



**NORTHERN
TERRITORY**
GOVERNMENT

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRY (MVR)

Riding in the Northern Territory

January 2020



Motorcycle Riders' Handbook



**Motorcycle Riders' Handbook –
Riding in the Northern Territory**

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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 motorcycle rider is required to observe in everyday riding, as well as other useful information for riders.

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

- The statements in this handbook are not precise legal interpretations of the road traffic laws.
- Any diagrams, 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

- Good Gear Guide for Motorcycle and Scooter Riders
- Road Users' Handbook
- Heavy Vehicle Drivers' Handbook
- Learner Drivers' Guide

Introduction to motorcycle riding

Motorcycling can be fun, economical and safe, but we have to recognise that motorcycle riders are among our most vulnerable road users.

Motorcycle riders are less protected than car drivers and have a greater chance of being killed or injured in a crash.

You can become a safer rider by learning the necessary rider skills, having a good understanding of the road environment, riding to the conditions and by always being aware of other road users.

The procedures to obtain a motorcycle rider licence are designed to help you become a safe rider. The Motorcycle Riders' Handbook, training programs and the testing procedures are designed to teach you to be competent in the skills required to ride on Territory roads.

This handbook contains important information about riding techniques, how to cope with hazards and some road rules that are specific to motorcyclists. Please read it carefully.

Motorcycle riders must adhere to the same road rules as other road users, so make sure that you keep up to date with the different road rules, signs and markings by also reading the latest edition of the Road Users' Handbook.

Enjoy your riding, but, above all, ride to survive.

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

Important information

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 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 the provisions of the *NT Motor Vehicles Act 1949*. The information you provide may be disclosed to government, law enforcement and other bodies as required by Australian law. Your information is 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.

Transferring an interstate licence

Riders 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 benefit 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 may also affect your NT licence.

Demerit points

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

- All riders have a threshold of 12 points in three years.
- Learner and provisional riders are also subject to a threshold of five points in one year.

If you have a full (unconditional) licence to drive another class of vehicle, such as a car, when you gain a rider learner licence your demerit point threshold will remain at 12 points in three years.

If you reach your demerit point threshold, your licence could be suspended. Go online to 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 driver licence number
- your current licence card number
- your MVR Customer ID number – Located on your driver licence or vehicle renewal notice. You can call the MVR Contact Centre on **1300 654 628** during business hours to get your ID number.

For more information about the NT demerit point scheme call **1300 654 628**, or go to the nt.gov.au website.

Organ donation

The place to register your intention to be an organ donor is the Australian Organ Donor Register (AODR).

Organ donor information is available at www.humanservices.gov.au or call 1800 777 203 for a registration brochure.

If you would like more information before making your choice, please contact Donate Life NT (the organ donation agency for the Northern Territory) at www.donatelife.gov.au or phone 08 8922 8349.

Photographs

When you are issued with an NT driver licence, your photograph will be digitally stored by MVR. The stored image may 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 licence

You must carry your current licence with you at all times when riding or driving.

Failure to produce your licence on demand is an offence.

Purchasing motorcycles – third party interests

Before you purchase a motorcycle 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 motorcycle, visit the PPSR database at www.ppsr.gov.au and conduct a motor vehicle search by serial number (VIN, chassis).