



NORTHERN  
TERRITORY  
GOVERNMENT

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRY (MVR)

Driving a Heavy Vehicle in the Northern Territory

January 2020



# Heavy Vehicle Drivers' Handbook

**Heavy Vehicle Drivers' Handbook –  
Driving a Heavy Vehicle 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 heavy vehicle driver is required to observe in everyday driving, as well as other useful information for heavy vehicle 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 found on the [nt.gov.au](http://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

- Road Users' Handbook
- Load Restraint Guide
- NT Worksafe Fatigue Management
- Motorcycle Riders' Handbook
- Learner Drivers' Guide

## Introduction

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

The Heavy Vehicle Drivers' Handbook will help you understand the additional rules and regulations that apply to you and your heavy vehicle. It is a useful guide outlining rules and regulations, skills and correct attitude required by heavy vehicle drivers. This publication must be read in conjunction with the Road Users' Handbook and Load Restraint Guide. It is essential reading if you are planning on attempting a heavy vehicle knowledge test.

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 download from [nt.gov.au](http://nt.gov.au)

## 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](http://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.

## Demerit points

You can check your demerit point tally online from the [nt.gov.au](http://nt.gov.au) website.

Before you check online you will need your:

- Northern Territory Driver's licence number
- Licence card number
- 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](http://nt.gov.au) website.

## Transferring an interstate licence

Drivers 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 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 could also affect your NT licence.**

## 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 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.