

Attn: Gary

Note: This is a two-part article. Please run the 1st part for Thursday, Oct 20, and the 2nd part to run Thursday, November 13th. If you have any questions please call. Thanks. Sheila

By Sheila Meyer, CSR
Graduated Licencing Program
The Road to Getting Your Licence, Part 1

Graduated licencing allows new drivers to gain the driving experience they need in a controlled, lower-risk environment. The driving skills new drivers learn in their first three years of driving establish habits that last a lifetime. In addition to obeying the rules of the road, new drivers must also observe conditions and restrictions. These are gradually reduced as new drivers gain experience.

Drivers who received their learner or novice licences before October 6, 2003, will continue to follow the original rules until they renew their licence, pass a Class 7 or 8 road test and move from learner to novice stage, or have their licences reinstated after a prohibition. In these cases, the driver will be required to follow the new rules. Once drivers pass the Class 5 or 6 road test, they leave GLP and receive a full priviledge licence.

These following new rules apply to you if:

- You get your learner or novice licence **on or after October 6, 2003**
- Your licence expires and you renew it **on or after October 6, 2003**
- You receive a driving prohibition, your prohibition ends and your licence is reinstated **on or after October 6, 2003**

LEARNER STAGE-MINIMUM 12 MONTHS:

- Learner Stage Restrictions have changed and the length of this stage has been extended to **12 months, cumulative**. This is reduced by three months if you pass an ICBC approved driver education course.
- Class 7L licence expires in **two years. You must rewrite the knowledge test if the licence expires.**
- “L” sign must be displayed at the back of the car.
- A supervisor 25 years or older** with a valid Class 1-5 driver’s licence must accompany you when you drive.
- Limit of two passengers: this limit includes your supervisor
- No driving between midnight and 5a.m.
- Zero Blood alcohol content.
- If you are prohibited from driving in the learner stage, you must make up the length of your prohibition before moving to the next stage of getting your licence.

*Please watch for the Novice restrictions in the next column, November 13th.

The Road to Getting Your Licence, Part 2

By: Geri Ringheim, CSR

NOVICE STAGE-MINIMUM 24 MONTHS:

-Novice Stage Restrictions have changed and the length has been extended to **24 months, consecutive.**

-Class 7N licence expires in 5 years.

-“N” sign must be displayed at the back of the car.

-Zero Blood Alcohol content.

-Only one passenger

.....unless accompanied by a supervisor 25 years or older with a valid Class 1-5 driver’s licence.

.....immediate family allowed with no supervisor (immediate family means father, mother, sister, brother, spouse, children, grandparents, and step or foster relationships as above)

-If you receive a driving prohibition, you must go back to the beginning of your novice stage. You lose your accumulated driving experience time.

During its first two years, BC’s Graduated Licencing was successful in reducing the new driver crash rate by 26%. But while graduated licencing is working, most of the crash reductions have come from the longer learner stage when new drivers must be accompanied by a supervisor.

Meanwhile, drivers in the novice stage are still over represented in crashes, being almost 45% more likely to be involved in a crash than more experienced drivers. As well, these crashes tend to be more severe. One in four crashes involving GLP novice drivers results in an injury or fatality. The risk of being in a crash, for new drivers, is very real.

That’s why new rules have been brought in for both the learner and novice stages. These new rules are strengthening GLP to help save lives and reduce injuries. If you have any questions please drop in to our office or give us a call.