

Older drivers

Licence renewal

This factsheet explains what older drivers need to do to renew their driver licence. It provides helpful information outlining medical requirements and when you may need to do a practical driving test, advises what you need to bring for your renewal and where you need to go.

Older drivers: licence renewal

Drivers must renew their driver licence at age 75, 80 and every two years after that.

When renewing your licence from age 75, your health and vision must be regularly checked, both for your own safety and the safety of other road users. This process is summarised in the diagram below.

Getting a medical certificate

To renew your licence past your 75th birthday you will need to visit your health practitioner to get a *Medical certificate for driver licence*. This could be your usual doctor (GP), a registered nurse or nurse practitioner, or a specialist if appropriate.

Tell your health practitioner the certificate is for your driver licence. You will have to pay for the appointment yourself.

During your appointment your health practitioner will discuss your present state of health with you and test your eyesight.

They will then recommend whether you are:

- medically fit to drive
- medically fit to drive with conditions (eg correcting lenses, time-of-day restriction, distance restriction)
- medically fit to drive subject to passing an on-road safety test
- to be referred to a specialist (eg optometrist or occupational therapist driving assessor - your health practitioner will advise you of the results)
- not medically fit to drive. Your health practitioner must advise the NZ Transport Agency and your licence will expire on your birthday.

If your health practitioner decides you are medically fit to drive, he or she will provide you with a *Medical certificate for driver licence*.

Licence renewal process

When turning 75, 80 and every second birthday after that, you must obtain a Medical certificate for driver licence from a health practitioner

Your health practitioner decides that you are either:

medically fit to drive

medically fit to drive with conditions

medically fit to drive subject to passing an on-road safety test

medically fit to drive following confirmation from a specialist

not medically fit to drive

pass

fail

pass

fail

driver licence renewed at a driver licensing agent

driver licence will expire on your next birthday, as shown on your driver licence

What you need to do

Once you have your medical certificate, you will then need to visit a driver licensing agent with:

- your *Application for renewal of driver licence* form (a blank form will be sent to you by the Transport Agency with your renewal pack. If you didn't receive a form – for example, because we don't have your current address details – you can fill in a form (DL1) at the driver licensing agent)
- evidence of your identity - this can be your New Zealand photo driver licence (which must be current or expired up to two years) or your current New Zealand passport, or two other acceptable forms of identity (see Factsheet 20 *Identification for driver licensing* for further information and a full list of identity documents).
- a *Medical certificate for driver licence* which is no more than 60 days old
- the driver licence application renewal fee of \$18.70.

If you are required to sit an on-road safety test you will need to pay an additional \$41.80 test fee (see The on-road safety test section below).

A new photograph must be taken and your signature recorded when you renew your licence from age 75, 86 and every 10 years afterwards.

Note: you can have a new image taken and new signature captured as part of an earlier renewal if you wish.

Once you have completed the application process, the licensing agent will issue you a temporary driver licence. Your new photo driver licence will be posted to your mailing address.

The on-road safety test

If your health practitioner decides you are medically fit to drive, but is unsure about your ability to drive safely, they may issue you with a *Medical certificate for driver licence* enabling you to renew your driver licence, provided you pass an on-road safety test with a testing officer.

You can book this test when you apply to renew your licence, at selected branches of:

- NZ Automobile Association (AA)
- Vehicle Testing New Zealand (VTNZ).

You can also book the test online at www.nzta.govt.nz/online.

For more information, refer to the *Guide to the on-road safety test* available online at www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/on-road-safety-test/ or by calling 0800 822 422.

If you have booked an on-road safety test and can't make the appointment, you can change your test at www.nzta.govt.nz/ online or go to your driver licensing agent.

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) or call us on 0800 822 422.

Changing or cancelling your test

If you want to change or cancel your test, you will have to pay a further fee.

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 date of your appointment, you will need to pay a rescheduling fee of \$16.40.

This is a regulated fee to cover the time taken and costs incurred when a test is cancelled or rescheduled.

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 will not pay a rescheduling fee but will need to pay a further test fee. This further test fee is not refundable.

You may be eligible for a refund of the first test fee paid where the cancelled test time was subsequently filled by another person. If the test fee is refunded, a processing fee of \$16.40 will be deducted.

Refreshing your knowledge

Education resources are available to help senior road users stay safe behind the wheel for as many years as possible.

Information and interactive activities for people aged 70 years and over are available free on our website at www.nzta.govt.nz/senior-drivers.

There you will find:

- basic facts about senior road users including examples of common older driver crash situations
- a 'Seniors driving safely' section where you can check how you're doing with a self-assessment rating form to help you assess your driving skills. This section also contains safety videos and information on choosing safe vehicles for senior drivers
- information on using public transport and alternative transport schemes. You can download or read online a copy of *Keeping moving - the positive guide for senior road users*
- information about cycling, walking and using a mobility scooter.

Staying safe

Staying safe: a refresher workshop for senior road users is a classroom based workshop that aims to maintain and improve safe driving practices.

During the workshop you will re-familiarise yourself with traffic rules as well as increase knowledge about other transport options available to keep you mobile for as long as possible. To see if workshops are available in your area, see www.nzta.govt.nz/senior-drivers or call 0800 822 422.

Contact details

- Call our contact centre: 0800 822 422.
- Visit our website: www.nzta.govt.nz.
- Email us: info@nzta.govt.nz.
- Write to us: NZ Transport Agency, Private Bag 11777, Palmerston North 4442.