport.

If you do not have either of these documents you will need to provide two other acceptable forms of evidence of identity such as:

- your New Zealand birth certificate and a student ID card or 18+ card, or
- your New Zealand birth certificate and a utility bill.

If neither of the documents you provide has a photo you will also need to provide a verified image (see Factsheet 20: *Identification for driver licensing* for further information and a full list of acceptable identity documents).

All documents must be original documents. Photocopied or scanned documents are not acceptable.

Evidence of name change

If you want to change the name on your driver licence or if the name on your identity documents is not the same as the name on your licence, you will need to bring acceptable evidence of name change. This must be an original (not a copy) of one of the following:

- your marriage or civil union certificate
- your dissolution of marriage (or civil union) order
- a certificate of annulment
- a deed poll certificate, change of name certificate, or a birth certificate showing both names
- a statutory declaration confirming change of name which has been registered with the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Eyesight requirements

You must prove that your eyesight meets the required standard each time you apply for a new licence class. To do this you can:

- present a satisfactory eyesight certificate issued by a New Zealand registered optometrist (this certificate must not be more than 60 days old)
- present a satisfactory medical certificate issued by a New Zealand registered medical practitioner (this certificate must not be more than 60 days old)
- pass an eyesight screening check at a driver licensing agent.

Note: The agents' eyesight screening machines eliminate the need for many drivers to be tested by an optometrist or medical practitioner. However, if you don't pass the screening check then you must provide one of the certificates listed **before** your new licence can be issued. Some drivers choose to supply a certificate instead of taking a screening check. If you have vision in only one eye (monocular vision) you must present an eyesight certificate from a doctor or optometrist.

What it costs

You pay an application fee and a test fee* for each licence stage.

Basic handling skills test	Check with provider
Learner licence application fee	\$48.20
Learner licence test fee	\$45.70

Total	\$93.90
Restricted licence application fee	\$48.20
Restricted licence test fee	\$86.60*
Total	\$134.80
Full licence application fee	\$49.60
Full licence test fee	\$59.90*
Total	\$109.50

*You do not need to sit a test or pay a test fee if you are presenting a CBTA certificate for your 6R or 6F licence.

If you don't pass a test, then you will need to pay another test fee when rebooking. You won't be charged another application fee.

Booking a practical driving test

Make sure you are ready for your practical test.

The restricted and full tests are tough tests that assess your riding skills. It is recommended that you get plenty of practice (including at least 120 hours on your learner licence) before you sit a practical test.

You can book a time to sit your restricted or full licence practical licence test:

- online at www.nzta.govt.nz/online
- by calling our contact centre on 0800 822 422
- at a driver licensing agent.

If you book online or via the contact centre, then you must allow an extra 30 minutes prior to your test, or visit a driver licensing agent prior to your test, to complete the application requirements (eg having your photo taken and eyesight checked).

Check what time the licensing agent opens on the day of your test. If your test is early in the morning and the agent is not open you will not be able to complete the requirements listed above. This means you will need to visit an agent on a day prior to your test.

Check the location of your test. Not all test sites have driver licensing agents. This means that if your test is booked at a testing only site, you will need to visit a driver licensing agent at another location to complete the application requirements before your new licence can be issued.

Changing or cancelling your test

If you have booked a theory or practical test and want to change or cancel your test, you will have to pay a further fee.

Where there are two or more complete working days (excluding weekends and public holidays) between the day you change or cancel your test and the day of your appointment, you will need to pay a rescheduling fee of \$16.40.

Where there are less than two complete working days (excluding weekends and public holidays) between the day you change or cancel your test and the date of your appointment, you will not pay a rescheduling fee, but will need to pay a further test fee.

You may be eligible for a refund of the first test fee paid where the cancelled test time is taken by another person. If the test fee is refunded, a processing fee of \$16.40 will be deducted. You can obtain a refund application form (DL13) online at www.nzta.govt.nz/licence/photo/fees-refunds.html or by calling our contact centre on 0800 822 422.

Passing your theory test

The learner licence theory test is a computer-based, 35-question, multi-choice test that assesses your knowledge of road rules and safe driving practices. All the information you require to pass the theory test can be found in *The official New Zealand road code for motorcyclists*. This is available online at www.nzta.govt.nz/roadcode or can be purchased from many bookstores and driver licensing agents. You can also practise the theory test online at www.roadcodepractice.co.nz.

Passing your practical test

Carry your driver licence

Make sure that your driver licence is current and that you have it with you. If you arrive for the test and your licence isn't current or you don't have it with you, you won't be able to sit the test. You'll need to rebook and pay another test fee.

If you are using a current temporary licence, you will also need to bring acceptable photographic ID (see the Identification requirements section).

Before the test

A test day checklist, information on what the test involves and how to prepare for the test can be found in *The official New Zealand road code for motorcyclists* and on our website at <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/licence/photo/new-tests.html>.

Pre-drive motorcycle check

The testing officer will look over your motorcycle before the test to ensure it is roadworthy. They'll check the tyres, indicators, brake lights etc, and make sure it has a current warrant of fitness (WoF) and a valid licence label. If your motorcycle isn't roadworthy, the test won't proceed (even if it has a current WoF). You'll need to rebook and pay another test fee.

Motorcycles displaying trade plates cannot be used to sit a practical driving test.

After the test

After you pass the test you'll be given a temporary licence, valid for 21 days, to use while your photo driver licence is manufactured and mailed to you, which should take two to three weeks.

Competency based training assessment (CBTA)

The competency based training assessment option is an alternative path to progress through the restricted and full licence stages. Successfully completing a CBTA course will mean you won't have to meet some of the graduated licensing system requirements.

Restricted CBTA course certificate

You can complete a 6R CBTA course with a Transport Agency approved assessor any time after you have obtained your learner motorcycle licence (see www.nzta.govt.nz/cbta for a list of approved assessors). Once you have passed you will be issued with your 6R CBTA certificate.

If you present a 6R CBTA certificate when you apply for your restricted licence, you won't need to:

- complete the learner licence six month minimum time period, or
- sit and pass a practical test at the agent, and
- pay the restricted licence practical test fee*.

Note: you will still need to be at least 16½ years old to apply for your restricted licence.

Full CBTA course certificate

You can complete a 6F CBTA course with a Transport Agency approved assessor any time after you have obtained your restricted motorcycle licence (see www.nzta.govt.nz/cbta for a list of assessors). Once you have passed you will be issued with your 6F CBTA certificate.

If you present a 6F CBTA certificate when you apply for your full licence, you will:

- reduce the minimum age from 18 years to 17½ years, and
- reduce restricted licence minimum time period from 18 to 12 months, and
- not need to sit and pass a practical test at the agent, and
- not need to pay the full licence practical test fee.*

For further information go to www.nzta.govt.nz/cbta.

*The regulated restricted or full licence application fee will still apply.

Learner approved motorcycle scheme (LAMS approved motorcycles)

LAMS-approved motorcycles are:

- motorcycles that have an engine capacity not exceeding 250cc and that have not been prohibited by the Transport Agency
- motorcycles that have an engine capacity exceeding 250cc but not exceeding 660cc and that have been approved by the Transport Agency.

The following groups of motorcycles are not LAMS-approved:

- motorcycles that have an engine capacity not exceeding 250cc and that have been prohibited by the Transport Agency
- motorcycles that have an engine capacity exceeding 250cc but not exceeding 660cc, and that have not been approved by the Transport Agency
- motorcycles that have an engine capacity exceeding 660cc.

A full list of approved and prohibited motorcycles, along with more information about LAMS, is on our website at www.nzta.govt.nz/lams.

Rider responsibility

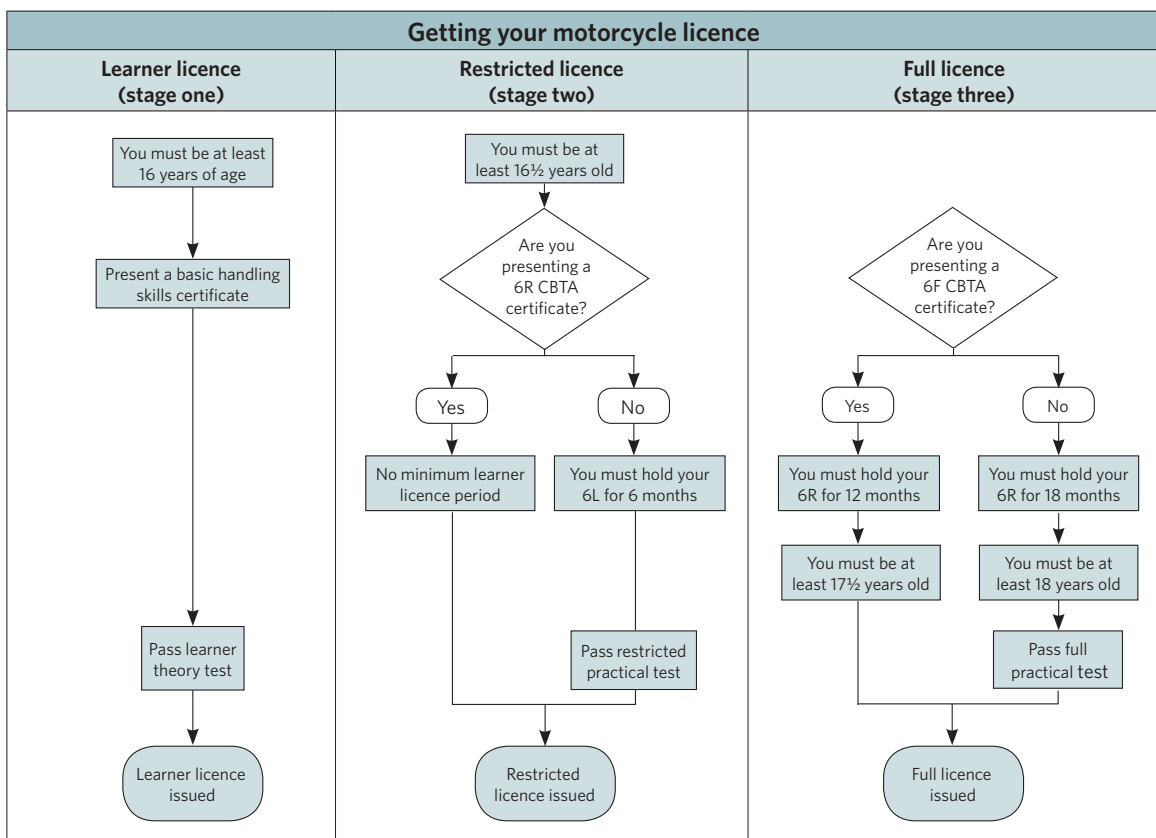
You must have your licence with you at all times while riding as the law requires that you must produce your licence immediately, when requested by an enforcement officer. Failure to do so can result in an instant fine.

It's illegal to ride, or attempt to ride, under the influence of alcohol. If you're suspected of being under the influence of alcohol, breath and/or blood tests may be required.

If you're under 20 years old, there is a zero alcohol limit. This means if you ride after consuming just one drink, you can be charged with drink driving.

If you're 20 or older, the legal alcohol limit is 50 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood or 250 micrograms per litre of breath.

It's illegal to ride, or attempt to ride, under the influence of drugs. If an enforcement officer suspects you're under the influence of drugs, you can be required to undertake a compulsory impairment test. If you fail the impairment test, then a blood test will be required.



The information in this factsheet is a general guide only. It is not the source of the law and should not be used in place of authoritative legal documents. Some factsheets are updated frequently and print versions can quickly become out of date. If the currency of the information you are reading is important, check the factsheet index on our website (www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets) or call us on 0800 822 422.

Where you can find out more

- Call our contact centre: 0800 822 422.
- Visit our website: www.nzta.govt.nz.
- Email us: info@nzta.govt.nz.
- Write to us: NZ Transport Agency, Private Bag 11777, Palmerston North 4442.