

Information Update

June 2018

Medical Review Driving Test

Information for people whose driving is to be reviewed by VicRoads

VicRoads realises that it may be many years since you sat for your licence test. This information sheet explains the Medical Review driving test and how you can prepare for it.

The driving test

The Medical Review driving test is designed to test the safe driving ability of experienced drivers. You will not fail this test due to a 'loss of points'. You will only fail if your driving is unsafe or illegal.

The driving test location will be determined based on your driving needs. If you require an open area licence that allows you to drive on public roads throughout Australia, the test must take place in an area where multi-laned roads, roundabouts and traffic lights at intersecting roads must be available. If you live in an area where it is not possible to test you for these skills, you will be required to be tested in an alternative area such as a larger town. If you require a conditional or restricted licence, the test may take place in your local area. When you pass your local area test, conditions/restrictions on your driver licence will apply. The length of the test will vary depending on how much driving you normally do and will take between 15 and 45 minutes.

The Medical Review driving test is free.

Conditional licences

Driving restrictions

To help you maintain your mobility, VicRoads may offer you a conditional licence. Conditional licences put a condition or restriction on your driving. Examples of conditions include:

- distance restrictions, such as a 5 to 10 kilometre radius from home
- daylight driving only
- no driving during peak hours
- only driving between home and a particular location, such as shops or medical centre.

In many cases the restrictions will not differ from how you normally drive. Your tester will discuss these options with you before you start your test.

If you only want to drive locally on a conditional licence, your test will normally be around 15 minutes, as you will only be tested within your local area. If you are issued with a conditional licence with a distance restriction and wish to extend where you may drive, you will need to take another Medical Review driving test. Make sure you are clear about your driving needs and discuss these with the tester before your test starts.

How to prepare for your driving test

Even though you may have been driving for many years it is likely that you drive differently from when you were first issued with a licence. Over time, it is common for drivers to develop some bad driving habits. With this in mind it could be useful to get independent advice on your driving.

If your licence is current you could ask a friend or relative, who does not normally accompany you, to sit with you while you drive. Or you could have an assessment and if necessary, some refresher lessons with a professional driving instructor.

The test vehicle

You will be tested in a VicRoads car with dual controls. Dual controls are important as they allow the tester to take control of the vehicle if an emergency or an unsafe situation occurs. You will be given time before the test starts to familiarise yourself with the VicRoads test vehicle.

You will not be penalised for driving errors that occur due to your unfamiliarity with the vehicle.

Manual and automatic vehicles

The VicRoads test car is fitted with an automatic transmission. If you normally drive a manual car you can continue to drive a manual as long as you pass the Medical Review driving test. VicRoads will test your ability to drive safely, not your skills at changing gears. This makes the test simpler for you.

Driving instructors

If you have had refresher lessons with a professionally qualified driving instructor and would prefer to have your test in the instructor's car, arrangements can be made with the VicRoads tester. This is also an option if you do not want to be tested in an automatic vehicle. If you wish to be tested in your instructor's vehicle you will have to pay any costs.

Other people in the test vehicle

During the driving test, only you and the tester are allowed in the VicRoads car. If you have arranged to do the test in your driving instructor's vehicle, the driving instructor may accompany you.

The on-road driving test

There are a number of important driving skills that your tester will assess such as signalling and obeying signs. These skills are important because they indicate your ability to drive safely. The tester will check that you give way at intersections, how you use the mirrors, your position on the road, your ability to change lanes or merge, your ability to brake safely, and will also observe your application of the road rules.

Angle parking and three point turn

Angle parking – You will be asked to complete an angle park between two cars. This will usually take place in an area where you would normally perform such a park, such as a supermarket car park.

Three point turn – You will be asked to complete a three point turn. A three point turn is the standard method of turning your vehicle around to face the opposite direction (between the kerbs or by using a driveway). This is typically done when the road is too narrow for a U-turn.

You should practice these manoeuvres before your test.

Unsafe driving

You will only fail if you do something illegal or unsafe. You will not fail your test if you fail to check your mirrors. Failing to check your mirrors however will increase your chances of diverging or braking when it is unsafe to do so, and this will result in you failing your test.

Examples of illegal or unsafe driving include:

- any action that requires the tester to take control of the vehicle to prevent a dangerous situation
- any action requiring another driver or pedestrian to move to avoid a collision
- colliding with a vehicle, pedestrian or object (such as a rubbish bin on the kerb)

- not stopping at a red light or Stop sign
- stopping at a location that places another road user in a dangerous situation
- poor control of the vehicle (you must be able to steer and brake safely)
- driving over the speed by any margin for a continuous period of 5 seconds or driving over the speed limit by 5 km/h or more
- driving too slowly without reason.

When you finish your test

The tester will discuss your performance and give you a copy of your driving test results.

If you pass

You will keep your licence. If you have passed your test but were tested for a conditional licence, VicRoads will arrange to issue a new licence with these conditions.

If your driving was found to be unsafe

If you fail, VicRoads may vary, suspend or cancel your licence until you are tested again and you pass. In the interim, to help you practise your driving and prepare for another test, a 'Driver Licence Receipt' (subject to conditions/restrictions) will be issued for a period of two months.

Regaining your licence

If your licence is suspended or varied for failing a test, it can be reissued at any time when you pass your test. You also have the right to ask VicRoads to review its decision or you may appeal at a Magistrates' Court. The suspension or variation notice will provide advice on these options.

Interstate and overseas drivers

If you hold an interstate driver licence or learner permit, or overseas driver licence, you may be required to undergo a medical review drive test. If you fail your drive test, your authority to drive in Victoria will be removed.

Summary

A summary of test outcomes is detailed in the following column.

Pass

You will retain or be reissued an unconditional or conditional licence.

Licence conditions may include:

- distance restrictions, such as a 5 to 10 kilometre radius from home
- daylight driving only
- no driving during peak hours
- only driving between home and a particular location, such as shops or medical centre.

Fail

You cannot drive alone.

Your licence will be varied with conditions and a driver licence receipt issued at the conclusion of the test.

Licence conditions which enable you to drive to practise for a retest may include:

- only permitted to drive with a full licence holder and within a specified radius from home
- only permitted to drive with a qualified driving instructor
- only permitted to drive with an occupational therapy driver assessor.

Other outcomes can include

- Required to have lessons with a qualified driving instructor prior to a retest. A satisfactory *Driving Instructor Confirmation* form is to be faxed, posted or emailed to Medical Review prior to a retest. NB: All driving instructor costs incurred are to be met by the client.
- Referred for an occupational therapy driver assessment. The Occupational Therapists Conducting Driver Assessments in Victoria contact list and the *Guide to occupational therapy driver assessment* brochure will be provided to you. You will have to arrange for an appointment to be made for an occupational therapy driver assessment. NB: All costs incurred are to be met by the client.

Further information

For further information, please visit vicroads.vic.gov.au or call VicRoads on 13 11 71 (TTY users call 13 36 77, Speak and Listen users call 1300 555 727).