

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 in other places. 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 found on the nt.gov.au website.

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.

Other publications

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

Introduction

The Road Users' Handbook provides an overview of road and traffic legislation in the Northern Territory. 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 1949*
- *Motor Vehicles Regulations 1977*
- *Motor Vehicles (Fees and Charges) Regulations 2008*
- *Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations 2003*
- *Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations – Australian Vehicle Standards Rule*
- *Traffic Act 1987*
- *Traffic Regulations – includes Schedule 3 – Australian Road Rules 1999.*

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 also available for free on the NT Government website at nt.gov.au.

Heavy penalties apply for driving a vehicle without a licence.

If you have been in the NT for more than three months and wish to continue to drive, you must apply for 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.

Important information

Application forms

Application forms are available online at mvr.nt.gov.au and at all MVR offices.

Contact information for MVR can be found at the back of this handbook.

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 plate is 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 in person at a MVR office or participating Australia Post outlet.

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

Privacy

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles collects and retains your personal information such as photographic images, biometric data, registration and licensing history under provisions on the NT *Motor Vehicles Act 1949*. The information you provide is disclosed to government, law enforcement and other bodies as required by Australian law. Your licence and registration details are also supplied to NEVDIS for the purpose of national exchange of vehicle and driver information.

Documents you provide may also be verified with the issuing authority through the Commonwealth Document Verification Service. All personal information is managed in accordance to information privacy principles under the *NT Information Act 2002*.

For more information on privacy, go to the Office of the Information Commissioner website.

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.

You will reach your demerit point threshold and have your licence suspended if you are:

- an unrestricted licence holder and have accumulated 12 points or more within a three-year period.
- a provisional licence holder and have accumulated five or more points within 12 months, or 12 points within a three-year period.
- a learner licence holder and have accumulated five or more points within 12 months, or 12 points within a three-year period.
- a visiting driver and have accumulated 12 points or more within a three-year period.

For more information or to check your demerit point tally online 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 their interstate licence 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 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 full licence.

Failure to produce your licence on demand is an offence.