



# Full licence test

## for driving a car

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The full licence test is a tough, on-road driving test that restricted licence holders must pass before 'graduating' to a full New Zealand driver licence.

In the test you'll have to demonstrate safe driving behaviour across a wide range of traffic situations and road conditions.

The things that you'll be asked to do in the test are designed to see if you can safely handle the driving situations that present the greatest crash risk to you in your first five years of driving.

If you can't show the testing officer that you can handle these situations safely, you won't pass the test and you'll stay on a restricted licence.

### Overseas conversions

People who are converting driver licences from some overseas countries also need to complete the full licence test.

If your driver licence comes from Australia, Canada, Norway, a member state of the European Union, South Africa, Switzerland or the United States of America, you may not have to sit the practical driving test. See a Land Transport New Zealand driver licensing agent for more information.

### What does the test involve?

The full licence test takes about one hour. You'll need to provide the car or other suitable light motor vehicle (eg, a van or a ute) that you'll sit the test in.

The full licence test has three parts:

**Part 1:** Basic driving (about 10 minutes)

**Part 2:** Detecting and responding to driving hazards in built-up areas (about 15 minutes)

**Part 3:** Detecting and responding to driving hazards in higher speed zones (about 20 minutes).

(These are described in detail over the page.)

This factsheet outlines the requirements for getting a full Class 1 licence, which allows you to drive a *light vehicle* (ie, a vehicle weighing up to 4,500 kg). Cars, vans and utes are light vehicles.

If you want to get your full *motorcycle* licence, the requirements are different. See Factsheet 59, *Full motorcycle licence*. (Factsheet 28, *Motorcycle licences: How to get a Class 6 licence*, will also be useful.)

The test also includes about five minutes for administration and for the testing officer to give you feedback on your performance.

You must successfully complete Part 1 before progressing to Parts 2 and 3. The testing officer will tell you the result of Part 1 as soon as you've completed it.

There are no fixed test routes. You must be able to drive on all types of road and in all traffic situations.

Please note that only you and the testing officer can be in the vehicle during the test. Under exceptional circumstances you *may* be able to have someone else present, but this must be approved beforehand by your nearest Land Transport New Zealand regional office.

### What if I have hearing, speech or language difficulties?

If you're applying for an overseas conversion and have hearing or speech difficulties, or you can't understand or speak English well, you can complete the *alternative* full licence test. This test is the same as the standard full licence test except for a variation in Part 3. See your driver licensing agent for more details.

### How much does the test cost?

The application fee for a full licence is \$44.30 (including GST). The test costs \$70.80 (including GST). This fee also applies to repeat tests.



## How is the test scored?

If you perform a driving skill to the required standard, you'll score a 'yes'. If you don't perform the skill to the required standard, you'll get a 'no'.

You need to get 80 percent 'yes' scores to pass the test. This is based on your total score across all three parts of the test.

## What manoeuvres will I have to make?

The testing officer will instruct you to perform turning, stopping and other manoeuvres. You must drive safely and legally throughout the test. This means positioning the vehicle correctly, controlling your speed and selecting safe gaps in the traffic.

Safe driving doesn't necessarily mean travelling at the speed limit — it means driving to *suit the conditions*. Where it is safe you may travel within 5 km/h of — but never exceeding — the speed limit.

## When might I fail the test?

If your driving endangers anyone, the test will end. If the danger was caused by your error, you won't pass the test. If you break any traffic law, you'll fail the test.

The testing officer will take very close note of your speed. You'll fail if you exceed the speed limits.

You may also fail the test if you don't stop at Stop signs or don't indicate before a manoeuvre.

## Preparing for the full licence test

If you've been driving regularly in all types of traffic situations for at least 18 months and haven't caused any crashes, you should be able to pass Part 1 of the full licence test.

To prepare for Parts 2 and 3 of the test, you may need to practise talking about what hazards you see and how you respond to them when driving. You could ask a friend or relative (someone who has been driving for at least five years) to help you practise. They must have held a full licence of the appropriate class for more than two years,

and should sit in the front passenger seat while you drive.

You should practise until you can confidently and clearly describe what traffic hazards you can see and what you are doing about them, and you can safely and legally perform the manoeuvres required in Parts 2 and 3.

## Pre-test vehicle roadworthiness check

The testing officer will look over your vehicle before the test. They'll check the tyres, lights, horn, body work, mirror positions etc, and make sure your vehicle has a current warrant of fitness (WoF) or certificate of fitness (CoF), a valid licence label and a road user charges (RUC) label, if it's diesel powered.

If your vehicle isn't roadworthy, the test won't proceed (even if it has a current WoF or CoF). You'll have to book and pay for another test. (The test fee won't be refunded.)

## Carry your driver licence

If you can't produce your restricted driver licence when you're asked to show it, you can't sit the test. You'll need to rebook — and pay the test fee again.

### Remember:

- Don't be late for the test. If you are more than five minutes late your test will be cancelled — you'll have to book and pay again to sit the test at a later date.
- Make sure your vehicle is roadworthy and has enough fuel in it to last for the 45 minute drive.
- Bring your restricted licence with you.

## The full licence test

### ► Part 1: Test of basic driving

Part 1 confirms that you have some basic driving skills. You'll be tested on:

- driving in a straight line (tested once in Part 1)
- turning left at 90° intersections (tested twice in Part 1)
- turning right at 90° intersections (tested three times in Part 1).

You'll be asked to perform these driving skills on roads with and without painted centre lines, at intersections with and without Give Way and Stop signs, in speed zones up to 60km/h, and in all types of traffic.

The testing officer will check the following aspects of your driving:

**Search:** That you search forward and to both sides to identify potential hazards.

**Mirror use:** That you check your mirrors before and after turning, changing lanes and when driving straight, as appropriate (about every 10-15 seconds).

**Signal use:** That you signal in the appropriate direction for at least three seconds before turning, changing lanes, diverging and merging.

**Head checks:** That you check over your shoulder in the appropriate direction before turning or changing lanes.

**Speed:** That you adopt a safe and legal speed throughout the test.

**Braking:** That you brake smoothly and effectively.

**Position:** That you put the vehicle in a safe and legal position before, during and after manoeuvres (including unlaned and laned carriageways, at Stop sign lines and at Give Way sign lines).



**Gap selection:** That you select an appropriate gap in traffic before moving into traffic flows, including from intersections and when merging.

## ► Part 2: detecting and responding to driving hazards in built-up areas

Part 2 of the test requires you to show that you can detect and respond to driving hazards in built-up areas (eg, in and around towns and suburban areas), where the speed zones range up to 60km/h. You can expect to be driving on streets and roads where there are a lot of intersections, traffic and pedestrians.

In Part 2 the testing officer will be looking at the same things as in Part 1, and will also be looking closely at the way you detect hazards and respond by adjusting the vehicle's speed or position.

*A hazard is anything that may be a crash danger to you as a driver, or to other road users (eg cross-traffic at an intersection).*

The testing officer will ask you to observe and remember the major hazards that you detect as you perform a particular driving manoeuvre. As soon as possible after each of these situations, the testing officer will ask you to pull in to the kerb (or a safe area on the side of the road). You'll then be asked to describe the hazards you saw. This will indicate your awareness of driving hazards.

*For example, if you had been asked to make a right-hand turn at a busy intersection, the testing officer would expect to hear you describe what vehicles or other road users you were looking at during the manoeuvre.*

The things you recall must match those that the testing officer noted. You must also have carried out the driving manoeuvre (eg, the right-hand turn) correctly and safely.

During Part 2 of the test you'll be required to perform each of the following driving manoeuvres *at least once* while looking for hazards in speed zones up to 60 km/h:

- driving straight ahead
- crossing intersections when facing Give Way or Stop signs
- driving straight ahead at roundabouts
- turning left at intersections when facing Give Way or Stop signs
- turning right at intersections when facing Give Way or Stop signs
- turning right at intersections when *not* facing Give Way or Stop signs.

## ► Part 3: detecting and responding to driving hazards in higher speed zones

Part 3 of the test requires you to show that you can detect and respond to driving hazards in higher speed zones (eg on highways, major roads and motorways) — areas where the speed limits range from 70 to 100 km/h.

Your ability to detect and respond to hazards will be assessed in a variety of traffic situations, including:

- driving straight on highways, major roads and/or motorways
- driving around curves on highways, major roads and/or motorways
- making a U-turn on a highway or a major road
- merging and changing lanes on highways, motorways and/or major roads.

As you perform the manoeuvre, the testing officer will ask you to describe the hazards you are seeing and what you think you need to do to deal with them.

*For example, if you had been asked to change lanes on a highway, the testing officer would expect you to describe what vehicles you were seeing, why you merged when you did and what things presented the greatest hazards to you during the manoeuvre. This means that you must be able to drive safely and talk at the same time.*

The things that you saw, described and responded to must match those that the testing officer noted. You must also have carried out the driving manoeuvre correctly and safely.

### Example

The testing officer will be looking for the following things when you make a U-turn:

- Searching well ahead and behind for vehicles, selecting safe gaps in both directions
- Signalling your intention to move right, before and as you move back onto the roadway
- Making a final check over your shoulder, and either waiting or commencing the manoeuvre
- Quickly and smoothly turning the wheel to the right and co-ordinating smooth and gentle acceleration
- Checking clearance with the road edge, looking in the direction of intended travel and smoothly straightening steering as the U-turn is completed
- Searching behind for following traffic and quickly resuming normal road position and speed.



## Where can I find out more?

- ▶ You can access all our factsheets on our website: **[www.landtransport.govt.nz](http://www.landtransport.govt.nz)**. You can also get copies of many of our factsheets in print from driver licensing agents and Land Transport New Zealand regional offices.
- ▶ Call our Driver Licensing Call Centre: (freephone) 0800 822 422.
- ▶ Write to us: Land Transport New Zealand, PO Box 2840, Wellington.

## About factsheets

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The content in our factsheets is carefully checked to ensure it is accurate and current. However, some factsheets are updated several times a year and because of this, 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.landtransport.govt.nz](http://www.landtransport.govt.nz)) to ensure you have the latest version, or call our Helpdesk on (freephone) 0800 699 000.