

# **You're Behind the Wheel Now...**

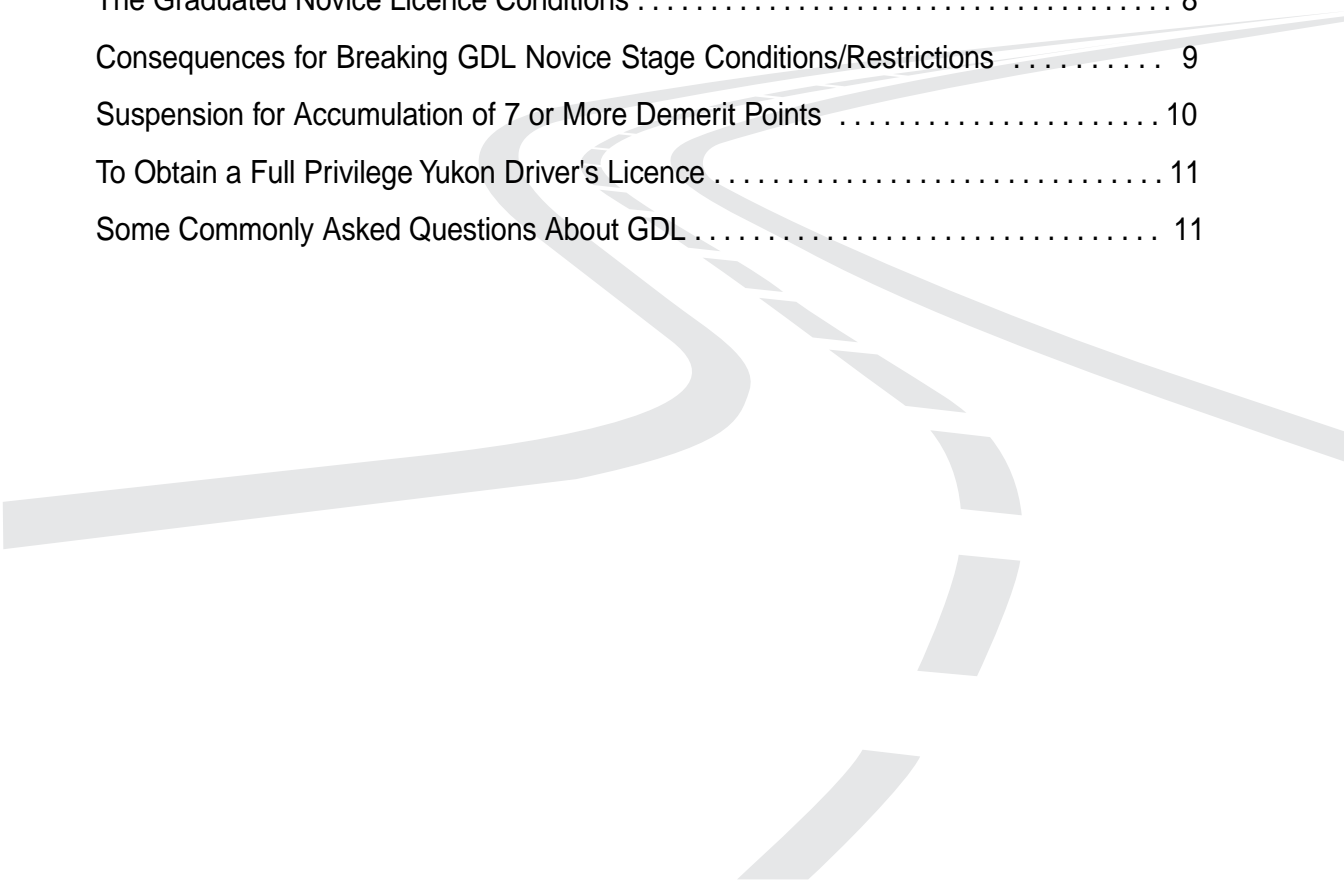
*Graduated Driver Licensing  
for New Yukon Drivers*



**Yukon**  
Government

**This booklet is a supplement to the  
Yukon Driver's Basic Handbook**

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# What is Graduated Driver Licensing?

Graduated driver licensing is a simple concept - a system of licensing that gives new drivers the opportunity to gradually move into higher risk driving situations after gaining experience in low risk situations.

It has been compared to an apprenticeship program when a beginner learns under the guidance and supervision of an experienced tradesperson and then is allowed to proceed unsupervised, first with conditions, then totally on his or her own, with no restrictions.

The first or Learner stage of the Graduated Driver Licencing (GDL) Program is supervised learning in which the beginning driver must be accompanied by another licenced, qualified and experienced driver at all times. A person as young as 15 can enter this stage of the program. A person cannot move to the next stage for a minimum of 6 months or until they are at least 16 years of age and have complied with all the conditions for the Learner stage.

This is followed by an intermediate stage referred to as the "Novice stage" which permits unsupervised driving in less risky situations. A person who has completed all the requirements of the Learner stage and is as young as 16 years of age can enter this stage of the program. All drivers remain in this novice stage for a minimum of 18 months during which they must have complied with all the conditions of that phase.

Finally when the driver successfully completes the novice stage the driver graduates from the GDL Program into a full-privilege licence.

## Who will GDL apply to?

As of September 11, 2000 GDL applies to all new drivers in the Yukon regardless of age. It also affects the people teaching them to drive. Drivers who already hold a Yukon licence of any class (including a Class 7 Learner's Licence) before September 11, 2000 will not be required to enter the GDL Program.



## Steps in the GDL Program

- 1 The first step is to obtain a Learner's Licence by passing a written exam which tests your knowledge of the rules of the road.
- 2 The second step is to practice driving for at least six months with a co-driver under specific conditions and restrictions.
- 3 The third step is to obtain your Novice Licence which involves being at least 16 years old and passing a test of driving skills given by a Yukon Driver Examiner.
- 4 The fourth step is to practice driving as a Novice for 18 months which means you can drive without a co-driver except for certain hours.
- 5 The fifth step is to apply for your full privilege Yukon Driver's Licence.

In both the Learning and Novice phase if you are found to have broken the conditions or restrictions of the Licence or if your Learner's or Novice Licence is suspended or cancelled for any reason you cannot move to the next step but must restart the phase you were in your Learner's or Novice Licence is reissued.

## Why GDL?

According to Canadian statistics new drivers are far more likely to be involved in crashes than experienced ones.

GDL Programs in other jurisdictions have led to a significant reduction in accidents, injuries and deaths for new drivers.

Driving in the Yukon is more complicated than it once was. There are more traffic control devices and the roads are busier.

For visits "Outside" the Yukon, drivers can expect to cope with crowded multiple lane highways, higher speeds, gridlock and some aggressive drivers.

Graduated driver's licensing will help new drivers gain driving experience under conditions which minimize risk.

# The Steps

There are several steps in the Graduated Driver Licencing Program. This booklet will outline each part of the program and explain what is expected of the new driver and those teaching them to drive during each of the stages.

New drivers in the GDL Program will apply for either a Car/Truck or Motorcycle Learner's Licence. That licence will authorize the new driver to drive only those particular vehicles.



The **first step** is to obtain a Graduated Car/Truck Learner's or Motorcycle Learner's Licence. To qualify you must:

- be at least 15 years old and have the consent of your parent/guardian
- have passed a written test for the type of licence you wish to obtain (Car/Truck or Motorcycle) which will test your knowledge of the rules of the road, safe driving practices and the law (see page 13 of this booklet for testing location).
- also pass a vision test (see page 13 of this booklet for testing locations).
- pay the driver licence fee



Once you have a GDL Learner's Car/Truck or Motorcycle Licence, the **second step** is to practice driving. This means you must practice as a "Learner" under the following very specific conditions:

## The Graduated Learner's Licence Conditions

These conditions apply to drivers holding a GDL Car/Truck or Motorcycle Learner's Licence:

### ***Co-driver (s)***

The holder of a **Car/Truck Learner Licence** or a **Motorcycle Learner Licence** must be accompanied by a co-driver at all times, although it is not necessary for the same co-driver to always accompany the learning driver.

## **A co-driver is a person who:**

- holds a valid licence other than a Learner's or GDL Licence for the class of vehicle the learner will be driving. It should be noted a Class 6 motorcycle licence holder is not eligible as a co-driver to teach a car or truck learner to drive a car or truck. However, the holder of a class 5 car/truck or the holder of a Class 4, 3, 2, or 1 Licence is eligible as a co-driver to teach a car or truck learner to drive a car or truck. The person must have held that specific class of licence for at least the two years immediately prior to teaching the learner to drive;
- is seated next to the Learning driver in the car or truck;
- In the case of the Learning motorcycle driver, the co-driver may be seated behind the Learning motorcycle driver or may follow closely on another motorcycle or be in a motor vehicle which is following closely. A driver learning to drive a motorcycle must also learn to balance his/her body weight along with the weight of the motorcycle. Carrying even a co-driver on the motorcycle may interfere with the driver's ability to safely balance the bike during driving manoeuvres. It is recommended that the co-driver follow in or on another vehicle;
- is able to take over lawful control of the vehicle.

## ***Alcohol and Drugs***

**The holder of a Car/Truck Learner Licence or a Motorcycle Learner Licence and co-driver**, regardless of their respective ages, must be drug free and have zero alcohol in their blood.

## ***Size of Vehicle***

**The holder of a Car/Truck Learner Licence** may drive a vehicle that is equipped to carry no more than 7 persons, including the driver, and has a registered gross vehicle weight not exceeding 4000 kgs.

**The holder of a Motorcycle Learner Licence** may drive only motorcycles.

## **Passengers**

**The holder of a Car/Truck Learner Licence** can only carry one passenger in addition to the co-driver.

**The holder of a Motorcycle Learner Licence** must not carry any passengers, and it is recommended the co-driver should follow in another vehicle rather than ride on the Motorcycle in order not to interfere with the learning driver's ability to balance the bike.

## ***Driving Practice Required***

**The holder of a Car/Truck Learner Licence** must complete a *minimum* of 50 hours of driving practice with a qualified co-driver (driving with a driving school instructor also counts for these hours).

This 50 hours must include at least 10 hours of driving in darkness and 10 hours of driving in winter conditions. It should be noted that hours logged as winter hours and hours logged as darkness hours cannot be the same hours. The Learning driver is encouraged to practice driving for as many hours as it takes to be ready for both the road test which will test the driver's ability to safely operate the vehicle on the road and to drive alone in the Novice stage.

Hours of actual driving time during a driver education course count towards these hours as well.

**The holder of a Motorcycle Learner Licence** must complete a *minimum* of 30 hours of practice driving with a qualified co-driver. The Learning motorcycle driver is encouraged to practice driving for as many hours as it takes to be ready for both the road test, which will test the driver's ability to safely operate the vehicle on the road, and to drive alone in the Novice stage.

Riding under a professional instructor's guidance also counts for these hours.

**All holders of GDL Car/Truck and Motorcycle Licences** will be required to complete a Declaration (legal document) in which the driver states that he/she has completed the minimum number of hours of driving practice for the class of licence the driver holds. A parent, guardian or one of the co-drivers who taught the Learning driver will also be required to sign the Declaration to verify the driver's statement.



## *Time of Day*

**The holder of a Car/Truck Learner Licence** may drive only between 5:00 a.m. and midnight and only while accompanied by a qualified co-driver. No driving is permitted during high risk hours between midnight and 5:00 a.m.

## **Sign**

**The holder of a Car/Truck Learner Licence** must display a sign approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, which indicates that the vehicle is being operated by the holder of a Learner's Licence. The sign must be visible to other vehicle operators approaching from behind the vehicle. The sign is available from any motor vehicle licencing office. See page 13 of this booklet for locations.

**The holder of a Motorcycle Learner Licence** must display on the motorcycle or wear, a sign approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles that indicates that the Motorcycle is being operated by the holder of a Learner's licence. The sign must be visible to other vehicles approaching from behind the Motorcycle. The sign is available from any motor vehicle licencing office. See page 14 of this booklet for locations.

## **Consequences for Breaking GDL Learner Stage Conditions/Restrictions:**

If the holder of a GDL Learner Car/Truck or Motorcycle Licence breaks any of the conditions or restrictions the driver will receive a summary conviction ticket and upon conviction will be required to restart the Learner stage of GDL.

If the Car/Truck or Motorcycle Learner Licence is suspended, cancelled or the holder becomes disqualified from holding a licence the holder of that licence will also be required to restart the GDL Learner stage.

In the above cases, the time the GDL Learner's Licence has been held will not be counted toward the total time required to qualify for a GDL Novice Car/Truck or Motorcycle Licence.

When the licence is reinstated the driver must again meet the time requirement for the Learner stage and will not be eligible to progress to the Novice stage for at least another six months.



After you have completed the requirements under the Learner's licence of the GDL Program you may feel you are ready to "graduate" to the **third step** of GDL - obtaining your Novice Licence.

## Graduated Novice Licence:

**To qualify to obtain a GDL Car/Truck or Motorcycle Novice Licence you must:**

- have held a GDL Class 7 Car/Truck or Motorcycle Learner Licence for a period of 6 continuous months immediately prior to making application for a Novice Licence of the same class (either Car/Truck or Motorcycle).
- have completed the minimum driving practice required for the class of licence you hold (50 hours, including 10 hours of driving in darkness and 10 hours of winter driving for the holders of Car/Truck Licences and 30 hours of driving practice for Motorcycle drivers).
- have not violated the conditions of the GDL Class 7 Car/Truck or Motorcycle Learner Licence.
- have successfully passed a test of your driving skills. This is called a road test and is given by a Yukon Driver Examiner.
- be at least 16 years of age and have a parent/guardian's consent.



Once you have earned your Graduated Car/Truck or Motorcycle Novice Licence the **fourth step** is to continue to practice driving as a "Novice." Certain driving conditions apply in the novice stage.

# The Graduated Novice Licence Conditions

- ***Co-driver(s) required between midnight and 5:00 a.m.*** - The main difference between the Learner stage and the Novice stage of GDL is that the Novice driver, who has now gained some driving experience, is permitted to drive alone **except** when driving during the high risk hours between midnight and 5:00 a.m. Between midnight and 5:00 a.m. the Novice driver must be accompanied by a qualified co-driver. It is not necessary for the same co-driver to always accompany the Novice driver.

## *Alcohol and Drugs*

**The holder of a Car/Truck Novice Licence or a Motorcycle Novice Licence and co-driver (when one is required),** regardless of their respective ages, must be drug free and have zero alcohol in their blood.

## *Vehicle Size*

**The holder of a Car/Truck Novice Licence** may drive a vehicle equipped to carry not more than 9 persons, including the driver, with a registered gross vehicle weight not to exceed 4,000 kgs.

**The holder of a Motorcycle Novice Licence** may only drive motorcycles.

## *Passengers*

**The holder of a Car/Truck Novice Licence** may not operate a vehicle:

- with more than one passenger who is under 13 years of age nor
- with a combination of passengers that includes more than one passenger who is under 13 years old and more than one passenger who is over 12 but under 20 years old unless there is a passenger in the vehicle who is at least 20 years old and whose ability to supervise the younger passengers is not impaired by alcohol or drugs.

- with more passengers in it than there are operable seat belts for the passengers.
- with passengers in the box of a truck being operated by a Novice driver.

**The holder of a Motorcycle Novice Licence** may not operate the Motorcycle with a passenger who is under 13 years of age.

## **Consequences for Breaking GDL Novice Stage Conditions/Restrictions**

If the holder of a GDL Car/Truck or Motorcycle Novice Licence breaks any of the conditions or restrictions the driver will receive a summary conviction ticket for the specific offence. If convicted of that offence, the driver will be required to restart the Novice stage of GDL.

If the Car/Truck or Motorcycle Novice Licence is suspended, cancelled or the holder becomes disqualified from holding a licence, the holder of that licence will also be required to restart the GDL Novice stage.

In the above cases, the time the GDL Novice Licence has been held will not be counted toward the total time required to qualify to be eligible to obtain a full privilege Class 5 or Class 6 Licence.

When the licence is reinstated the driver must again meet the time requirement for the GDL Novice stage and will not be eligible to progress out of the Novice stage for at least another eighteen months.

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles may refuse to issue a full privilege Class 5 or 6 Licence if satisfied that the applicant has violated a restriction or condition of their Class 5 Novice Car/Truck Novice or Class 6 Motorcycle Novice Licence.

If the Registrar has reason to believe that information provided by the driver, parent/guardian or co-driver on the Driving Experience Declaration is false and a Novice Car/Truck or Motorcycle Licence has already been issued, the Registrar may cancel the Novice Licence and replace it with a GDL Car/Truck or Motorcycle Learner Licence. Should this occur the time the Learner Licence was held prior to the offence will not be counted. The driver will be required to remain in the Learner stage for a minimum 6 month period.

## **Suspension for Accumulation of 7 or More Demerit Points:**

If the holder of a GDL Learner or Novice Licence is convicted of traffic offences which result in 7 or more demerit points being assigned to the driver's record, the GDL Learner or Novice Licence of the driver will be suspended. The suspension will be for:

- **one month if it is the first time** within a one year period that 7 points have accumulated. During the suspension time the driver must not drive at all and must surrender the licence to Motor Vehicles. Before the licence can be reinstated, the driver will be interviewed by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, who may apply additional conditions or restrictions to the licence as deemed appropriate before it is reissued.
- **two months if it is a second or subsequent time** the GDL driver accumulates 7 or more demerit points within a one year period. Before the licence can be reinstated, the driver will be interviewed by the Driver Control Board and additional conditions or restrictions as deemed appropriate may be applied to the licence before it is reissued.



## To Obtain a Full Privilege Yukon Driver's Licence

The holder of a GDL Car/Truck or Motorcycle Novice Licence is eligible to apply for a Class 5 or Class 6 Licence when the driver:

- meets all the requirements of the Motor Vehicles Act and Regulations and
- has held a valid GDL Car/Truck or Motorcycle Novice Licence for a period of 18 continuous months immediately before making application for a Class 5 Car/Truck or 6 Motorcycle Licence and
- has not violated the conditions of the GDL Novice Stage Licence.
- makes application for a Class 5 or Class 6 Licence
- pays any licensing fee

Applications are available from any one of the Yukon motor vehicles licensing offices listed on page 14 of this booklet.

## Some Commonly Asked Questions About GDL:

**Q** If I already have a Learner's Licence before September 11, 2000 will this new Graduated Driver Licencing Program affect me?

**A** No. Drivers who are already licenced in the Yukon before September 11, 2000 will not be required to enter the GDL Program.

**Q** Will taking lessons from a driving school reduce the number of hours and months for me to fulfil my learner's licence requirements?

**A** The Learner stage lasts a minimum of six months and the length of time cannot be reduced by a driver education course. However, time spent actually driving during your driver education course will be counted towards the driving practice required during the Learner's Licence.

If you take a driver education course, be sure to keep track of your driving practice on the Record of Driving Practice log provided for this purpose and have your driving instructor sign the log as the co-driver.

**Q** What will happen if I carry more passengers than I am allowed for the class of licence I hold or drive without a co-driver when one is required?

**A** If you are stopped by an enforcement officer and you are found to be carrying more passengers than permitted for your class of licence or you are driving without a co-driver when one is required you will receive a ticket for that offence.

If you are convicted of this offence or you break any of the other conditions for your licence stage (such as driving while not drug or alcohol free, driving a larger vehicle than permitted, not displaying a sign when one is required, falsifying your driving experience declaration) you will be required to restart your licencing stage.

- If you are in the Learner's stage when you are convicted, you will be required to restart the Learner stage and remain in it for at least an additional six month period until you are eligible to move to the Novice stage of GDL.
- If you were a Novice driver when you are convicted you will be required to restart the Novice stage and remain in it for at least an additional 18 month period until you were eligible to apply for a full privilege licence.

**Q** Where can a co-driver get information on the rules of the road, safe driving practice and the law?

**A** It is suggested that anyone who will be taking on the role of co-driver to teach a new driver should refresh his or her knowledge before the first driving practice session.

This information is contained in the Yukon Operator's Manual for Cars and Light Trucks. Additional resource materials are available from local book stores, over the internet and from driving schools and through organizations like the Canada Safety Council and others.

**Q** What are demerit points?

**A** Demerit points are points assigned for Motor Vehicle offences.

If you are convicted of breaking a motor vehicle law, (like failing to stop at a stop sign, or speeding) points are assigned to your driving record.

Once you have reached 7 points your driver's licence is suspended for one month. You may not drive at all during that time and you must surrender your driver's licence to a motor vehicle office. You will be required to restart the Learner or Novice Licence stage again (depending on which stage of the GDL program you were in when the suspension was issued to you.)

Licence suspensions will often affect your insurance rates.

**Q** What happens if my co-driver is not qualified to teach me to drive?

**A** The co-driver requirements are explained on page 4 of this booklet. Before agreeing to allow anyone to act as your co-driver you should get them to review the requirements, and verify to you that they qualify as a co-driver.

If the person who is acting as your co-driver does not meet the requirements for the co-driver that person will have committed an offence under the *Motor Vehicles Act* and can be issued a ticket.

As well you would be found to have broken a condition of GDL and you would be required to restart the stage of GDL that you are currently in. The time you had in that stage before this occurred would not count toward the minimum time requirements to qualify for either the next stage or graduation from the GDL program.

**Q** How can I prove I have practised driving for the required number of hours?

**A** When you receive your Learner's Licence you will be given a Record of Driving Practice log sheet on which to record your driving practice. Your co-driver should also sign each entry after completing the instruction/driving session. You are encouraged to keep track of your driving practice on this sheet.

You will also be required to sign a declaration at the completion of your Learning stage verifying that you have completed at least the minimum number of hours of driving practice with a co-driver. A parent, guardian or co-driver will also be required to sign that declaration verifying that your information is correct. Keeping track of your driving practice will help to ensure that the information you provide on the Declaration is true.



**Q** Are there driver education schools in the Yukon?

**A** Yes. They are listed in the telephone yellow pages under Driving Instruction.

**Q** Where can I get additional information on the GDL Program or arrange for a road test?

**A** You can call the following number to get more information:

- Whitehorse . . . . . (867) 667-5873 for road test booking or  
(867) 667-5315 for information on GDL
- Faro . . . . . (867) 994-2724
- Mayo . . . . . (867) 996-2276
- Haines Junction . . (867) 634-2201
- Dawson City . . . . (867) 993-5348
- Watson Lake . . . . (867) 536-7311

**Call (867) 667-5873 to book a road test in other communities not listed here or get more information about GDL.**