

Driver licence cards get a makeover

Changes for all cards issued after 24 November 2014

In December 2014 changes to the Graduated Driver Licence System (GDLS) were introduced. These changes are aimed at improving the safety of novice drivers and motorcyclists by introducing a five-year time limit on learner and restricted licences for drivers under the age of 75.

Introduction of the new five-year limit means that the driver licence card must now be able to display multiple expiry dates, eg where a person holds a five-year learner motorcycle licence and a 10-year full car licence. The change also gave us the opportunity to make all driver licence cards more user friendly.

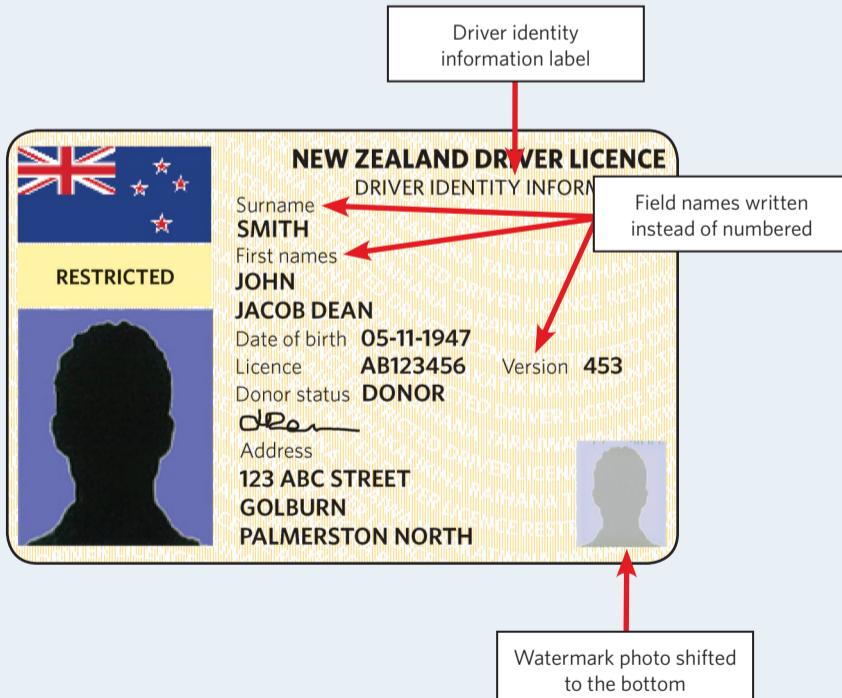
The information on the card has now been split between driver identity information on the front (eg name and date of birth) and driving entitlement information on the back (eg driving classes and expiry dates).

Front of card - driver identity information

We know that the driver licence card is often used for identification purposes, so having all the driver identity information on one side of the card makes identification clearer and easier.

Each field has a descriptor rather than a number, eg '3' on the card is replaced by 'date of birth'.

This removes the need to look to the back of the card for information about what the number relates to. As with the current card, there is a field for the driver's address, however displaying an address is optional. Licence classes and endorsements held are no longer displayed on the front.

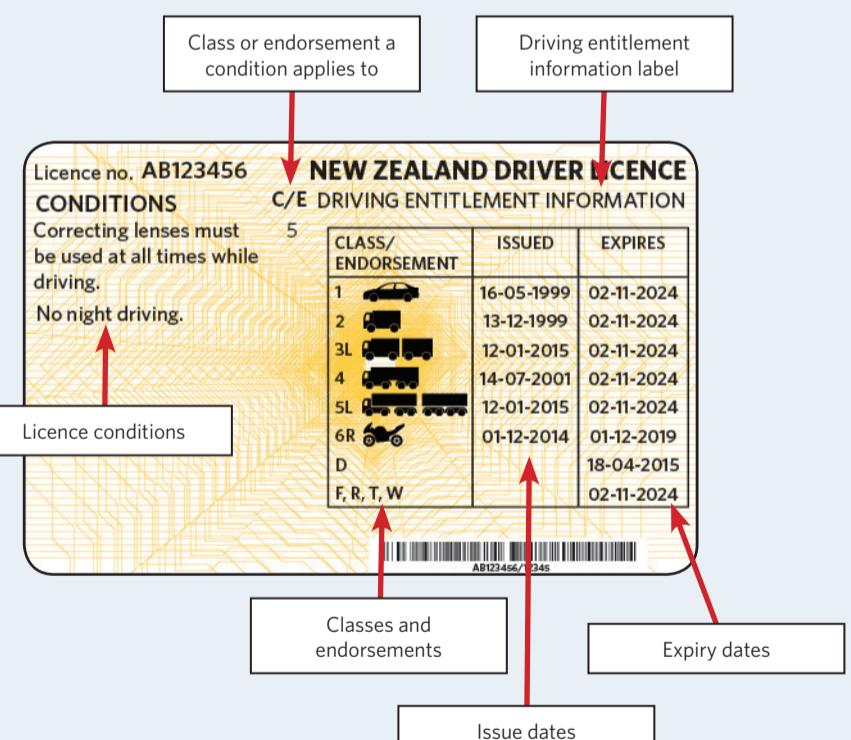


Back of card - driver entitlement information

The new, clearer format is aimed at helping enforcement officers to quickly assess a driver's entitlements at the roadside.

On the left side, the conditions under which the licence holder can drive are clearly displayed.

On the right a table displays pictures of classes held and the issue and expiry date of each class. Having pictures for each licence class brings the format more into line with the EU format and will also assist the licence holder when travelling overseas in non-English speaking countries.



The new restricted licence example shows a 10-year full licence and a five-year restricted licence. This makes it clear to both licence holders and enforcement officers when each licence class expires. Also the example above shows the classes and endorsements that can be held and displayed on the card, however, each driver's licence will only display the classes they individually hold.

Drivers who get a new licence or renew or replace their licence from 24 November 2014 will receive a new style licence card.

Visit our website at www.nzta.govt.nz for more information.