What is the Graduated Licensing System?
The Graduated Licensing System (GLS) is designed to help improve the safety of young drivers.

There have been significant reductions in the road toll but young drivers continue to have more casualty crashes than any other group of drivers on the road.

The facts are simple:
- Each year about 90 people are killed and 1,800 are seriously injured in crashes involving 18-25 year old drivers.
- Probationary drivers are involved in casualty crashes at three times the rate of more experienced drivers.
- More young people die from road crashes than any other causes in Victoria.

Experience shows that it is possible to have a significant effect on the safety of young drivers through the licensing system.

The GLS structures the licensing process so that learning to drive is fully supported and restrictions are placed on risky solo driving situations.

How does the system work?
Young driver crashes are caused by many factors such as inexperience, driving in high risk situations such as driving late at night or with multiple passengers, and unsafe behaviours such as speeding, drink or drug driving and inattention from distractions like mobile phones. The GLS addresses these factors through the following requirements.

Learner permit for 12 months
A person can apply for their learner permit when they are aged at least 16 years, and must pass a computerised learner permit knowledge test. If aged less than 21 years at the time of applying for a probationary licence, the person must have held a learner permit for a minimum of 12 months.

120 hours of supervised driving
Learner drivers aged less than 21 years when applying for their probationary licence must complete at least 120 hours of on-road supervised driving in a variety of conditions, including 10 hours of night driving. These hours must be recorded in the official VicRoads Learner Log Book.

Drive Test and Hazard Perception Test
All learner drivers applying for a probationary licence must pass a challenging on-road Drive Test and computerised Hazard Perception Test.

P1 and P2 probationary licences
Victoria has a two stage probationary driver licence. A P1 licence is issued for the first 12 months followed by a P2 licence for three years. If you are 21 or over when you obtain your probationary licence you will become a P2 licence holder. P1 licence holders must display a red P plate. P2 licence holders must display a green P plate.

P drivers can’t drive probationary prohibited vehicles
A vehicle manufactured on or after 1 January 2010 will be a probationary prohibited vehicle if it has:
- a power to mass ratio of greater than 130 kilowatts per tonne, or
- an engine that has been modified to increase the vehicle’s performance (other than a modification made by the manufacturer in the course of the manufacture of the vehicle).

Exemptions may be available. Different requirements apply to vehicles manufactured before 1 January 2010. For more information go to vicroads.vic.gov.au

If you drive a probationary prohibited vehicle, you will be fined and incur three demerit points.

Peer passenger restriction
A driver on a P1 probationary licence is not permitted to carry more than one peer passenger (aged 16 to under 22 years of age). Peers do not include siblings and this rule does not apply when supervised by a fully licensed driver in the front passenger seat.
The four stages approach to learning to drive

VicRoads recommends that learners and supervising drivers divide the learner period into four stages. These stages provide a way to gradually introduce the learner to complex driving situations when they are ready, and provide supervisors and learners with a tool to help track improvements and progress.

Stage 1 – Controlling the car
The first stage is short and involves the learner developing simple skills to control the car including: moving off smoothly; smooth low speed cornering; slowing down and stopping smoothly at a chosen location; reversing in a straight line and around a curved path; and smooth and efficient use of gears in low speed driving (manual cars).

Stage 2 – Driving on quiet low speed roads
This stage focuses on hazard identification and driving safely on roads with little traffic (such as quiet suburban areas) including: negotiating turns and roundabouts safely; smoothly slowing down when approaching intersections; obeying give way, stop and traffic lights; leaving a safe space between their car, other cars and the kerb; reversing out of a driveway; completing a three-point turn; and angle and parallel parking smoothly and safely.

Stage 3 – Complex driving situations
This stage sees the learner move into more complex driving situations, such as driving on main roads at quiet and then busier times, driving at night and/or in wet conditions and driving on higher speed roads. Learners should be planning their driving routes, detecting and avoiding potential hazards and keeping safe following distances in busy traffic.

Stage 4 – Rehearsing solo driving
This is the final and longest stage of the learner period. Learners in this stage should be driving in many different driving conditions, on all types of roads and in all types of weather and traffic. Learners should be able to handle complex tasks such as: merging on a freeway; changing lanes in busy areas and overtaking; making hook turns; and driving on busy intersections. They should be able to manage moderate levels of distraction in the car such as passengers and music.

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### Graduated Licensing System Summary*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Graduation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stage 1</strong></td>
<td>Controlling the car</td>
<td>Minimum age of 16 years and pass a computerised learner permit knowledge test</td>
<td>A good driving record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stage 2</strong></td>
<td>Driving on quiet low speed roads</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stage 3</strong></td>
<td>Complex driving situations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stage 4</strong></td>
<td>Rehearsing solo driving</td>
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*If you are 21 or older when you apply for a probationary licence, some of the information in this table will not apply. See the Road to Solo Driving handbook for details.*
No mobile phone use
A learner, P1 or P2 probationary driver is not allowed to use a mobile phone while driving. This includes hand-held, hands-free (no speaker phone, headphones or Bluetooth), sending or reading text messages or using any other function of the phone. If you use a mobile phone while driving, you will be fined and incur four demerit points.

Seatbelts
It’s your responsibility to make sure that everyone in the vehicle wears a seatbelt. If you have younger people in the car (under seven years), they must use a suitable approved child restraint or booster seat. If you or your passengers don’t wear a seatbelt, you will be fined and incur three demerit points. Penalties are higher if passengers aged less than 16 years are not restrained properly. You also must not travel with more passengers than there are seatbelts.

A good driving record
A good driving record is necessary to progress through each stage of the licensing system. A poor driving record will extend the period of a P1 or P2 probationary licence for at least six months. Probationary drivers can only accumulate five demerit points in any 12 month period and a total of 12 points in any three year period before further sanctions may be imposed.

Towing
A learner or P1 licence holder is not permitted to tow (except P1 for work or when under instruction).

Zero BAC
Learners, P1 and P2 drivers must have a zero blood alcohol concentration (BAC).

Alcohol interlock
Any driver disqualified for a drink driving offence must have an alcohol interlock fitted to their car when they return to driving. An alcohol interlock prevents a car starting if the driver has been drinking.

Lessons from the Road
Take a look at the online resource ‘Lessons from the Road’, which features a mentor who guides supervisors and learner drivers through eight short videos about learning to drive. Go to: vicroads.vic.gov.au/supervisors

Buying a safe car
Used Car Safety Ratings are available on the L-Site website - lsite.vicroads.vic.gov.au. These ratings indicate how well a car will protect all road users in the event of a crash, including cyclists, pedestrians and other drivers. VicRoads recommends that car buyers purchase cars that offer ‘better than average’ protection as a minimum. You can also see how safe other vehicle models are at: howsafeisyourcar.com.au

This is a guide only and is not legal advice
For further information please phone 13 11 71 or visit vicroads.vic.gov.au