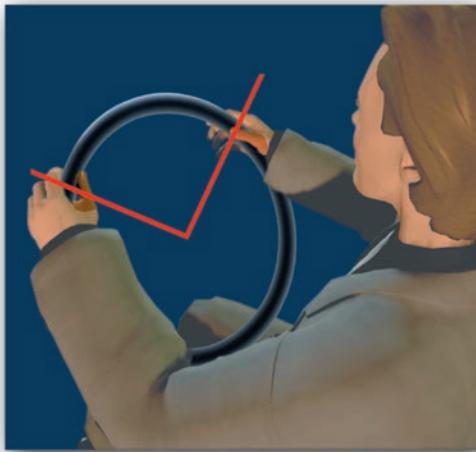


# Your Driver's Licence





This chapter contains information on obtaining and holding a Nova Scotia driver's licence. The Registry of Motor Vehicles, under the authority of the Motor Vehicle Act, issues, renews, and suspends driver's licences. Possession of a driver's licence and the privilege of driving are major responsibilities.

## The Nova Scotia Licensing System

To drive in Nova Scotia, you must have a valid driver's licence, and it must be the right type of licence for the kind of vehicle you want to drive (car, truck, motorcycle, etc.). Nova Scotia has different classes of licences to match different types of vehicles. Since most people drive only passenger vehicles, most of the information in this first section deals with that type of licence, which is called a Class 5 licence.

Nova Scotia also has what is called a Graduated Driver Licensing program (or "GDL" for short), which has 3 levels:

- 1 learner's licence (sometimes called the "beginner's licence")
- 2 newly licensed driver's licence
- 3 driver's licence

All new drivers have to graduate from the first level, and then from the second level, before they can get a regular driver's licence. This way, new drivers gradually gain experience over a period of several years. They move through a series of tests and restrictions on their driving privileges, which are gradually removed as they progress. Finally, when they are experienced enough, they become a fully licensed driver.

This program applies to all new drivers of passenger vehicles in Nova Scotia, whatever your age. A similar program is in place for all new motorcycle operators, including experienced licensed drivers of other classifications.

## Visitors

If you are a visitor to Nova Scotia or a new resident you can drive in this province for up to 90 days without getting a Nova Scotia driver's licence, on two conditions: (1) you must have a valid driver's licence from another jurisdiction (province, state, country, etc.), and (2) you must be at least 16 years old. After 90 days, you have to get a Nova Scotia driver's licence.

**Note:** there is also the question of your vehicle permit and licence plates. If you are a visitor, you can drive a vehicle with out-of-province plates for 90 days; after that, it has to have Nova Scotia plates. If you have actually moved to Nova Scotia, you can drive with out-of-province plates for only 30 days.

## Getting a Nova Scotia Driver's Licence

People who apply for a Nova Scotia driver's licence fall into one of three groups:

- 1 brand new drivers
- 2 drivers who used to have a Nova Scotia driver's licence, but don't now
- 3 visitors and new residents who have an out-of-province driver's licence

### ***Brand new drivers***

*(someone who has never had any kind of driver's licence before)*

In Nova Scotia, all new drivers regardless of their age have to work through the Graduated Driver Licensing program, and start by getting their learner's licence. How to do that is explained later on in this section.

## ***People who used to have a valid Nova Scotia driver's licence, but don't now***

If you are holding an expired Nova Scotia driver's licence that expired less than three years ago, you can get a new one without taking either a written test or a road test.

If your Nova Scotia driver's licence expired more than three years ago, the situation is different. Everything depends upon whether or not you ever had a valid licence for at least two full years. If you didn't, then you are considered a "brand new driver," and just like any other new driver, you will have to go through the full Graduated Driver Licensing program. If you had a valid licence for two full years or more, you will still have to take the written and road tests.

**Road test:** You have to make an appointment in advance to take a road test and you have to pay for it before you can get an appointment. For more information on the road test and how to apply for it, go to page 13 in this book, or use the Internet and visit the section on the road test, newly licensed driver's licence, in the Nova Scotia Permits Directory. The Directory address is <[www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/paal/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/paal/)>.

## ***New Residents***

**Canada:** People from another province or territory of Canada can usually exchange their existing licence for a Nova Scotia driver's licence. You can do this without taking any written tests or a road test, if you meet all of these conditions:

- You are at least 16 years old.
- Your existing licence is valid, that is, not suspended or revoked.

- Your licence is for passenger vehicles only. (If your licence is for larger vehicles, then you will also need to supply a satisfactory medical report. Contact Service Nova Scotia for details.)
- If your licence has expired, it expired less than three years ago.
- If your licence includes a school bus endorsement, then you will have to pass a road test.

**United States of America:** If you are from an American state, the rules are the same as for Canada (above), with one difference:

- If your licence has any conditions attached that might interfere with the safe operation of a vehicle, then you must pass a road test.

**Other Countries:** If your driver's licence is not from Canada or the USA, you cannot usually exchange your licence for a Nova Scotia driver's licence. Instead, you will have to take a vision test, a written test on safety rules, a written test on Nova Scotia traffic signs, and a road test.

## Getting a Learner's Licence (called Class 7)

The first stage in the Nova Scotia Graduated Driver Licensing program is called the learner's licence. This licence is valid for one year.

### *Who can apply?*

Any resident of Nova Scotia who is at least 16 years old.

### *If you are 16 or 17 years old ...*

If you are under 18, you must have written permission to get a learner's licence. This is done through a signed consent form, which you can get from any office of the Registry of Motor Vehicles or Access Nova Scotia centre.

- If you have a parent or a guardian who has custody over you, one of them has to sign.
- If both of your parents are deceased, and you do not have a legal guardian, your employer can sign.
- If you are married and your spouse is over 18, your spouse can sign.

Questions for young adults to consider if they are thinking of applying for a learner's licence:

- When I get angry, am I really good at keeping it under control?
- Am I consistently willing to follow basic rules laid out by authority figures?
- Can I keep my mind focused on what I am doing, or do I tend to get easily distracted?
- Am I prepared to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will make me a safe driver?

## How to Apply for a Learner's Licence

- 1 **Study this driver's handbook.** When you come into our office to apply for your learner's licence, you will be given two written tests (oral tests are given in some cases), a road sign test and a rules test. Each test consists of 20 multiple-choice questions. To pass, you must answer 16 questions correctly. All the information you will need to pass these tests is in this handbook.
- 2 **Arrange to be tested.** Pay the knowledge test fee and obtain a receipt. Testing schedules are different for the various offices across the province. Phone ahead to find out when to come to the nearest testing site. Phone 424-5851 within the Halifax Regional Municipality or toll-free anywhere in Nova Scotia 1-800-898-7668. Generally, written learner testing is done on a first-come, first-served basis. We will make every effort to serve you as quickly and as efficiently as possible.

**3 Come into our office.** Bring the following documents with you:

- proof of your age  
We will accept your birth certificate, Nova Scotia I.D. card, passport, Canadian Citizenship card, Immigration papers (either Record of Landing or Permanent Resident card), Military identification documents, or Certificate of Indian Status card.
- two other pieces of identification that contain your name and signature  
We accept official documents such as credit cards, bank cards, or health cards.
- if your name has changed due to marriage or a formal name change and the name on your Birth Certificate is different than the two pieces of signed ID, you must bring in supporting documentation such as your Marriage Certificate or Change of Name Certificate from Vital Statistics.
- if you are 16 or 17 years old, a signed consent form  
You may bring a signed consent form with you or bring your parent, or other acceptable signee, with you to sign the consent at the time of testing.

**4 Complete an application form.** This is called an Application for Driver's Licence.

**5 Pass a vision test.** This is a screening test to ensure that you meet minimum vision standards. It includes a colour test, a field-of-vision test (minimum 120 degrees), a visual acuity test (minimum 6/12 [20/40] Snellen), and a distance-judgement test. If your vision is not acceptable for driving, then a licence will not be issued. You will be given a form to be completed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist. Once the form is completed, present it to a driver enhancement officer. The specialist's professional opinion and recommendations will be accepted. If you do require visual correction, a licence will not be issued until it has been obtained. If you can only pass the vision test using corrective lenses, your licence will be issued with

the following condition: Valid only while licence holder is wearing proper visual correction.

- 6 **Pass a road sign test.** This tests your ability to recognize and understand the meaning of highway road signs. You must answer 16 of 20 questions correctly.
- 7 **Pass a rules test.** This tests your knowledge of traffic laws and rules for safe driving. You must answer 16 of 20 multiple-choice questions correctly.
- 8 **Pay the licence fee.** Once you have passed all three tests (vision test, road test, rules test), go to the transaction counter and pay the licence fee. You will then be given your learner's licence. As a convenience, you may pay for the road test at the same time. Note: keep your road test receipt. If you lose the receipt or forget to bring it to the road test you will have to purchase another one.



- 9 **Congratulations!** You now have your learner's licence and have become part of the Graduated Driver Licensing program. Learn the conditions under which you may drive and then practise, practise, practise. Remember to always carry your learner's licence with you when you are operating a motor vehicle.

Sample of  
Learner's Licence

## **Expiry**

Your learner's licence is good for one year. If you have not acquired your newly licensed driver's licence (called Class 5N) before the end of the twelfth month, you must then reapply for a learner's licence. However, you will not have to wait an additional three or six months before taking a road test.

## Restrictions

While you hold a learner's licence, you must comply with two important restrictions on your driving:

- 1 You must drive with an experienced driver in the front seat of the vehicle and no other passengers. An experienced driver is someone who has held a valid driver's licence for two years and is no longer in the GDL program.



Don't Drink and  
Drive symbol

- 2 Your blood-alcohol level must remain at zero. That means absolutely no drinking when driving.

If you violate these restrictions, you will receive demerit points. As a learner, if you get four or more demerit points, then your driving privileges will be suspended for six months. The suspension will delay your taking the road test and moving to the newly licensed driver stage. (See pages 28 and 29 for information on demerit points.)

## Becoming a Good Driver

It takes both a safe driving attitude and experience to be a good driver. A safe driving attitude comes from thinking about safety, being cautious, and avoiding unnecessary risks. Through experience, your skills and coordination will improve.

As a good driver, you will

- always wear a seat belt and ensure that your passengers do so
- never drive when you are impaired by alcohol, prescribed medications, or illegal drugs
- think twice about driving when you are tired or too emotional
- keep your vehicle and yourself in good condition  
(See Section 4 on safety.)

If you are going to become a driver, become a good driver.

### ***Be prepared***

- Identify situations that require concentration or reaction.
- Predict what other drivers and pedestrians will do or might do.
- Make safe decisions.

Identifying dangerous situations early improves the chances of making a safe decision. Avoid distractions. Perform safety scans continuously. A European study revealed that if drivers had just one more second to react, 80 per cent of crashes could be avoided.

### ***Learn to control your vehicle***

Professional racing drivers control their vehicles with great precision. For them, even a slight mistake could result in an collision causing injury or even death. You too must learn to control your vehicle with precision. It is very important to begin with good instruction. Often in life learning comes from making mistakes. However, there is no room for error when operating a vehicle.

*Provincial statistics indicate that the Graduated Driver Licensing program has contributed to the downward trend of highway collisions for new drivers in the province of Nova Scotia.  
(Based on evaluation by the Traffic Injury Research Foundation, 2003.)*

## *Driver training programs*

At some point along the way, before you can exit the GDL program and get your regular driver's licence, you will have to take a driver training program that is approved by Service Nova Scotia. You can take either the long course or the short course. The long course involves at least 25 hours of classroom time and at least 10 hours of actual driving time. The short course is 6 hours of classroom time.

Learners, take note: if you take the long course, you can take your road test after only three months (instead of six).

There are also some other advantages:

- You may save money on insurance.
- You learn to drive from a professional instructor.
- You will automatically meet a requirement you need to exit the GDL program and get your regular driver's licence.

## *Tips for safe, fuel-efficient driving*

- **Don't drive aggressively** — quick starts, hard stops, and extreme aggressive driving can increase fuel consumption by up to 39 per cent.
- **Drive at the posted speed limit** — increasing your cruising speed from 100 km/h to 120 km/h will increase fuel consumption by 20 per cent.
- **Don't idle** — when you let your vehicle idle longer than 10 seconds, you burn more fuel than you would restarting the engine.
- **Drive only when you need to** — leave your vehicle at home whenever possible by walking, biking, blading, carpooling, or taking the bus to nearby locations.
- **Plan ahead** — If you have to drive, plan the most fuel-efficient route in advance.

- **Use your vehicle's air conditioner sparingly** — using your air conditioner in stop-and-go traffic can increase fuel consumption by as much as 20 per cent. Try opening the windows or fresh air vents to cool your vehicle.
- **Measure the inflation level of your tires once a month.** A single tire under-inflated by just 56kPa (8psi) can increase your vehicle's fuel consumption by 4 per cent.
- **Use cruise control** — on dry, flat wide-open highways, use cruise control to help improve fuel efficiency by maintaining an even speed.
- **Maintain your vehicle properly** — a poorly maintained vehicle consumes more fuel, produces higher levels of emissions, requires more expensive repairs, and has a lower resale value.

Find out more information at <vehicles.gc.ca>.

## Road Test

Normally, learners have to wait at least six months before they can take a road test. (However, if you pass a long-course driver training program, you have to wait only three months.)

### Steps

- 1 Pay the road test fee and obtain a receipt.
- 2 Make an appointment for the road test by calling our Telephone Information Centre at 424-5851 or toll free outside Metro 1-800-898-7668. You need your road test receipt number when making the appointment.  
Note: Your road test will be cancelled if road or weather conditions are hazardous at the appointed time.
- 3 Bring the following items to your appointment:

- road test receipt—if you lose the receipt or forget to bring it to your road test, you will have to purchase another one
- a vehicle to take the test with. It should be one that you have driven before and that is comfortable and familiar to you. Your vehicle must be in good mechanical condition and must have a valid safety inspection sticker
- your current licence
- the motor vehicle permit for the vehicle you will be driving
- a valid insurance liability card in the name of the registered owner of the vehicle that you will be driving

- 4 Read the instruction sheet provided by the driver enhancement officer before the actual road test.
- 5 The driver enhancement officer will begin by asking for your learner's licence, vehicle permit, and insurance liability card. The driver enhancement officer will then ask you to demonstrate the use of signal lights, horn, brake light, headlights, windshield wipers, and hand signals.
- 6 Listen as the driver enhancement officer explains the test. Follow his or her instructions. During the driving test, do not talk unnecessarily to the driver enhancement officer, who will be busy giving instructions, observing your performance, and recording your score.
- 7 Take the test. During the test, the driver enhancement officer will be observing the following:
  - how well you control the vehicle during starting, stopping, turning, and parking
  - your observation skills, including shoulder checks, when and how often you use your mirrors, and where you look
  - how well you respond to traffic, pavement markings,



signs, and possible hazards

- how well you manage the space around your vehicle
  - your ability to make safe lane changes
  - how closely you follow and stop behind other vehicles
  - how you communicate with other road users, including your use of turn signals and brake lights and whether you make eye contact with other drivers and pedestrians
  - your ability to make good driving decisions, such as knowing when to yield the right of way
  - your speed

- 8 At the end of the test, the driver enhancement officer will give you a complete report of your skills and explain any mistakes you may have made. The driver enhancement officer will tell you if you have passed.

If you do not pass the road test, the driver enhancement officer will advise you on how to improve your driving skills. You should study some more and get more practice. You must wait at least one week before you may take the test again. You must pay another road test fee and book another appointment.

## Sample of Road Test Score Sheet

- 9 If you have passed the road test, the driver enhancement officer will tell you how to exchange your learner's licence for a newly licenced one. Note that there is a time limit to do this.

You must have your driver's licence upgraded within 6 months of passing the road test. Failure to do so will result in you having to complete the road test again.

You will find a sample road test score sheet in the back of this handbook, under Driver's Licence Examination.

## Newly Licensed Drivers (called "Class 5N")

Once you pass the road test, you leave the learner's stage and advance to the newly licensed stage. You remain in this stage for at least two full years.

### ***Restrictions***

While you have a newly licensed driver's licence, you must comply with three important restrictions on your driving:

- 1 Your blood alcohol level must remain at zero.
- 2 Passengers: You may transport only one passenger in the front seat and only as many rear seat passengers as there are seat belts.
- 3 Curfew: You cannot drive between midnight and 5:00 am unless you meet one of the following conditions:
  - You are accompanied by an experienced driver who has held a Class 5 licence for at least two years and is not still in the GDL system. The experienced driver must be in the front seat.
  - You are exempted by Service Nova Scotia/Registry of Motor Vehicles.

## Exemption from nighttime driving curfew

If you are required to drive to and from work between midnight and 5:00 am, you must apply for an exemption from the nighttime driving restriction. There is a fee for this exemption. An application form can be obtained from the Registry of Motor Vehicles or Access Nova Scotia centre.

## No upgrade while in GDL

You cannot apply to upgrade to a higher class of licence (1-4) while in the newly licensed stage.

## Demerit points and suspension

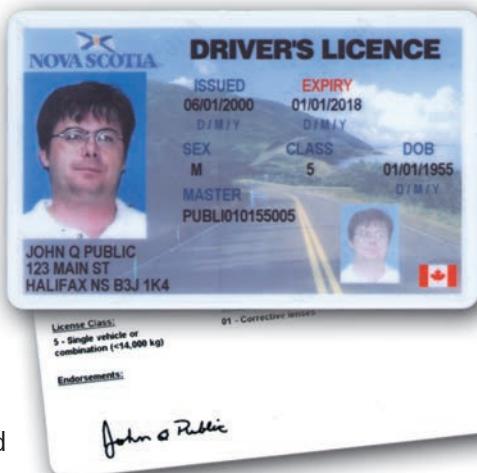
The demerit-point system remains in effect during this stage. If you accumulate six points, then your driving privileges will be suspended for six months. If you are suspended while at the newly licensed stage, then you will not be able to move to experienced driver status for two years from the date your licence is reinstated, nor can your licence be upgraded to a higher class of licence. For more information on demerit points and the point table refer to pages 28 and 29.

## Exiting the GDL program

To complete the graduated driver licensing program and receive your Class 5 experienced driver's licence, you must do all of the following:

- 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.



Sample of  
Class 5 Licence

- 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
- exchange your Class 5N licence for your regular-class licence (Class 5) (No fee is charged for this exchange.)

\* *If you mail in your Class 5N licence you cannot drive until you receive your Class 5 licence back.*

Congratulations! Now all driving restrictions placed on you while driving under the GDL program are lifted.

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

*Public awareness during the initial implementation of the GDL program resulted in a substantial reduction in driver injuries and fatalities for young drivers aged 16 to 21 years. (Based on the Health Information and Education section, Nova Scotia Department of Health, 1995.)*

## Answers to Some Commonly Asked Questions about the GDL Program

**As a learner, do I have to go to a driving school to get my Class 5N licence?**

No.

**Who must participate in the GDL program?**

Any person, regardless of age, who applies for a learner's licence to learn to drive. This includes anyone, including experienced drivers (two years), who applies for a motorcycle licence.

**How long is a learner's licence valid?**

A maximum of one year. You must either pass the road test by that time or rewrite the learner's test. If you must rewrite the learner's test, you are not required to wait an additional three or six months before taking a road test.

## What are the stages of the GDL program for passenger vehicle drivers?

Each new driver begins as a learner (Class 7) and progresses to the next stage, newly licensed driver (Class 5N), before exiting as an experienced driver (Class 5).

Class	To enter stage	Length of time in stage
Learner (Class 7)	Pass a written and a vision test.	At least three months, or six months if no recognized driver course is taken. Must rewrite after twelve months has expired.
Newly Licensed (Class 5N)	Pass a road test.	At least two years. No maximum time.
Experienced (Class 5)	Complete all GDL exit requirements: spend 24 consecutive months in the program with no suspensions; complete a driver training program and register the certificate with the Registry of Motor Vehicles; and turn in your Class 5N licence.	

## I have a learner's licence. Who is allowed to teach me to drive and are there any restrictions?

An experienced licensed driver who has had at least two years of driving experience and is not currently in the GDL program can teach you to drive. The licensed driver must be seated in the front passenger seat and no other passengers can be in the vehicle.

There are exemptions from these restrictions:

- 1 More than one Driver Enhancement Officer may be in a vehicle that is being driven by a person holding a learner's licence.
- 2 When a licensed learner is driving a motor vehicle that is equipped with dual control brake and is accompanied by an instructor approved by Service Nova Scotia, there may be up to three students in the back seat.

It is illegal for a licensed learner to drive a motorcycle or a farm tractor on a public road except when being examined by an examiner.

## When can I take a road test to become a newly licensed driver and get a Class 5N licence?

After a six-month waiting period. You may shorten this period to three months by completing an approved driver-training program that has a minimum of 25 hours of classroom theory and 10 hours of driving time.

## As a newly licensed driver under GDL, how many passengers may I have in my vehicle?

Only one passenger in the front seat and no more passengers in the rear seat than the number of seat belts. For trucks, only one passenger is allowed in the front seat.

## As a newly licensed driver participating in GDL, can I drive on 100-series highways?

Yes. There is no restriction on which highways you may use.

## How long must I remain in the newly licensed or Class 5N stage?

At least two years.

## What must I do to exit the newly licensed stage after the two-year period?

You must do two things: provide proof (in person or by mail) to the Registry of Motor Vehicles or Access Nova Scotia Centre that you completed a recognized driver training program and exchange your Class 5N licence for a regular Class 5 licence. You may mail in your Class 5N licence with a letter of explanation. However, if you mail in your Class 5N licence, you must not drive until you receive your Class 5 licence back. If you drive without your licence in your possession, you will be violating the Motor Vehicle Act.

## Is there a charge for this service?

No fee is charged when you exchange your Class 5N for a Class 5 licence, provided your driver's licence is valid at the time of exchange. If your licence has expired you must pay the renewal fee.

## What happens if I choose not to advance through the program?

You would remain a Class 5N driver and all the restrictions related to that class would apply indefinitely.

## What are the main operating conditions placed on newly licensed drivers in the GDL program?

- Maintain a zero blood alcohol level.
- Drive only between 5 am and midnight.
- Have no more than one passenger in the front seat
- Carry only the number of passengers in the rear seat for which seat belts are available.
- No upgrade to a higher class of licence.

## Are there penalties for violating the GDL program under the Motor Vehicle Act?

Yes. Fines will be levied and demerit points added to your driving record.

If you are convicted of a speeding violation, you could, in addition to any other penalty imposed, lose your driving privileges for one week and accumulate four demerit points on your driving record. You will remain in the GDL program. However, you will receive a letter requiring you to book an interview with a driver enhancement officer. You must attend this interview. If you fail to book an appointment or to attend the interview, your driving privileges could be suspended indefinitely.

If you are convicted of having care and control of a motor vehicle and have a blood alcohol content exceeding 0 milligrams (.00), you will accumulate six demerit points and will lose your driving privileges for six months.

Any time you accumulate six demerit points on your driving record, you will lose your driving privileges for six months. If you lose your driving privileges, you must complete a minimum two-year period as a newly licensed driver from the date your licence is restored or reinstated. This means that if you have held your Class 5N licence for one year and 11 months and your driving privileges are suspended, then you must start the two-year period for newly licensed drivers all over.

## Are there any conditions under which I can operate a vehicle during the midnight-to-5 am driving curfew?

Yes. You may drive during curfew hours if you are accompanied by an experienced driver sitting in the front seat of the vehicle or if you have obtained an exemption from the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

## Do people who hold Class 8 farm tractor licences before October 1994 fall under the GDL program?

Yes. Once a Class 8 licence holder turns 16, that licence is also valid as a learner's licence (Class 7). The holder then falls under the restrictions of the GDL program.

## What happens if I lose my driver-training program certificate?

You must contact the driving school or agency for a replacement certificate. You may have to pay to have it replaced.

## Renewing Your Licence

You must renew your driver's licence every five years. You are responsible for making sure that this is done. Service Nova Scotia will send you a renewal notice approximately two months before your birthday to the address recorded at the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Be sure to keep your address up to date. Bring the renewal notice to any Access Nova Scotia centre or Registry of Motor Vehicles office to have your licence renewed. If you do not receive a renewal notice you must complete an application to renew your driver's licence at any Access Nova Scotia centre or Registry of Motor Vehicle office. Holders of classes 1, 2, 3, and 4 licences must have a completed satisfactory medical upon renewal.

When renewing your driver's licence you must notify the customer service representative of the following:

- any changes in your physical or mental health that might limit or alter your ability to operate a vehicle. Examples of these changes include heart conditions, mental conditions, eye diseases, diabetes, strokes, substance abuse, conditions resulting in the loss of consciousness, and reduction in the use of a limb.
- any revocation or suspension of your licence

If you do not provide this information, then your driving privileges may not be renewed. Read the renewal application carefully before signing it.

If you have not paid all or part of a fine you have incurred plus the costs, the Registrar will refuse to provide further services until the fine and costs have been paid in full. You must pay a \$30 fee to the Registry of Motor Vehicles to reinstate services.

## Losing Your Licence

The possession of a driver's licence is a privilege that may be withdrawn for just cause at any time.

### ***Mandatory revocation***

Your licence or privilege of obtaining a licence will be revoked automatically if you are convicted of any of the following offences:

- failing to stop at the scene of a collision under the Criminal Code of Canada
- causing death or bodily harm due to negligence in the operation of a motor vehicle
- manslaughter resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle
- criminal negligence where you have not caused death or injury
- theft of a motor vehicle or taking a motor vehicle without the consent of the owner
- driving while impaired by alcohol or any drug
- failing or refusing to provide a breath sample
- driving with more than 80 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood

- dangerous driving under the Criminal Code of Canada
- flight from a peace officer under the Criminal Code of Canada
- driving while disqualified due to revocation or suspension of your licence
- making a false affidavit or declaration
- refusing to provide a blood sample
- impaired driving causing death or injury

If you are convicted of any of these offenses, the revocation of your driver's licence will take place, whether or not you receive a notice from the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

If your driver's licence has been revoked as a result of a conviction, it will remain revoked until you file an application to have it restored. You may apply to have your licence restored 30 days before your eligibility date (except where the revocation was for an alcohol-related offence). The application must be accompanied by the applicable fees (if your licence or driving privilege was revoked for an alcohol-related offence, the applicable fees may be higher).

If your driver's licence has been suspended or revoked for an alcohol-related driving offence, you must attend an Alcohol Assessment Program before you can get your driving privileges back. The Alcohol Assessment Program is sponsored by Addiction Services of the District Health Authority.

If you are convicted under the Criminal Code of Canada, the court will impose a prohibition order against driving a motor vehicle anywhere in Canada. This may be for a different period than the revocation period imposed under the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act.

## Suspension without conviction

Your licence or privilege of obtaining a licence may be suspended without conviction if the Registrar has reason to believe that you

- have committed an offence that would result in mandatory revocation
- have caused or contributed to a collision that resulted in death, injury, or serious property damage by reckless or unlawful driving
- are incompetent to drive or have mental or physical disabilities that could cause you to drive unsafely
- are an habitual reckless or negligent driver
- have committed a serious violation of the Motor Vehicle Act or of the provisions of the Criminal Code of Canada relating to motor vehicles
- have operated a vehicle while the vehicle was being used for unlawful purposes
- are an habitual violator of the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act

Your licence may also be suspended if you

- lend your licence
- use another person's licence
- fail to obey restrictions imposed on your licence
- take a driver's test to obtain a licence for another person

The Registrar may suspend or revoke your driver's licence if

- a court, judge, or justice recommends it
- you fail or refuse to submit to an examination when required to do so
- you fail to provide information as requested
- you fail to take a driver training program when required
- you fail to successfully complete a driver training program when required
- you fail to submit a medical report from a qualified medical practitioner

The Registrar may also suspend or cancel the registration of a vehicle and may suspend or revoke any permit

- when the Department determines that the vehicle is unsafe or unfit to be operated or is not equipped as required by law
- when the vehicle is used for any unlawful purpose
- when the owner allows the vehicle to be used by another person who is not entitled to drive it
- when the driver's licence of the owner has been suspended or revoked

### ***Court-imposed suspension***

Your licence may be suspended by the court or magistrate if you are convicted of a violation under the Motor Vehicle Act. The suspension will be in addition to any fine that may be imposed. The period of suspension will vary according to the type of violation, and it depends on whether this is a first, second, third, or subsequent offence. Check the Motor Vehicle Act or the Criminal Code of Canada for suspension periods.

### ***By accumulating too many demerit points***

Demerit points are assigned to your driver's record if you are convicted of certain offences under the Motor Vehicle Act. These points remain on your driver's record for two years from the date of conviction. Points will be assigned to your record even if you did not have a licence at the time of the offense, or if you had an out-of-province licence. A record will be created and notice of the conviction will be sent to the proper province. If you are convicted in another province and that province sends the Registrar the conviction, it will be entered on your Nova Scotia driving record and the demerit points will be assigned as if the same offence occurred in Nova Scotia.



## Demerit Points

The following table shows the number of demerit points assigned for convictions under various sections of the Motor Vehicle Act.

Conviction	Section(s)	Violated Number of Points
Careless and imprudent driving	100	6
Speeding or dangerous driving	101	6
Failing to stop at an accident or to perform any duty imposed by Section 97	97	6
Racing	163	6
Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) exceeds .00 (Zero)	100A(1)	6
Failing to comply with demand	100A(4)	6
Passing school bus	103(3)	6
Failing to obey a crossing guard	125A	6
Improper passing	114, 115(1)(a)	4
Speeding in excess of speed limit	102	4

Conviction	Section(s)	Violated Number of Points
Speeding in excess of posted limit – school area	103(1)	4
Speeding in excess of posted limit between 1 & 15 km/hr inclusive	106A(a)	2
Speeding in excess of posted limit between 16 & 30 km/hr inclusive	106A(b)	3
Speeding in excess of posted limit by 31 km/hr or more	106A(c)	4
Failing to yield to a pedestrian	125(1), 125(2)	4
Failing to obey a traffic control person	107B	4
Failing to obey traffic signs or signals or yield right of way	83(2), 93(2), 122, 132, 133, 134	2
Driving to the left of centre line	110, 115(1)(b), 115(1)(c), 115(2)	2
Operating motor vehicle without adequate brakes	181	2



Conviction	Section(s)	Violated Number of Points
Offences involving the use of a motor vehicle in motion under the following sections	70, 70A, 70B, 75(5), 107, 111, 112, 117, 118, 119, 120, 123, 164, 165, 169(2), 175(2), 175(3), 175(4), 178, 185	2

This table shows how the assignment of points would affect you.

Warning Letter	Interview <sup>+</sup>	6-month suspension
Learner's Stage	2 points	4 points
Newly Licensed Driver's Licence	2	4
All Others	4	6
		10

<sup>+</sup>If you are required to come in for an interview with a driver enhancement officer, you will be fully tested again, including a road test.

## ***Probationary licence***

If your driver's licence has been suspended because you have accumulated too many demerit points, then you will be issued a probationary licence once the suspension is over. The probationary licence will last for one year from your date of application. If during the life of the probationary licence you receive three new demerit points, then your licence will be suspended for a further six months.

## ***Removing demerit points from your driving record***

If you are an experienced driver (Classes 1-5), you may have demerit points removed from your driving record by successfully completing a recognized defensive-driving course. You must have completed the course within the last year. The Registrar may deduct up to four points in a five-year period, depending on your situation. This applies to points entered and still existing on your driving record at the time the Registrar makes a decision. Points will not be deducted if your licence has been suspended, you hold a probationary licence, or you owe fines. Newly licensed drivers (Class 5N) and holders of Class 7 or 8 licences are not eligible for point deduction.

## ***Applying for a conditional driver's licence***

If your licence has been suspended because of point accumulation, you may apply to the Registrar for a conditional driver's licence. This does not apply if you are a learner or if you hold a probationary licence. The conditional driver's licence allows you to drive at certain times or in certain places. If you accumulate any points while on a conditional licence or if you violate the driving conditions, then your conditional licence will be cancelled. No further licence will be issued to you until the original period of suspension has expired.

To apply for a conditional driver's licence, you must submit non-refundable applicable fees in addition to the applicable restoration fees.

### *Applying to have your driver's licence restored*

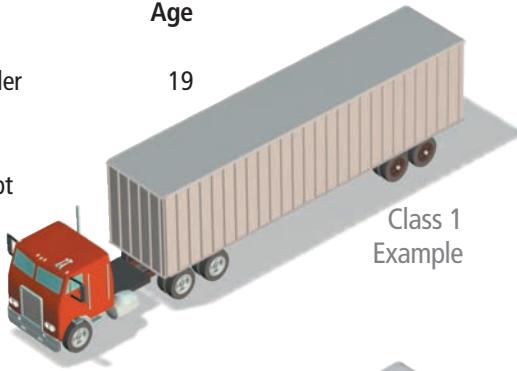
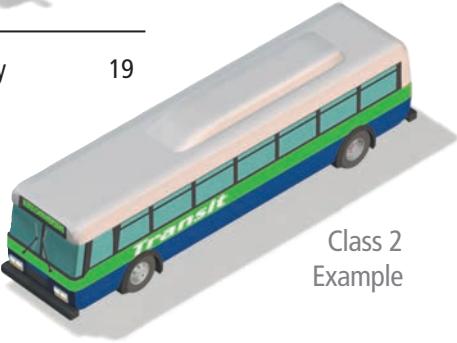
To have your licence restored after a suspension, you must submit a Notice of Application for Restoration and pay the required fees. You may apply 30 days before the expiry of your suspension date. You will be notified in writing of any further action required.

## Driver Enhancement Re-examinations

The Registrar may require that your physical condition or driving ability be re-examined at any time. This would normally come about because of a questionable driving record, due to such things as collisions and convictions. If a medical condition appears to be contributing to your driving problems, a medical report may be required. This medical report may be reviewed by the Medical Advisory Committee on Driver Licensing and its recommendation is given to the Registrar.



## Classes of Driver's Licences

Licence Class	Permits the Licence Holder to Operate	Minimum Age
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• semi-trailer and tractor trailer combinations</li><li>• all types of vehicles in Classes 2,3,4,5 and 8 except school buses</li></ul>	19
		<p>Class 1 Example</p>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• vehicles having a seating capacity of more than 24 passengers</li><li>• all types of vehicles in Classes 3,4,5, and 8 except school buses</li></ul>	19
		<p>Class 2 Example</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• any single vehicle over 14,000 kg (30,864 lbs) gross vehicle weight (G.V.W.)</li><li>• any combination of vehicles (other than semi-trailer or tractor trailer combinations over 14,000 kg) G.V.W. where the towed vehicle in that combination does not exceed a G.V.W. of 4,500 kg (10,000 lbs)</li><li>• all types of vehicles in Classes 4, 5, and 8 except school buses</li></ul>	18
		<p>Class 3 Example</p>



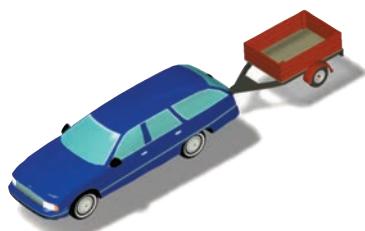
Licence Class	Permits the Licence Holder to Operate	Minimum Age
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4

- buses under 24 passengers (except school buses), taxis, and ambulances
- commercial vans as defined under the Motor Carrier Act and regulations
- all types of vehicles in Classes 5 and 8 except school buses
- must be at least 19 years of age to operate a public passenger vehicle

18

### Class 4 Examples

5 and  
5N

- any single vehicle not exceeding 14,000 kg (30,864 lbs) G.V.W. which includes vans having a seating capacity of 10 or more

16 with  
parental  
approval

and less than 24

- any combination of vehicles (other than semi-trailers or tractor trailer combinations) not exceeding in combination a G.V.W. of 14,000 kg (30,864 lbs), and the towed vehicles in that combination not exceeding a G.V.W. of 4,500kg (10,000 lbs)
- vehicles in Class 8

### Class 5 and 5N Examples

Licence Class	Permits the Licence Holder to Operate	Minimum Age
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>motorcycles and motor-driven cycles and vehicles in Class 8</li></ul>	16 with parental approval
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a learner's licence is valid only if the learner is accompanied by an experienced driver (2 years experience and not in the GDL program) who is a holder of a Class 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 valid driver's licence for the type of vehicle being operated</li></ul>	16 with parental approval
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>farm tractors</li><li>from age 16 and also valid as a Class 7 learner's licence</li></ul>	14 with parental approval



Class 6 Example



Class 7 Example



Class 8 Example

All commercial drivers must file a medical report upon initial application, then upon renewal until the age of 64, and then annually thereafter.

Road tests must be taken in the correct vehicle type in order to get appropriate class endorsement.



## ***Endorsements: Permission to drive additional vehicles***

To show that you are qualified to drive various classes of vehicles, endorsements are added to your license. A letter will appear next to the class of license. This letter indicates which additional classes of vehicles you may operate. Letters A through E represent the respective vehicle types:

- Endorsement (A) valid for any motorcycle
- Endorsement (B) valid for school bus
- Endorsement (C) valid for motorcycle and school bus
- Endorsement (D) valid only for small motorcycle  
(engine size 100 cc or less)
- Endorsement (E) combination of B&D

To obtain any one of these endorsements, make an appointment with the Registry of Motor Vehicles, bring a vehicle and any medical or optical reports (if required), and successfully complete a written test. You must also pass a road test in a vehicle for that class.

## ***Conditions or restrictions on driver licences***

Codes can be added to your licence to indicate that certain conditions or restrictions must be complied with. See some examples listed below.

- (01) corrective lenses (glasses or corrective lenses must be worn when driving a vehicle)
- (02) also valid as a learner's licence
- (03) air brake endorsement (required in order to operate vehicles with air brakes)