

# Learning to ride

## Getting your motorcycle licence

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 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.

Go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/bhst](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/bhst) 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 can't 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](http://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), or
- Vehicle Testing New Zealand (VTNZ).

Go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/agent](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/agent) or look in the *Yellow pages* to find a branch near you.

## 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.

### How to get your learner licence

You must apply at a driver licensing agent and:

- fill out an application form (DL1) - you can download the form online at [www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL1](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/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 photo taken and provide a signature
- present your motorcycle competency certificate or basic handling skills certificate
- pass the learner licence theory test (see the *Passing your theory test* section).

### How much does it cost?

Basic handling skills test	Check with provider
Learner licence application fee	\$48.20
Learner licence test fee	\$45.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$93.90</b>

### 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](http://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're ready you can apply for your restricted licence.

If you don't progress during the five-year period, your learner licence will expire. You'll need to pass a theory test 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're going to sit a practical test, you must have held a current learner licence for at least six months.

If you're presenting a 6R CBTA certificate (see the *Competency based training assessment (CBTA)* section) this minimum period doesn't apply.

### How to get your restricted licence

You must apply at a driver licensing agent and:

- fill out an application form (DL1) - you can download the form online at [www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL1](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/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 photo taken and provide a signature

You'll 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, 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).

### How much does it cost?

Restricted licence application fee	\$48.20
Restricted licence test fee	\$86.60*
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$134.80</b>

\*You don't need to sit a test or pay a test fee if you're presenting a CBTA certificate for your 6R licence.

If you fail a test, you'll need to pay another test fee when rebooking. You won't be charged another application fee.

### 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](http://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're ready you can apply for your full licence.

If you don't progress during the five-year period, your restricted licence will expire. You'll need to pass a theory test before your restricted licence can be issued for a further five years.

## Stage 3 – full licence (6F)

To apply for your full licence and sit your practical full 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 (see the *CBTA* section) the minimum age is reduced to 17½ and you must have held your restricted licence for at least 12 months.

## How to get your full licence

You must apply at a driver licensing agent and:

- fill out an application form (DL1) - you can download the form online at [www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL1](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/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 photo taken and provide a signature

You'll 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, 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).

### How much does it cost?

Full licence application fee	\$49.60
Full licence test fee	\$59.90*
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$109.50</b>

\*You don't need to sit a test or pay a test fee if you're presenting a CBTA certificate for your 6R or 6F licence.

If you fail a test, you'll need to pay another test fee when rebooking. You won't be charged another application fee.

## 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 could use your:

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

If you don't have either of these documents you'll 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'll also need to provide a verified image. See Factsheet 20: *Identification for driver licensing* for more 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 isn't the same as the name on your licence, you'll need 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 issued by Births, Deaths and Marriages confirming the name change.

## Eyesight requirements

You must prove that your eyesight is up to standard. You can:

- pass an eyesight screening check at a driver licensing agent, or
- present a satisfactory eyesight certificate or medical certificate (no more than 60 days old).

The certificate must be issued by a New Zealand registered optometrist or health practitioner, for example your usual doctor (GP), a registered nurse or nurse practitioner, or a specialist if appropriate. 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.

## Tests

### Booking a practical driving test

Make sure you're ready for your practical test.

The restricted and full tests are tough tests that assess your riding skills. We recommend 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](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/online), or
- at a driver licensing agent.

If you book online, you must allow an extra 30 minutes prior to your test to complete the application requirements (eg have 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 isn't open you won't be able to complete the requirements listed above. This means you'll 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'll need to visit a driver licensing agent at another location to complete the application requirements.

### Changing or cancelling your test

If you've booked a theory or practical test and want to change or cancel your test, you'll have to pay a further fee. Go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/online](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/online) to change your test.

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'll 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 won't 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 if 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 download a refund application form (DL13) online at [www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL13](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL13) or by calling us 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](http://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](http://www.roadcodepractice.co.nz).

## Passing your practical test

### Carry your driver licence

Make sure your driver licence is current and 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're using a current temporary licence, you'll also need to bring acceptable photo 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 [www.nzta.govt.nz/practical-tests](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/practical-tests).

### Pre-drive motorcycle check

The testing officer will look over your motorcycle before the test to make sure it's 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 can't be used to sit a practical driving test.

### After the test

After you pass the test you'll be given a temporary licence to use while your photo driver licence is manufactured and mailed to you, which will take up to 10 days.

## 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.

Go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/cbta](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/cbta) for a list of approved assessors.

### 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. Once you've passed you'll 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'll 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 after you've held your restricted motorcycle licence for 9 months. Once you've passed you'll be issued with 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, and
- not need to pay the full licence practical test fee.\*

For more information go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/cbta](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/cbta).

\*You'll still need to pay the restricted or full licence application fee.

## Learner approved motorcycle scheme (LAMS approved motorcycles)

Any class 6 test or assessment must be undertaken on a LAMS-approved motorcycle.

LAMS identifies 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](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/lams).

## Rider responsibility

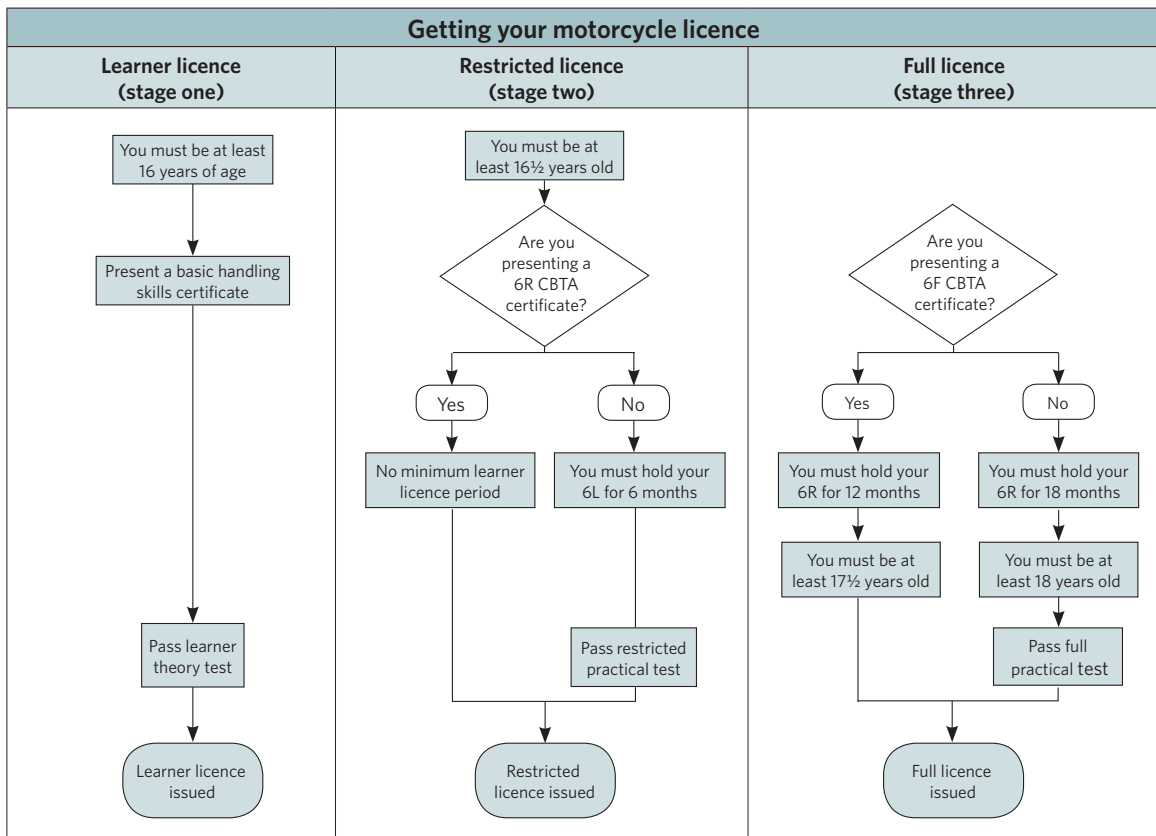
You must have your licence with you at all times while riding as the law requires that you must produce your licence immediately, when requested by an enforcement officer. Failure to do so can result in an instant fine.

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](http://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](http://www.nzta.govt.nz).
- Email us: [info@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:info@nzta.govt.nz).
- Write to us: NZ Transport Agency, Private Bag 11777, Palmerston North 4442.