

Driver Handbooks

Frequently Asked Questions

Obtaining a handbook

How can I obtain a driver's handbook?

Drivers who want a handbook may purchase one at a DriveTest centre or select Driver and Vehicle Licence Office. Bookstores and many other commercial retail outlets province wide also carry these books. The suggested list price of the booklet is \$12.95 plus 7% GST for a total of \$13.86. Individual copies are also available for viewing at public libraries and some Ontario government libraries.

Are the driver handbooks available in an electronic or web site version?

No. The ministry's licensing manuals are published as reference materials and have traditionally been produced in a book form that can be easily kept in a vehicle glove box.

It was recognized several years ago that for licensing manuals to be easily accessible to drivers, they needed to be available in commercial outlets as well as in government offices. To this end, the ministry entered into an exclusive distribution arrangement with a book distributor. The books are now in major book chains and other commercial retail outlets province wide.

At the time the distribution arrangements were made, the Internet had not become the distribution mechanism that it is today. Our distribution agreements will be re-negotiated in a little over two years. At that time, we will consider the role of the Internet in distributing this information.

Licence Classes and Fees

What are the different kinds (classes) of licences?

Class of Licence	Types of Vehicles Allowed	May Also Drive Vehicle in Class
A	Any tractor-trailer combination	D and G
B	Any school purposed bus	C, D, E, F and G
C	Any regular bus	D, F and G
D	Any truck or combination provided towed vehicle is not over 4,600 kg	G
E	School purposes bus - maximum of 24 passenger capacity	F and G

Class of Licence	Types of Vehicles Allowed	May Also Drive Vehicle in Class
F	Regular bus maximum of 24 passenger capacity and ambulances	G
G	Any car, van or small truck or combination of vehicle and towed vehicle up to 11,000 kg provided towed vehicle is not over 4,600 kg	
G1	Level 1 of graduated licensing; holders may drive Class G vehicles when accompanied by a fully licensed driver with at least four years of driving experience. Additional conditions apply	Replaces Class L licence
G2	Level 2 of graduated licensing; holders may drive Class G vehicles without accompanying driver but are subject to certain conditions	Replaces probationary status
M	Motorcycles; holders may also drive a Class G vehicle under the conditions that apply to a class G1 licence holder	
M1	Level 1 of graduated licensing; holders may drive a motorcycle under certain conditions	Replaces Class R licence
M2	Level 2 of graduated licensing; holders may drive a motorcycle but only with a zero blood alcohol level. Holders may also drive a Class G vehicle under the conditions that apply to a class G1 licence holder	Replaces probationary status

What are the fees involved in getting an Ontario driver's licence?

Getting an Unclassified Licence (G, M) Test Fees	Cost
G1 Licence - cost includes knowledge test, G1 road test and five year licence	\$100.00
<i>Knowledge Test</i>	\$10.00
<i>Class G1 or M1 Road Test</i>	\$40.00
<i>Five Year Licence</i>	\$50.00
M1 Licence - cost includes knowledge test and 90 day licence	\$15.00
<i>Knowledge Test</i>	\$10.00
<i>90 Day Licence</i>	\$5.00
Class G2 or M2 Road Test	\$75.00

Getting a Classified Licence (class A, B, C, D, E, F) Test Fees	Cost
Complete Classified Test - cost includes knowledge test and road test	\$85.00
<i>Knowledge Test</i>	\$10.00
<i>Road Test</i>	\$75.00
Complete Air Brake (Z) Endorsement Test	\$50.00
Air Brake (Z) Endorsement Practical Test	\$40.00

What are the options for paying fees at a Driver and Vehicle Licence Issuing Office?

Payments can be made using cash, personal cheque, debit card, VISA, Mastercard, or money order.

What are the options for paying fees at a DriveTest Centre?

Payments can be made using cash, debit card, VISA, Mastercard, traveller's cheques, or money order. Please note that personal cheques are not accepted at DriveTest Centres.

Replacing a Licence

I have lost my wallet and all my ID; how can I get my driver's licence replaced?

To replace a driver's licence, visit a Driver and Vehicle Licence Office to have your photo retaken. You will be required to produce two pieces of identification bearing your signature and pay a \$10 fee. You will get a temporary licence to use until your permanent one is mailed to you.

If your driver's licence has been lost or stolen, be sure to report it to your local police. If most of your wallet identification was lost as well, you can use the following pieces of identification to replace your licence:

- citizenship card
- passport
- immigration card with photo
- birth certificate
- baptismal certificate

I hold an Ontario driver's licence and am temporarily outside the province, but I've lost my driver's licence. How can I get a replacement or temporary licence?

Normally, in order to replace a driver's licence, the ministry requires that you have your photograph retaken. If you will be returning to Ontario within the next six months, the ministry can mail you a temporary licence, provided that your driver's licence is valid and not cancelled or under suspension. When you return to Ontario, please visit a DriveTest centre to replace your driver's licence. You will be required to produce two pieces of identification bearing your signature and pay a \$10 fee.

If you will be away longer than six months, we will waive the photo requirement and replace your driver's licence, provided it is valid and not cancelled or under suspension. For further information, please call the ministry's Toronto Call Centre at (416) 235-2999 or write to:

Ministry of Transportation
Licensing Administration Office
2680 Keele St.
Downsview, Ontario
M3M 3E6

The ministry will require your out-of-province mailing address and either your driver's licence number or your full name and date of birth. Please indicate when you expect to return to Ontario.

Driving Age

Is the ministry planning to raise the driving age?

No. The Ministry of the Attorney General reviewed all Ontario laws that set a minimum age requirement. This was done to ensure they obeyed provisions prohibiting age discrimination under the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights. After this review, the government decided to maintain 16 years as the minimum legal age for many "adult" activities in Ontario, such as leaving school, working full-time, and driving.

The Ministry of Transportation agrees that the average 16-year-old has sufficient maturity and judgement to handle the responsibility of driving. Nevertheless, we are concerned by the amount of collisions involving young people and inexperienced drivers. That is why we introduced the Graduated Licensing System in 1994.

Graduated licensing introduces beginners into the driving population in a low-risk manner. Under this program, new drivers are expected to earn full driving privileges in two stages. In stage one, they learn while accompanied by a licensed driver who has at least four years of driving experience. This stage lasts 12 months, or is reduced to eight months for those who successfully complete an approved driver education course.

Is the ministry planning to lower the driving age?

No. The Ontario government reviewed all provincial laws that set a minimum age. Our province wanted to make sure it didn't discriminate under the Ontario Human Rights code and the Canadian Charter of Rights. After this review, the government decided to maintain 16 as the legal minimum age for many "adult" activities such as leaving school, working full-time and driving.

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) realizes many teenagers regard a driver's licence as an important step towards independence and adulthood. Some would even like to see the driving age lowered to 15. Statistics, however, show that drivers between 16 and 20 are involved in the greatest number of collisions per age group. MTO is extremely concerned by the number of young people killed and injured in these accidents. That is why we introduced graduated licensing in 1994.