

14. Drivers Licence



Interstate and New Zealand Drivers - Licences

Do I need to convert my licence to a Victorian licence?

For up to three months after arriving, you can drive in Victoria if you have a current interstate or New Zealand (NZ) licence/ learner permit, even if you are under 18 years of age.

After three months you must change your licence to a Victorian driver licence.

You must be 18 years of age to apply for a licence in Victoria. No age exemptions apply.

If you have a current ban (suspension, disqualification or cancellation) on your licence/learner permit as a result of a driving offence, demerit points, medical reasons or due to unpaid fines, you will not be able to convert your licence/learner permit over, until your ban is over.

How do I convert my licence to a Victorian licence?

Conversion of an interstate or NZ licence/ learner permit to a Victorian licence or permit will be conducted by appointment only. To make an appointment contact:

- VicRoads by calling 13 11 71 (Mon-Fri 8.30am - 5.00pm, Sat 8.30am - 2.00pm), or
- TTY (for hearing and speech impaired) on 1300 652 321

Please note that if you are more than five (5) minutes late for your appointment, you will be required to transfer your appointment to the next available timeslot and pay another appointment fee.

At the time of your appointment you must provide:

- Evidence of identity documents
- Completed VicRoads Licence/Learner Permit application form
- Court Order (if required, for a previous Victorian drink drive offence)
- Your interstate or NZ licence/learner permit

VicRoads must verify your licence details from another State/Territory prior to transferring your licence, this can take up to 48 hours.

Surrender of interstate or New Zealand Licence and Permit

When you are issued with a Victorian driver licence you must surrender your interstate or New Zealand licence and/or permit or have it invalidated for use in Victoria.

Test Requirements

If your interstate or NZ licence is **current** or has **expired by less than five years** you will not need to undertake a test.

If your interstate or NZ licence has **expired by five or more years** you will need to undertake a knowledge test and a driving assessment at a VicRoads office.

You should study the "Road to Solo Driving" handbook to prepare you for the test. This is available from VicRoads Customer Service Centre, attached in this document, RACV offices, some newsagents and bookshops and is available in 9 languages.

References:



If a test is NOT required

Call VicRoads on 13 11 71 (Mon-Fri 8.30am - 5.00pm, Sat 8.30am - 2.00pm) to make an appointment to attend a VicRoads Customer Service Centre. There is no charge for the appointment.

At your appointment, hand your current licence to the Customer Service Centre and provide evidence of your identity (see below), you will then be issued with a Victorian licence.

If a test IS required

Call VicRoads on 13 11 71 (Mon-Fri 8.30am - 5.00pm, Sat 8.30am - 2.00pm) to make an appointment. You can pay the appointment and test fees by credit card (Visa or Mastercard) at the time you make the appointment.

If payment is not made over the phone, the payment must be finalised within seven days or the appointment will be cancelled. Payment can be made by cheque or in person at the VicRoads Customer Service Centre where your appointment is scheduled.

If you want to change an appointment you will need to pay another appointment fee. The test fee can be transferred to a new time (or refunded if the test is cancelled) if 24 hours notice is given.

Test Vehicle

VicRoads does not provide vehicles for drive tests. You need to ensure the vehicle you will be using meets the conditions of the vehicle allowed for driving tests.

Evidence of Identity

To convert your licence to a Victorian licence you will need to provide **original** evidence of identity documents. You must provide:

- Your interstate or NZ licence
- One primary evidence document (e.g. passport, Australian photo driver licence/permit)
- One secondary evidence document (e.g. Medicare card, phone bill)
- Evidence of Victorian residence if not on secondary evidence document (e.g. bank statement, utility bill)

One of these documents must have your signature on it.

Eligibility to qualify for a full Victorian licence

You must have held an interstate or NZ licence for at least three years from your 18th birthday to obtain a full Victorian licence. Any period where you have been disqualified from driving either in Victoria, interstate or in NZ, is excluded when calculating the period of time you have held a licence. If you have held a driver licence for three years or more, but have no evidence of this, you will need to make a declaration stating such on your application form.

Fees

There is no charge for a conversion from a current interstate licence. Your new Victorian licence will keep the same expiry date as your interstate licence.

If you have a New Zealand licence or an expired interstate licence you need to pay for a Victorian licence, refer to driver licence and learner permit fees.

If you need an appointment and are required to undertake a test, you will need to pay an appointment and test fee, refer to driver licence and learner permit fees. There are no fee concessions available for appointment, test or licence fees.

References:

Eligibility to qualify for a Victorian licence

You must be at least **18 years of age** to obtain a Victorian driver licence. No age exemptions apply.

Full Victorian driver licence

You must have held and provide evidence that you have held a licence for at least three years from your 18th birthday to obtain a full Victorian licence. Any period where you have been disqualified from driving either in Victoria, interstate or in NZ, is excluded when calculating the period of time you have held a licence.

Probationary Victorian driver licence

You must have held and provide evidence that you have held a licence and be at least 18 years of age.

Licence Translations

If your licence is in a language other than English, it must be accompanied by an English translation. The translation is at your own cost.

VicRoads only accepts translations completed by:

- A NAATI accredited (any level) translator, or
- An official translation from the country of origin, or
- Appropriate consulate in Australia.

An International Driver Permit is acceptable as a translation of a driver licence.

How to apply - Victorian driver licence test

To obtain Victorian driver licence (full or probationary) you need to make an appointment to undertake a road law knowledge test, hazard perception test (HPT) eyesight test and a driving assessment (except as noted below) at a VicRoads Customer Service Centre. You must complete and pass the road law knowledge test and hazard perception test before you attempt the driving assessment.

Exemptions from licence tests

If you hold a driver licence from one of the following countries you are not required to undertake any tests provided your overseas licence is current or not expired by more than five years. However, you still need to make an appointment to changeover your licence if you are from a recognised country.

However, if your overseas licence includes a heavy vehicle category (e.g. truck or bus licence), you must still complete a full heavy vehicle licence test to convert it to the equivalent heavy vehicle category in Victoria. Read more about what you need to do to get a Heavy vehicle licence.

Heavy Vehicle Licence

To drive a truck or bus that is greater than 4.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass, you need a heavy vehicle endorsement.

Eligibility

To obtain a heavy vehicle endorsement you must be at least 18 years of age. There are five categories of heavy vehicle endorsements. The category you are eligible for will depend on how long you have held your car driver licence and, for some categories, how long you have held a heavy vehicle endorsement in a lower category. To find out more about heavy vehicle categories and eligibility criteria, refer to [Types of licences](#).

References:

Make an appointment for your test

To make an appointment:

- Call VicRoads on 13 11 71 (Mon-Fri 8.30am - 5.00pm, Sat 8.30am - 2.00pm). You can pay by credit card (Visa or Mastercard); or
- Visit a VicRoads Customer Service Centre. You can pay by cash, cheque, EFTPOS or credit card.

You can book the driving test and knowledge tests for separate days if you wish.

If payment is not made over the phone, the payment must be finalised within seven days or the appointment will be cancelled. Payment can be made by cheque or in person at the VicRoads Customer Service Centre where your appointment is scheduled.

Important: You must bring the appropriate evidence of identity documents with you when you sit for your learner permit test. If you do not have the appropriate evidence of identity documents, you will forfeit your appointment and test fees.

Canceling or changing your appointment

If you want to change an appointment you will need to pay another appointment fee. The test fee can be transferred to a new time (or refunded if the test is cancelled) if 24 hours notice is given.

Fees

Refer to the driver licence and learner permit fees for the information on the following fees:

- Appointment
- Knowledge test (only when undertaking the knowledge test as part of your overseas licence conversion)
- Hazard perception test
- Driving assessment
- Driver licence card - 10 years or 3 years

There are no concessions available for appointment, test or licence fees.

Evidence of Identity

On the day of your appointment you need to bring **original evidence of identity** documents. You must have:

- Your overseas licence and an English translation
- One primary evidence document (e.g. Australian birth certificate or passport)
- One secondary evidence document with your Victorian address (e.g. credit/account card, phone bill, bank statement)
- Evidence of Victorian address if not included on secondary evidence document (e.g. phone bill, bank statement)

One of these documents must have your signature on it.

If your overseas licence is not available you can provide a letter from either:

- The issuing country's driver licensing authority confirming your licence details, or
- The issuing country's consul in Australia where the consul has verified your licence details with the issuing country's licensing authority

References:

Study material

To prepare for your test you need to study the "Road to Solo Driving" handbook which is available to view online (English, read only version). The handbook is also available in 4 other languages (Chinese - Mandarin, Vietnamese, Turkish, Arabic) and can be purchased from VicRoads online bookshop, VicRoads Customer Service Centres, RACV offices, some newsagents and bookshops.

Test vehicle

VicRoads does not provide vehicles for drive tests. You need to ensure the vehicle you will be using meets the conditions of the vehicle allowed for driving tests.

Knowledge test

The road law knowledge test is available in a number of languages:

Albanian	English	Macedonian	Sinhalese
Arabic	German	Polish	Somali
Cambodian	Greek	Romanian	Spanish
Chinese (Mandarin)	Italian	Russian	Turkish
Croatian	Laotian	Serbian	Vietnamese

If you do not speak one of these languages VicRoads can provide an interpreter at no extra cost to you.

To undertake a sample test please visit:

<http://clt.vicroads.vic.gov.au/>

Returning your overseas licence and permit

When you are issued with a Victorian driver licence you do not need to surrender your overseas licence or permit. The overseas licence or permit will be returned to you.



References:

VicRoads – <http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home>

Image - www.andrewsavory.com