

Learning to ride

Getting your motorcycle licence

Motorcycle riding requires skills you can only gain by spending time on a motorcycle.

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 full licence

The 3 stages to getting your licence are learner, restricted and full.

Each stage has a test or assessment you have to pass.

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.

To find a basic handling skills test provider near you search online for motorcycle riding schools or go to:

www.nzta.govt.nz/bhst

Before the test you can practise basic motorcycle handling skills

on your own private property or at a motorcycle training school. You can't practise on a road as you don't have a learner licence yet.

The official New Zealand road code for motorcyclists has more information on the riding exercises in the basic handling skills test. You can find the road code at many bookstores and driver licensing agents, or online at

www.nzta.govt.nz/roadcode

What you need

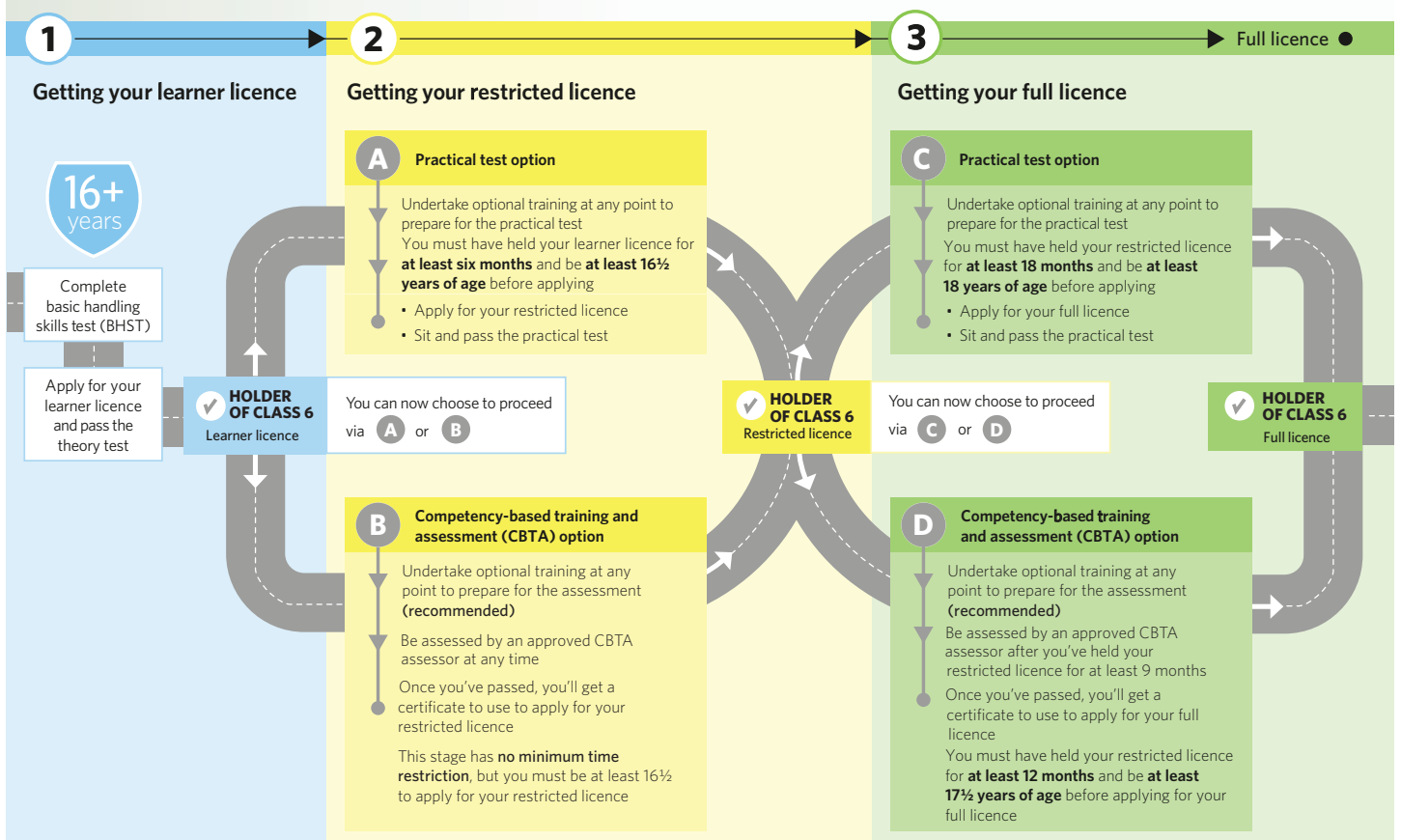
Each time you apply for a licence stage, you'll need:

- evidence of your identity – see *Identification requirements*.
- proof your eyesight meets requirements – see *Eyesight requirements*.

How to apply

- Download and complete an application form (DL1). www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL1
- Take the completed form and the above documents to a driver licensing agent. Find an agent at www.nzta.govt.nz/agents
- Have your photograph taken and provide a signature
- Pay the application fee – see *What it costs*.

Options for getting your motorcycle licence



Stage 1 – learner licence (6L)

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

Getting a learner licence

To get your learner licence you need to:

- meet the application requirements – see *How to apply*
- present your motorcycle competency certificate or basic handling skills certificate
- pass the learner licence theory test – see *Passing your theory test*.

Learner licence conditions

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

Your new learner licence will be valid for 10 years. You can now ride on the open road and gain the skills and experience to progress to the next stage. When you feel ready, you can apply for your restricted licence.

Stage 2 – restricted licence (6R)

To apply for a restricted licence, you must be at least 16½ years old and have held a current learner licence for at least six months. If you have a 6R CBTA certificate this minimum period doesn't apply – see *Competency based training and assessment (CBTA)*.

Getting a restricted licence

To get your restricted licence you need to meet the application requirements – see *How to apply*

You'll also need to either:

- pass the restricted practical test – see *Booking a practical riding test and Passing your practical tests* or
- present a Class 6R CBTA course certificate – see *Competency based training and assessment (CBTA)*.

Restricted licence conditions

- You must not ride between 10pm and 5am.
- You must not carry passengers on your motorcycle, moped or sidecar.
- You must not tow another vehicle.
- You must only ride a LAMS-approved motorcycle – for a list of suitable motorcycles go to www.nzta.govt.nz/lams

Your new restricted licence will be valid for 10 years. You can build on your existing skills and experience so you can progress to a full licence with no restrictions. When you feel ready, you can apply for your full licence.

Stage 3 – full licence

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

If you're presenting a 6F CBTA certificate, the minimum age is reduced to 17½ and you must have held your restricted licence for at least 12 months.

Getting a full licence

To get your full licence you need to meet the application requirements – see *How to apply*.

You'll also need to either:

- pass the restricted practical test – see *Booking a practical riding test and Passing your practical tests*. or
- present a Class 6F CBTA course certificate – see *Competency based training and assessment (CBTA)*.

Identification requirements

You must present evidence of your identity each time you apply.

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 photo driver licence (which can be current or expired up to 2 years), or
- your current New Zealand passport.

If you don't have either of these documents, you'll need to provide 2 other acceptable forms of evidence of identity such as:

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

If neither of the documents you provide has a photo, you'll also need to provide a verified image.

See *Identification for driver licensing (Factsheet 20)* for more information and a full list of acceptable identity documents, or go to www.nzta.govt.nz/identification

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

Evidence of name change

If you want to change the name on your licence or if the name on your identity documents isn't the same as the name on your licence, you'll need to bring acceptable evidence of name change.

This must be an original (not a copy) of one of the following that was issued in New Zealand:

- your marriage or civil union certificate
- copy of particulars of marriage or civil union
- 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 registered with the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Eyesight requirements

You must prove that your eyesight is up to standard each time you apply for a new licence class. You can:

- pass an eyesight screening check at a driver licensing agent, or
- present an original eyesight or medical certificate no more than 60 days old and issued by a New Zealand-registered optometrist or health practitioner.

If you don't pass the eyesight screening check at the agent, you'll need to provide a certificate instead.

If you have sight in only one eye, or have only one eye (monocular vision) you'll need to present an eyesight certificate.

What it costs

You pay an application fee for each licence stage.

Licence stage	Cost
Learner licence	\$90.60
Restricted licence	\$54.20
Full licence	\$47.40

You don't have to pay separate test fees. It's free to change, cancel or rebook tests if you need to.

Booking a practical riding test

The practical riding tests assess your ability to demonstrate your knowledge of road rules and safe riding practices.

Make sure you get lots of practise before you sit a practical test. We recommend at least 120 hours if you have a learner licence.

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

- at www.nzta.govt.nz/online, or
- at a driver licensing agent.

If you book online, allow extra time

Allow an extra 30 minutes before your test, or visit a driver licensing agent the day before, to complete the application requirements (eg having your photo taken and eyesight checked).

Check what time the agent opens

Check what time the licensing agent opens on the day of your test. If your test is early in the morning and the agent isn't open, you won't be able to complete the application requirements. You'll need to visit an agent on a day before your test.

Check the test location

Not all test sites have driver licensing agents. If your test is booked at a testing-only site, you'll 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 want to change or cancel your *theory* test, please visit a driver licensing agent as soon as possible.

If you want to change or cancel your *practical* test, you can do this online or at an agent.

www.nzta.govt.nz/online

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 need to pass the theory test is in *The official New Zealand road code for motorcyclists*. You can get it from many bookstores and driver licensing agents, or find it online. www.nzta.govt.nz/roadcode

Passing your practical tests

The restricted and full tests are practical riding tests that assess your ability to demonstrate your knowledge of road rules and safe riding practices.

Be on time

The test can't be rushed. If you're late, your test will be cancelled and you'll have to rebook – see *Changing or cancelling your test*.

Take your driver licence

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 and will need to rebook.

Pre-drive vehicle check

The testing officer will look over your motorcycle before the test to ensure it's roadworthy.

They'll check things like the tyres, indicators and brakelights.

They'll also make sure your vehicle has a current warrant of fitness (WoF) or certificate of fitness (CoF) and a valid licence label.

If your vehicle isn't roadworthy, you won't be able to take the test, (even if it has a current WoF or CoF) and you'll need to rebook.

Motorcycles with trade plates can't be used to sit a practical test.

Further information

You can find a test day checklist and more information about how to prepare for the test in the road code and on our website. www.nzta.govt.nz/motorcycle-test-checklist

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 made and sent to you. You should receive it within 10 working days.

Competency based training and assessment (CBTA)

The competency based training and assessment option is an alternative path through the restricted and full licence stages.

Successfully completing a CBTA course means you won't have to meet some of the graduated licensing system requirements.

For a list of approved assessors go to www.nzta.govt.nz/cbta

Restricted CBTA course certificate

You can complete a 6R CBTA course with a Waka Kotahi approved assessor any time after you've got your learner motorcycle licence. Once you've passed you'll get 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 6 month minimum time period, or
- sit and pass a practical test at the agent.

You'll still need to pay the restricted licence application fee and you 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 Waka Kotahi approved assessor after you've held your restricted motorcycle licence for 9 months. Once you've passed you'll get your 6F CBTA certificate.

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

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

You'll still need to pay the full licence application fee.

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

Learner approved motorcycle scheme (LAMS)

You can only do class 6 tests or assessments on a LAMS-approved motorcycle.

LAMS lists a range of motorcycles appropriate for learner and restricted class 6 licence holders, based on their level of experience. The scheme determines appropriate motorcycles

based on the overall performance capability of the motorcycle.
For a full list of approved and prohibited motorcycles, along with more information about LAMS, go to www.nzta.govt.nz/lams

Rider responsibility

It's your responsibility to make sure you're always a safe rider. This includes keeping up-to-date with the road rules, managing any medical conditions that may affect your riding, and not riding under the influence of alcohol or prescription or illegal drugs that may affect your driving.

Carry your driver licence

You're legally required to carry your licence at all times while driving, and present it when an enforcement officer asks for it. If you don't, you can be fined instantly.

Don't ride under the influence of alcohol

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.

Legal alcohol limits

If you're under 20 years old, there's a zero alcohol limit. This means if you ride after 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.

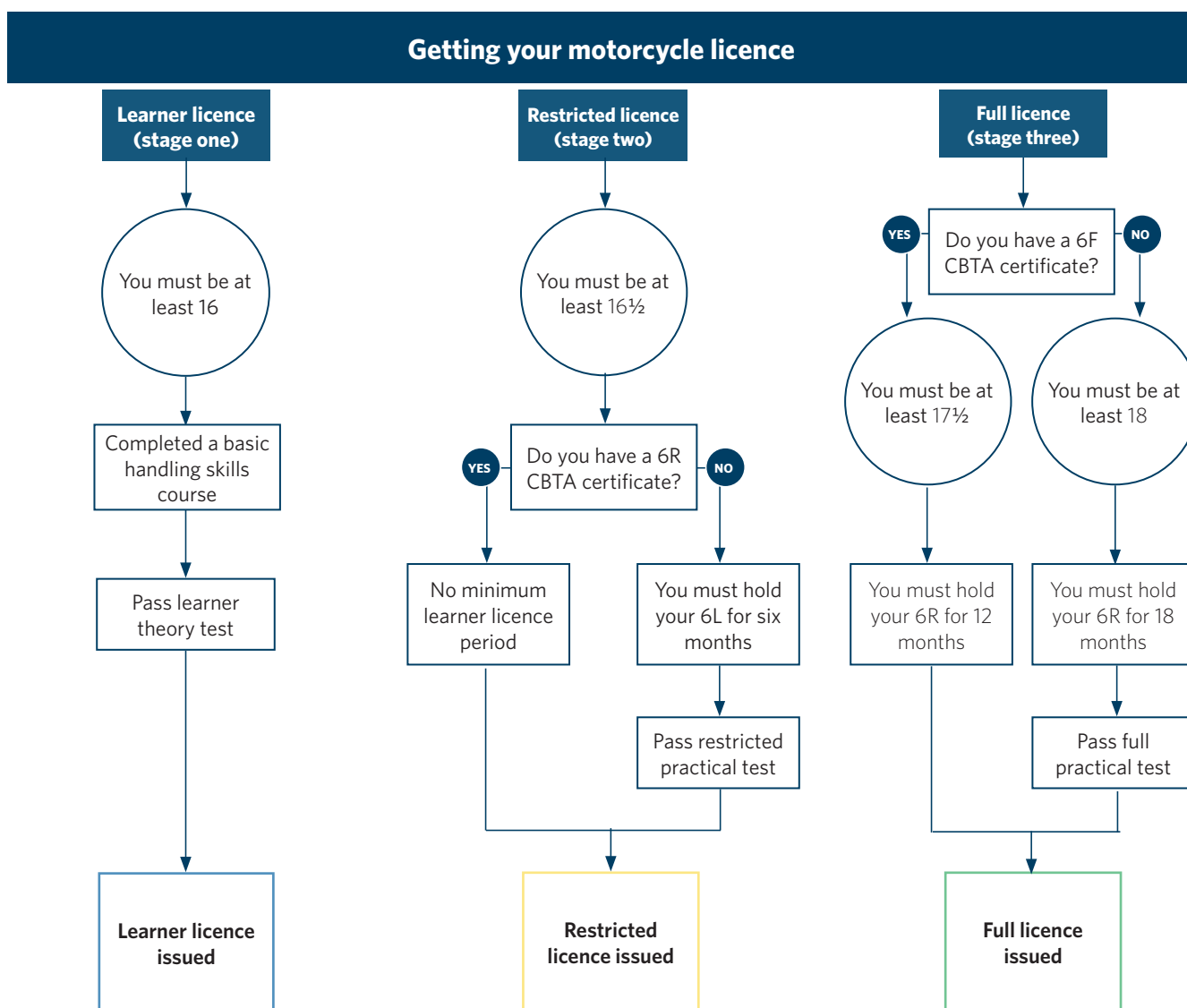
Don't ride under the influence of drugs

It's illegal to drive, or attempt to drive, 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 law also says you must not drive if you've taken any of 25 specific drugs above the legal limit for driving. These drugs could be ingredients in a range of prescription medications or illegal drug products.

www.nzta.govt.nz/drugs-and-driving

If you're unsure whether your medication may affect your ability to drive, or if you're experiencing any side-effects, the best advice is: don't drive.



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

www.nzta.govt.nz

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