

disclaimer

This handbook is not intended to be used as a legal document. It is intended as a guide only, and its aim is to set out, in simple form, the main legal requirements in the Northern Territory that a driver is required to observe in everyday driving, as well as other useful information for drivers.

This handbook is not the law, but is a guide to some of the laws relating to driving in the Northern Territory. Be aware that:

- The statements in this handbook are not precise legal interpretations of the road traffic laws.
- Any diagram, pictures or examples are included for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to be definitive.
- Not every law is covered in this document.
- Laws are subject to change from time to time. The information in this book is believed to be correct at the time of original publication, but may not accurately reflect the current law.
- This document only covers the Northern Territory and while many laws and regulations are uniform across Australia, some laws are different between the jurisdictions. When driving/riding interstate please familiarise yourself with other states' road rules and demerit point systems before you travel.

If you require a more detailed statement of the law, Northern Territory legislation can be viewed on the Northern Territory Government Internet site at:
dcm.nt.gov.au/legislation

The information in this publication is provided in good faith and is believed to be accurate at the time of publication. The Territory will not be liable for any loss sustained or incurred by anyone relying on this information.

Related publications

- Learner Drivers' Guide
- Motorcycle Riders' Handbook
- Good Gear Guide for Motorcycle & Scooter Riders
- Heavy Vehicle Drivers' Handbook

Introduction to the road rules

The Road Users' Handbook is a plain English overview of road and traffic legislation. It provides practical information on road rules as well as road safety tips, low-risk driving techniques, vehicle registration and penalties for driving offences.

The handbook is essential reading for anyone learning to drive, ride or upgrade a licence. Licence applicants may be asked questions in the Knowledge Test on any of the topics covered in this handbook. All sections should be read carefully. It is also a good way for experienced drivers to keep up to date with changes to road rules, and it is informative for interstate or overseas visitors who want to drive in the Northern Territory.

All road users in the Northern Territory are responsible for their actions and are subject to the rules, regulations, fees and charges as well as penalties that are outlined in the following legislation:

- *Motor Vehicles Act*
- Motor Vehicles Regulations
- Motor Vehicles (Fees and Charges) Regulations
- Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations
- Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations – Australian Vehicle Standards Rule
- *Traffic Act*
- Traffic Regulations – includes Schedule 3 – Australian Road Rules.

When driving interstate, please familiarise yourself with other states road rules and demerit point systems before you travel.

Remember, safe road use is a responsibility we all share, whether as drivers, motorcyclists, bicycle riders, pedestrians or passengers.

This publication is available for free on the nt.gov.au website.

Important information

Application forms

Application forms are available online at nt.gov.au and at all MVR offices and agencies in urban areas and at police stations in remote communities. You can also complete and lodge them at these places.

Locations and contact details of MVR offices and agencies are listed at the back of this book.

Change of details

All licence holders and owners of registered vehicles must notify MVR within 14 days if any of the details recorded against their licence or registration changes. Some common examples are changes of name or address.

The MVR must also be notified if a licence card or vehicle number plates are lost, stolen, defaced or damaged, or if a vehicle is sold, disposed of or altered.

You can update your contact details online, over the phone or at any MVR office.

For more information, phone the MVR information line on 1300 654 628 or visit the nt.gov.au website.

Privacy

The information you provide to MVR to obtain a driver licence or register a vehicle is collected for the purpose of compliance with and enforcement of Northern Territory laws.

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles is required to collect personal information and does so in accordance with the department's privacy principles and guidelines.

For more information on privacy, see nt.gov.au or visit one of the MVR offices or agencies listed at the back of this book.

Demerit points

A demerit point scheme operates in the NT. All drivers are subject to action against their licence if they reach their demerit point threshold.

A driver with a full (unconditional licence) has a threshold of 12 points in three years.

Learner and provisional drivers have a threshold of five points in one year.

If you reach your demerit point threshold, your licence could be suspended.

Go online at nt.gov.au to view your demerit point tally.

To check your current demerit point tally online you will need to have:

- your Northern Territory licence number – found on the front right-hand side of your licence card
- your current licence card number – on the back of your licence card in the bottom left-hand corner
- your MVR Customer ID number – this can be found on the top right-hand side of your Driver Licence Renewal Notice. If you are unable to find your MVR Customer ID number you can contact the MVR call centre on **1300 654 628** during business hours.

For more information about the NT Demerit Point Scheme call **1300 654 628**, visit an MVR office or police station (in remote areas) or visit nt.gov.au.

Transferring an interstate licence

Drivers visiting from other Australian jurisdictions are considered NT residents after living in the Northern Territory for three months and must transfer to an NT licence.

Exclusion from insurance or benefits reductions may apply if you are deemed a resident of the territory and have not transferred your interstate or overseas licence.

If your interstate licence is current, transferring your licence can be done at no cost. Any time remaining on the interstate licence will be transferred to your new NT licence, provided that the remaining time on your interstate licence is not a longer period than you could have an NT licence issued for.

In most cases, the same licence classes and conditions will apply between Australian states and territories; however, there may be individual cases where items such as provisional requirements or other licence conditions are not identical in all jurisdictions. In these cases, NT rules will be applied when you transfer your licence.

Any demerit points accrued in other jurisdictions could also affect your NT licence.

Purchasing vehicles – third party interests

Before you purchase a vehicle it is recommended that you find out if there is any third party interest in it.

The Personal Property Securities Register (PPSR) is an Australian Government initiative where a third party (banks and financial institutions) can record a financial interest against personal property, such as motor vehicles.

The PPSR also provides current vehicle registration details and notes if the vehicle has been recorded as stolen or written off.

To check the third party interests registered against a motor vehicle, visit the PPSR database at www.ppsr.gov.au and conduct a motor vehicle search by serial number (VIN or chassis).

Purchasing a safer vehicle

Before you purchase a vehicle, it is important you consider the level of safety it can provide in the unfortunate event of a crash as well as its ability, through technology, to avoid a crash.

ANCAP safety ratings are determined based on a series of internationally recognised crash tests and assessment of safety features and technologies. Vehicles tested by ANCAP are awarded an ANCAP safety rating of between 1 to 5 stars (1 star providing poor protection, 5 stars providing good protection) indicating the level of safety they provide in the event of a crash. Collision avoidance technologies also form part of the overall safety rating assessment.

ANCAP recommends vehicles which have the maximum 5 star ANCAP safety rating.

ANCAP safety ratings are available for a wide range of makes and models. Check the ANCAP safety rating of your next vehicle at www.ancap.com.au.

Photographs

When you are issued with a NT driver licence, your photograph will be digitally stored by MVR. The stored image can be used for renewals of your licence for up to 10 years, as long as your appearance does not change significantly during this time. Your photograph will need updating every 10 years.

You must carry your driver licence

You must carry your current licence with you at all times when driving or riding. A person occupying the front passenger seat while supervising a learner driver must also carry their current licence.

Failure to produce your licence on demand is an offence.