

Important Graduated Driver Licence (GDL) Changes

Effective April 1, 2015, there are some changes to the GDL program you need to be aware of.

In Chapter 1, it was discussed that all new drivers regardless of their age have to work through the *Nova Scotia Graduated Driver Licensing* program. As of April 1, 2015, a third stage of GDL has been added to the program – it is called the *restricted individual* stage.

There will now be three stages of GDL;

- The learner's licence stage (see page 6 of the handbook).
- The newly licensed driver stage (see page 16 and 180).
- The restricted individual stage.

For now, there are no changes to the restrictions associated with the learner's licence or newly licensed driver stages. However, you should be aware that a learner's licence issued after April 1, 2015, will now be good for two years instead of one. Additional changes will happen on April 1, 2016.

Restricted Individuals (called “Class 5R” or “6R” with condition 47)

Once you have completed the requirements to leave the newly licensed stage, you will advance to the restricted individual stage. You will remain in this stage for two full years.

Restrictions

While you have a class 5R or 6R with condition 47, you must comply with two important restrictions:

- 1 Your blood alcohol level must remain at zero.
- 2 You cannot be a supervising driver (previously called an experienced driver) for another driver. This means you cannot teach a driver with a learner's licence to drive. You also cannot be a supervising driver for a newly licensed driver during the curfew hours between midnight and 5:00 am.

No upgrade while a Learner or Newly Licensed Driver

No upgrades to a higher class of licence (1-4) are allowed while in the learner's licence or newly licensed stage, however, upgrades are allowed while in the restricted individual stage.

Exiting the GDL program

You will not exit the GDL program until you have finished the new restricted driver stage. To complete the graduated driver licence program and receive your Class 5 or Class 6 driver's licence, you must do all of the following:



Sample of Class 5R
with condition 47

- Have your newly licensed driver's licence for at least two years.
- Successfully complete an authorized driver training program.
Note: any recognized program completed after October 1, 1994, will be accepted.
- Provide a copy of your graduation certificate, in person or by mail, to any Registry of Motor Vehicles or Access Nova Scotia centre for record purposes.
- Complete the two year driving period after graduating to the restricted individual stage.

If you do not complete the above procedure, you will remain in the GDL program indefinitely. This means that you will continue to be subject to the program restrictions.

You are no longer required to obtain a replacement driver's licence upon graduation from the newly licensed driver or restricted individual stage, however, you may do so if you wish. There is no fee to exchange your licence, provided you choose to use the same photo.

Answers to Some Commonly Asked Questions about the new Restricted Individual Stage

What are the stages of GDL for new drivers?

Each new driver begins as a learner and then progresses to the newly licensed stage for a minimum of 2 years. After exiting the newly licensed stage, the driver will stay in the restricted individual stage for an additional 2 years. While in the GDL program you must have a zero blood alcohol content. This means you cannot have **any** alcohol in your blood while driving.

Stage	To enter stage	Length of time in stage
Stage 1 – Learner (Class 7)	Pass a written test and a vision test.	Minimum of 6 months (3 months with qualifying driver training course); or maximum of licence expiry.
Stage 2 - Newly Licensed (Class 5N)	Pass a road test	Minimum of 2 years; no maximum time.
Stage 3 – Restricted Individual (Condition 47)	Complete a driving course to exit newly licensed stage	2 full years.

How long is a learner's licence valid?

Effective April 1, 2015, all newly issued learner's licences will be valid for a maximum of two years (up from 1 year). You must successfully pass the road test to enter the next GDL stage by that time or rewrite the learner's test. If your learner's licence was issued before April 1, 2015, it will be valid for 1 year.

I have a learner's licence. Who is allowed to teach me to drive?

You must be accompanied by a supervising driver who is sitting in the front passenger seat. A supervising driver is someone who is not a novice driver; meaning they are not enrolled in the GDL program (not a learner, newly licensed or restricted individual with condition 47).

What are the additional GDL changes which will happen April 1, 2016?

Effective April 1, 2016, the minimum waiting period to take the passenger vehicle road test will be increased by 6 months. This means that you will have to wait a minimum of 12 months instead of 6 to take your road test. The waiting period can be reduced to 9 months if you take a qualifying driver training course.