



licensing

Getting a licence to ride is the first step to a lifetime of motorcycling, and it brings both opportunities and responsibilities.

The Northern Territory has different licence classes for the different types of motor vehicles that use NT roads.

To ride a motorcycle you must hold a **class R** licence.

Your responsibilities are clearly stated throughout this handbook, and it is expected that you will use any vehicle that you drive or ride with safety, efficiency, courtesy and common sense at all times.

Having a rider's licence brings responsibilities. If you lose your licence by failing to meet your responsibilities, the consequences could be serious and many opportunities will disappear.

Obligations of licence holders

Think of your licence as a 'contract' or an agreement between you as a rider and the rest of the community. The Motor Vehicle Registry and the Northern Territory Police administer this contract.

It is also an important identity document and should be kept safely at all times.

Do not abuse your licence or allow it to be misused. There are heavy fines if you fraudulently alter, use or lend a licence to another person or allow a licence to be used by another person.

Northern Territory roads are provided for riders to use if they meet certain conditions.

Riders must:

- show that they understand the road rules, most of which are written in this handbook and in the Road Users' Handbook in plain English

- show the skills necessary to ride safely
- obey the laws and ride responsibly
- pay a licence fee, which goes towards the administration of the licensing system
- show that they understand the community's concerns to reduce the impact of traffic on the environment and to use the road system efficiently.

The contract between you as a rider and the community can be broken by traffic offences that cause inconvenience, costs or suffering to others. These offences carry penalties such as fines, licence cancellation, disqualification or suspension. In extreme cases, the offence could lead to a prison sentence.

The licensing system

The Northern Territory licensing system helps to make travel on our roads safer for all road users. It provides rules and conditions for licence holders and penalties for riders and drivers who do not meet their responsibilities. The licensing system also ensures that licence holders have the required knowledge and skills to safely operate the vehicle they are licensed to drive or ride.

To drive or ride on public roads in the NT you must be licensed and have the correct licence class for the type of vehicle you are driving.

To legally drive or ride on public roads in the NT:

- you must have the right class of licence for the vehicle you are operating
- you must hold a current NT licence if you are an NT resident
- you must hold a current interstate licence if you are visiting from interstate
- if you are visiting from overseas, you must hold a current licence from your country, and if your licence is not in English you must also carry an International Driving Permit or an official English translation of your overseas licence.

You cannot drive or ride on public roads in the NT if you have:

- a licence that is expired
- a licence that has been cancelled or suspended
- had your driving privileges withdrawn in the NT
- been disqualified from driving by a court of law in Australia or overseas.

Heavy penalties apply for driving or riding a vehicle without a licence.

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

When your licence is checked

Police can check your licence at any time, and they will also check that you have the correct licence when:

- you are involved in a crash, whether you were at fault or not
- you have been stopped because you committed a traffic offence
- you have been stopped for a random breath test either by a stationary breath testing unit or by a mobile breath testing unit.

Medical fitness to hold a licence

All riders must be medically fit to ride a motorcycle and are subject to personal and legal responsibilities and liabilities.

Northern Territory laws require all riders or intending riders to notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles if they have a medical condition (including disability, mental illness and eyesight) that may affect their ability to safely and legally ride a motorcycle. Health professionals are also required to notify the Registrar if they believe a patient's medical condition could affect their ability to ride a motorcycle.

The MVR is responsible for issuing, renewing, suspending or cancelling a person's licence (including a conditional licence), and decisions are based on a full consideration of relevant factors relating to health and riding performance.

A medical condition does not necessarily mean that you cannot be licensed. In reality, very few conditions prevent the issuing of a rider licence.

If you have any questions about medical fitness to hold a licence, please contact the MVR on 1300 654 628 or consult your health professional for advice.

R class motorcycle graduated licensing scheme

The Northern Territory has a graduated licensing scheme for new riders. To obtain a Northern Territory class R (rider-motorcycle) licence, you must complete the various licence stages.

You are encouraged to do rider training as rider training covers the key riding skills that are required for riding safely on the road.

There are two stages in obtaining your class R licence, the pre-learner stage and the pre-provisional stage.

The pre-learner stage comprises of a knowledge assessment and a base level practical evaluation of your riding capability.

The pre-provisional stage comprises of an evaluation of your knowledge, skills and attitude required for safe riding.

Stage 1 - Pre-learner



Once you have been issued your class R learner licence from MVR, you can commence riding.

A useful way for new riders to get on-road riding practice is to ride with another experienced motorcyclist or have lessons with a trained motorcycle riding instructor.

Stage 2 - Pre-provisional



To achieve either a provisional or restricted class R licence you must complete the pre-provisional stage by demonstrating your ability to safely and competently ride a motorcycle on the road.

Once you have completed the above, visit an MVR office to have your Provisional or Restricted rider licence issued.

Rider Training

The Registrar or Motor Vehicles has approved the Motorcyclist Education Training and Licensing (METAL) program for delivery in the Northern Territory.

The Pre-Learner riding course and Pre-Provisional courses from the METAL program are delivered by Approved Rider Training Providers.

METAL courses are designed to provide riders with the practical skills and road-craft knowledge to be as safe as possible on our roads.

All METAL courses are competency based and have pass/fail criteria. You must demonstrate all of the competencies for the course to pass.

Course outcomes are valid for 12 months from the date of course completion. If you do not attend an MVR office to obtain your licence within 12 months, you will need to complete the course again.

Pre-Learner riding course

The Pre-Learner riding course gives the student the knowledge, skills and road safety information they need as a rider. When combined with the Rider Knowledge Test, a motorcycle learner licence will be issued.

You must be at least 16 years of age to enrol in the Pre-Learner course and be eligible to obtain a class R learner licence.

No motorcycle riding experience is needed to take part in the Pre-Learner riding course.

You should be aware that learning to ride a motorcycle requires a high level of balance, coordination and concentration and some people may require extra training to develop these skills.

Not everyone that takes part in the Pre-Learner rider course will pass on their first attempt. If you are not successful on your first attempt, your course provider will let you know why and the best way for you to proceed with your training.

Pre-Provisional riding course

The Pre-Provisional riding course is designed to enhance motorcycle control and road-craft skills.

To enrol in a Pre-Provisional riding course you must have held your class R learner licence for a continuous period of six months.

If you are successful in completing the Pre-Provisional riding course, you will be eligible for upgrade to a provisional or restricted motorcycle licence.

Dress standard for rider training

For your own safety, when you attend a Pre-Learner or Pre-Provisional riding course you must wear suitable protective clothing. You will not be allowed to take part in the course if you do not have the right clothing and equipment.

- Eye protection: this is essential. Sunglasses are the minimum standard.
- Footwear: enclosed footwear is essential. Shoes should cover and protect your entire foot. Sandshoes or joggers in good condition are acceptable as a minimum, but riding boots are strongly encouraged.
- Gloves: leather 'rigger' style gloves are the minimum standard. Students are strongly urged to purchase their own gloves prior to the course.
- Shirt: a long-sleeved shirt made of heavy duty material is the minimum standard. The shirt must be able to be fastened at the front and wrists. A riding jacket is preferred.
- Trousers: You must wear jeans or similar that must be ankle length.

See page 17 for further information on protective clothing and equipment.

You will not be allowed to join the course if you are not wearing appropriate protective clothing.

Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme

The Northern Territory Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme (LAMS) allows novice riders to get experience riding motorcycles that are moderately powered before they are allowed to ride a high-powered motorcycle.

The LAMS motorcycle restriction applies to all novice riders. It is the rider's responsibility to ensure they ride only LAMS motorcycles.

To be included on the list of approved motorcycles, the motorcycle must have an engine capacity of up to and including 660cc and must not exceed a power-to-weight ratio of 150 kilowatts per tonne.

How to obtain a class R learner licence

Become an MVR customer

The first step to getting your class R learner licence is to make sure you are an MVR customer. If you are not already an MVR customer you will need to:

- be at least 16 years of age
- provide evidence of your identity (prove who you are)
- provide evidence of your residency (prove that you live in the NT)
- have your photo taken by an MVR officer.

For information about evidence of identity and residency requirements, please contact MVR on 1300 654 628 or visit the nt.gov.au website.

Applying for a class R learner licence

To apply for a class R learner licence in the NT you must:

- be an MVR customer
- be at least 16 years of age
- pass an eyesight test
- pass a rider knowledge test at an MVR office
- pass a practical assessment
- pay the learner licence fee

Learner licences are valid for two years. If you do not upgrade your learner rider licence before it expires, you will need to reapply for your learner rider licence as a new applicant.

Rider Knowledge Test

To prepare for the Rider Knowledge Test (RKT) you should study this handbook and the Road Users' Handbook carefully; all the information you need to pass the test is covered in these guides.

When studying the handbooks, be careful not to skip any sections. All the information is relevant to you.

You can test your knowledge of the road rules by taking the practice RKT on the mvr.nt.gov.au website.

Study! Each attempt of the RKT incurs a fee.

Where to go for the Rider Knowledge Test

A RKT can be taken at any MVR office and the RKT can be started up to one hour before MVR closes.

How the Rider Knowledge Test works

The RKT consists of 30 questions, randomly selected from a question bank of over 300 questions.

During the test you are not allowed to:

- receive any assistance
- refer to any resource materials that would help you to pass the test (such as this handbook, other books, notes, websites etc.)
- use a mobile phone or other communication device
- speak or signal to any other person (except the registry officer when necessary)
- leave the test area.

People caught cheating will fail the test immediately and be banned from taking another RKT for two weeks.

Unsuccessful Rider Knowledge Test

If you do not pass the RKT, you can try again as many times as you need to in order to pass it. You cannot attempt the RKT more than once per day.

The next time you attempt a RKT you will be given a different set of questions to answer.

You should only re-attempt the test when you are ready. To check if you are ready, test your knowledge by taking the practice Rider Knowledge Test on the mvr.nt.gov.au website.

Applicants requiring assistance

Special needs

If you have special needs, such as a physical or mental impairment, you or your representative should discuss your needs for taking the test with the MVR before booking a RKT. This allows time for the necessary arrangements to be made for you on the day of the test.

Difficulty reading and writing English

If you have difficulty reading or writing English, you can choose to attempt a verbal (spoken) test, with or without an interpreter.

An interpreting service is provided by Interpreting and Translating Service NT (ITSNT). If you are not an Australian resident or citizen, you may need to pay a fee directly to ITSNT for this service.

Arrangements for verbal testing services can be made by calling 1300 654 628.

Licence restrictions for learner riders

As well as complying with all road rules and traffic laws, there are some additional requirements for class R learner licence holders:

- **Blood/Breath Alcohol Concentration (BAC/BrAC):** Your BAC/BrAC must be zero. This means you cannot have any alcohol in your system when you ride.
- **Displaying L plates:** An L plate must be clearly displayed on the back of the motorcycle.
- **Licence:** You must carry your licence at all times while riding.
- **LAMS motorcycle:** As a learner rider you can only ride motorcycles that are listed under the Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme (LAMS). Refer to LAMS on page 7.
- **Passengers:** You must not carry any pillion passengers.
- **Speed limit:** You must not ride faster than 80 km/h at any time, regardless of the sign posted speed limit, and you must observe the speed limit where it is below 80 km/h.
- **Helmet:** You must wear an approved motorcycle helmet at all times while riding.
- **Mobile phone:** You must not use any function of a mobile phone while riding, including hands-free or loudspeaker options.

Next stage - Provisional or Restricted rider licence

Once you have held your learner rider licence for a minimum of six continuous months, you can move to the next stage of your rider licence.

If you already hold an unconditional licence of another class, such as a full car licence, you will be issued a restricted class R licence once you have successfully completed your pre-provisional assessment.

You must hold your restricted licence for at least one year before you can upgrade to a full licence.

If you do not hold a licence of another class, once you have completed your pre-provisional assessment, you will be issued a provisional class R licence.

If you are under 25 years of age, you must hold your provisional licence for at least two years before you can upgrade to a full licence.

If you are 25 or older, you must hold your provisional licence for at least one year.

Suspension or cancellation during provisional or restricted period

If your licence is suspended or cancelled during your provisional or restricted period, your provisional or restricted rider licence period may be extended, or you might need to start the provisional/restricted period again.

Obtaining a full (unrestricted) rider licence

At the end of your provisional or restricted period you can apply for a full licence. Phone the MVR Contact Centre on 1300 654 628 or visit your nearest MVR office. Fees may apply for the issue of a full class R licence.

Remember that learning to ride well requires lots of experience that will only come with time and lots of practice in different riding situations and conditions. Use every time you ride as an opportunity to learn.

How to obtain a class R provisional licence

To be eligible for your provisional riders licence (your 'Ps') you must have:

- held your learner rider licence for a minimum of six continuous months
- passed the pre-provisional assessment
- paid the provisional licence fee.

Licence restrictions for class R provisional riders

As well as complying with all road rules and traffic laws, there are some additional requirements for provisional licence holders:

- **Blood/Breath Alcohol Concentration (BAC/BrAC):** Your BAC/BrAC must be zero. This means you cannot have any alcohol in your system when you ride a motorcycle.
- **Displaying P plates:** A P plate must be clearly displayed on the back of the motorcycle.
- **Licence:** You must carry your licence at all times while riding.
- **LAMS motorcycle:** You must only ride motorcycles that are listed under the Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme (LAMS). Refer to LAMS on page 7.
- **Passengers:** You must not carry any pillion passengers.
- **Speed limit:** You must not ride faster than 100 km/h at any time, regardless of the sign posted speed limit, and you must observe the speed limit where it is below 100 km/h.
- **Helmet:** You must wear an approved motorcycle helmet at all times while riding.
- **Mobile phone:** You must not use any function of a mobile phone while riding, including hands-free or loudspeaker options.

How to obtain a class R restricted licence

If you have already completed a provisional period on another licence class, (for example if you already have a full unconditional class C licence) you will upgrade to a restricted class R licence once you have:

- held your learner rider licence for a continuous period of at least six months
- passed the pre-provisional assessment
- paid the licence upgrade fee.

Licence restrictions for restricted riders

As well as complying with all road rules and traffic laws, the following requirements apply to restricted class R licence holders:

- **Blood/Breath Alcohol Concentration (BAC/BrAC):** Your BAC/BrAC must not exceed 0.05.
- **Licence:** You must carry your licence at all times while riding.
- **LAMS motorcycles:** You must only ride motorcycles that are listed under the Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme (LAMS).
- **Passengers:** You must not carry any pillion passengers.
- **Helmet:** You must wear an approved motorcycle helmet at all times while riding.
- **Mobile phone:** You must not use any function of a mobile phone while riding, including hands-free or loudspeaker options.