

Land Transport (Driver Licensing) Rule

**Consolidated Rule
with amendments incorporated
as at
1 October 2011**

The consolidation of the Rule and its amendments is intended to provide up-to-date details of the current requirements. It is not the official version of the Rule.

Preface

The consolidated Rule brings together the requirements relating to driver licensing in the principal Rule and its amendments. These Rules were produced, under an agreement with the Secretary for Transport, by the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) or its predecessor land transport Crown entities. They were signed into law by the Minister of Transport or his or her delegate under the *Land Transport Act 1998*.

The principal Rule

Land Transport (Driver Licensing) Rule 1999 (the Rule), which came into force on 3 May 1999, specifies the requirements for obtaining and renewing a driver licence in New Zealand. It sets out the requirements for the holder of a driver licence to obtain or renew a licence endorsement that will enable the endorsement holder to use a motor vehicle for specified activities. The Rule also specifies the requirements for those who provide services related to the licensing of drivers.

Amendment 1

Following public consultation, the Rule was amended, with effect from 4 October 1999, to allow more documents to be used as primary identification for obtaining a drivers licence, reduce the annual vetting requirement for bus drivers to one vetting every five years. It also allowed licence endorsements to lapse for up to five years, instead of one year, before a person must qualify again. The amendment also clarified requirements for the transition to the new classes of driver licence, removed the restriction on the Director's power to grant exemptions, allowed for the approval of alternative testing sites and allowed the Director to approve the use of specified vehicles for practical driving tests and course approvals.

Amendment 2

The Rule was further amended with effect from 1 June 2006, (and for some provisions, from 1 July 2009). The amendment was intended to make the driver licensing system more sensitive to the needs of people, to improve efficiency, and to reduce compliance costs where possible. The proposed changes include specific proposals for novice drivers, commercial drivers, older drivers, and holders of overseas driver licences and permits.

Amendment 3

The Rule was amended with effect from 4 December 2006 to make changes to the driver licensing system for older drivers.

Amendment 4

With effect from 16 June 2008, (and for some provisions, from 1 September 2008), the Rule was amended to make a consequential change to the definition of 'security officer' resulting from the repeal of the *Penal Institutions Act 1954* and its replacement by the *Corrections Act 2004*. The amendment also clarified and aligned other provisions in the Rule regarding overseas drivers and carrying of other persons on mopeds.

Amendment 5

The Rule was amended from 15 January 2009, (and for some provisions, from 1 April 2009), to update the definitions of the classes of driver licence by allowing larger tractors to be driven on a Class 1 licence and the lists of countries from which holders of an overseas driver licence or permit are not required to sit a theory test for a Class 1 or Class 6 licence or a practical driving test when converting their licence to a New Zealand driver licence.

Amendment 6

The Rule was amended from 1 April 2010, to make minor adjustments to the weight limits for vehicles driven on some classes of driver licence. These changes are intended to make the provisions of the Rule easier to understand and comply with, and will not disadvantage any drivers.

Amendment 7

The Rule was amended from 1 October 2011. While most of the changes to the Rule were consulted on in 2010 as a separate amendment, a small number of minor changes were consulted on as part of *Land Transport Rule: Omnibus Amendment 2011*.

The changes made to the Rule include those in the following areas:

- identification for driver licensing purposes;
- images on driver licences and driver licensing cards;
- conditions attached to a learner licence;
- obtaining, and conditions attached to, a restricted licence;
- converting to a New Zealand driver licence;

- obtaining a dangerous goods endorsement;
- obtaining a driving instructor, passenger, testing officer, vehicle recovery or special-type endorsement;
- eyesight testing;
- medical declarations and medical certificates;
- producing identification when taking a practical driving test;
- the form and period of validity of a driver licence;
- special provisions relating to a person who is overseas, or in prison or hospital and whose driver licence has been expired for more than five years;
- recognition of an overseas driver licence or permit;
- requirements for diplomatic and consular personnel;
- requirements for approval of courses;
- revocation of approval of a course provider;
- expiry and upgrading of driver licences;
- the addition of a new Schedule 3 (classes of driver licence).

Amendment 8

The Rule was amended from 7 October 2011. The purpose was to ensure that the prohibition that existed in the principal Rule, before 1 October 2011, for learner and restricted motorcycle licence holders from riding a motorcycle that had a total displacement exceeding 250cm³ was continued until new requirements (inserted by Amendment 7) relating to the engine size of an “approved motorcycle” came into force on 1 October 2012.

