

Identification for driver licensing



Factsheet
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To get or renew a driver licence, you'll need to show us some acceptable identification to confirm your identity.

Evidence of your identity

For a driver licence application, you can present:

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

If you don't have either of these, you'll need to provide one document from table 1 **and** one document from table 2. One of those documents should have your **photo** on it, otherwise you'll need to get a declaration from an identity referee. See the *Photo required* section on page 2.

All documents must be originals. Photocopied, scanned or certified documents aren't acceptable.

If your evidence of identity document isn't issued in the name currently on your driver licence

You may be required to provide additional documentation to show the link between those names (eg a birth certificate and/or a marriage certificate). See *Evidence of name change* over the page.

Table 1: Primary documents

Document type	Issued by
New Zealand full birth certificate issued on or after 1 January 1998, carrying a unique identification number	DIA (Identity Services)
New Zealand passport*	Department of Internal Affairs (DIA - Identity Services)
New Zealand firearms licence*	NZ Police
Overseas passport (may include New Zealand visa/permit)*	Overseas authority
New Zealand citizenship certificate	DIA (Identity Services)
New Zealand emergency travel document	DIA (Identity Services)
New Zealand refugee travel document	DIA (Identity Services)
New Zealand certificate of identity (issued under the Passports Act 1992)	DIA (Identity Services)
New Zealand certificate of identity (issued under the Immigration Act 2009)	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (Immigration)

*These documents can be current or expired up to two years. All other documents in this table must be current.

Table 2: Supporting documents

Document type	Issued by
Kiwi Access card or 18+ card	Hospitality Association of New Zealand
Community services card	Ministry of Social Development (MSD)
SuperGold card	MSD
Veteran SuperGold card	MSD
New Zealand student photo ID card ^{1 3}	Educational institution
New Zealand employee photo ID card	Employer
New Zealand electoral roll record ³	Electoral Commission
Inland Revenue number ³	Inland Revenue Department
New Zealand-issued utility bill or bank statement ^{2 3}	Utility provider or bank
Overseas driver licence	Overseas licensing authority
Steps to freedom form	Department of Corrections

All documents in this table must be current, except for a utility bill or bank statement (see below)

¹ To be acceptable for driver licensing purposes, your student ID should have your:

- surname
- first name or initials
- date of birth, and
- photo.

It must have an issue date or an expiry date. It must have your educational institution's logo or banner on it, or be on the institution's letterhead.

If it doesn't meet all of these requirements, you won't be able to use it as identification for a driver licence.

² This must show your first name (or initials) and last name, and the issuer (utility company or bank). It doesn't need to show any transaction details.

It must have been issued within the last six months.

³ You can show these documents to the agent in electronic format on your phone or mobile device.

Photo required

If neither document has a photo, you must also provide a passport-style photo and an identity declaration signed by an identity referee. The photo must be less than six months old.

You can go to www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL26 to download an *Identify referee declaration* form (DL26).

Who can be an identity referee

Your referee must:

- have a valid New Zealand passport or New Zealand driver licence, and
- have known you for at least a year, and
- be at least 16 years old, and
- not be related to you or part of your extended family group, and
- not be your spouse or partner, and
- not live at the same address as you.

Your referee must provide their:

- passport or driver licence number
- name
- date of birth
- contact details, including a daytime phone number.

Your referee must write your full name on the back of the photo and sign and date it. The image must be a good likeness and of an equal standard to one required for a driver licence or passport application.

Note: a business that takes passport photos may supply a photo with a pre-printed label on the back.

If you're from overseas and don't have a New Zealand licence

If you're from overseas you still need to present a combination of evidence of identity documents (one primary document from table 1 and one supporting document from table 2).

If you're applying for a New Zealand driver licence for the first time, this could be your current overseas passport and your current overseas driver licence.

Evidence of name change

If your name has changed from the one on your driver licence (eg due to marriage or civil union, or you've changed your name) you'll need to provide evidence of the name change.

You'll also need to provide **linking name change documents** if the names on either of your forms of identification aren't the same.

You'll need to provide one of the following documents as proof of your name change. The documents must be originals, and issued in New Zealand.

Document type	Issued by
New Zealand birth certificate showing both names	DIA (Identity Services)
Marriage or civil union certificate	DIA (Identity Services)
Copy of particulars of marriage or civil union	DIA (Identity Services)
Dissolution of marriage or civil union order ¹	Ministry of Justice

Document type	Issued by
Certificate of annulment	Ministry of Justice
Deed poll certificate, change of name certificate	DIA (Identity Services)
Statutory declaration confirming change of name which has been registered with the Registrar of Birth, Deaths and Marriages	DIA (Identity Services)

¹Your dissolution document will only have your married name on it. To change your name with this you'll also need to provide linking documents that show your previous name as well, eg birth certificate, passport or marriage certificate.

Evidence of identity for sitting a test

When you're sitting a test, you'll also need to prove your identity.

Theory tests

If you're sitting your theory test at the same time you make your application, you'll already have your evidence of identity from making your application. This is all you need.

If you're coming back at a later date to sit or re-sit your theory test, you'll need to provide valid photo ID so the agent can be sure the right person is sitting the test. This could be:

- your New Zealand passport (current or expired up to two years)
- a current Kiwi Access/18+ card
- current photographic student ID
- your New Zealand driver licence (current or expired up to two years)
- any photographic document from *Table 1: Primary documents* on page 1 of this factsheet.

Practical tests

If you're sitting a practical driving test, you must have a valid driver licence.

If you have a current New Zealand photo driver licence, then this is all you need.

If you're using a temporary driver licence, you'll also need to provide photo ID to the testing officer so they can be sure the right person is sitting the test. This could be:

- an expired New Zealand photo driver licence
- an overseas photo driver licence
- a passport
- a Kiwi Access or 18+ card
- a photographic student ID
- any other photographic document from *Table 1: Primary documents* or *Table 2: Supporting documents*
- any other form of photo ID where the testing officer can clearly see that the person recorded on the temporary licence is the same person on the photo ID.

This is the only time where the photo ID doesn't have to be valid or approved, as it is accompanying the temporary driver licence. In all other cases the ID must be valid for driver licensing purposes.



This factsheet is a general guide only. It doesn't replace legal advice, and your exact requirements will depend on current legislation.

Make sure you have the most up-to-date version of this factsheet by checking www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets

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