



BRITISH COLUMBIA GDL: MOTORCYCLES

PROGRAM INFORMATION

To obtain a motorcycle licence in BC, there is a Graduated Licensing Program (GLP) with two stages for drivers seeking their first licence: Class 8L (Learner), and Class 8 (Novice). There is also a shorter program for drivers who already hold a B.C. driver's licence (Class 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5), and wish to obtain a motorcycle licence.

Effective date of program implementation: August, 1998; modified October 6, 2003 and March 31, 2007

FIRST BC LICENCE

ALREADY HOLDS A BC LICENCE

LEARNER LICENCE: CLASS 8L

NOVICE LICENCE: CLASS 8

LEARNER LICENCE: CLASS 6L

AGE RESTRICTIONS

- Minimum entry age: 16 years
- Minimum exit age: 17 years

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Vision test
- Knowledge test
- Parental consent: If applicant is under 19 years of age
- Driver education: Optional

EXIT REQUIREMENTS

- Time completion: 12 months with class 8L licence
- Successfully pass test/course: Class 8 road test

STAGE DURATION

- Minimum duration: After 30 days drivers can take the Motorcycle Skills Test (MST) through ICBC or a certified driver training school; after 12 months they can take the Class 8 road test
- Maximum holding period: 2 years before having to re-qualify for licence (by taking the vision, knowledge and motorcycle skills tests again)

SUPERVISORY DRIVER

- Age: 25+
- Licence held: Class 6
- Time licensed
- BAC level while supervising
- Driver log: Optional
- Location while supervising: Driver must always ride within sight of a qualified supervisor – requirement removed after successful completion of MST

AGE RESTRICTIONS

- Minimum entry age: 17 years
- Minimum exit age: 18 years 6 months

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Time completion: Held a Class 8L Learner licence for 12 cumulative months
- Successfully passed test/course: Class 8 road test
- Parental consent

EXIT REQUIREMENTS

- Time completion: Hold a Class 8 licence for 24 consecutive months without a driving prohibition – reduced by 6 months if an approved driver education course is successfully completed in the learner stage and drivers have no violations (tickets) or at-fault crashes (found to be 50% or more at fault) for the first 18 months of the Novice stage
- Successfully pass test/course: Class 6 road test

STAGE DURATION

- Minimum duration: see above for time completion requirements
- Maximum holding period: No limit (5 year licence, can be renewed without re-qualifying/re-testing for licence)

SUPERVISORY DRIVER

- Age
- Licence held
- Time licensed
- BAC level while supervising
- Driver log
- Location while supervising

AGE RESTRICTIONS

- Minimum entry age: 18 years and 6 months (have to have a full-privilege licence – GLP minimum 2 years, 6 months)
- Minimum exit age: 18 years and 7 months (30 day minimum 6L stage)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Vision test
- Knowledge test
- Parental consent: If applicant is under 19 years of age
- Driver education: Voluntary

EXIT REQUIREMENTS

- Time completion: 30 days with Class 6L licence
- Successfully pass test/course: Class 6 road test

STAGE DURATION

- Minimum duration: After 14 days, drivers can take the MST; after 30 days they can take the Class 6 road test
- Maximum holding period: 1 year before having to re-qualify for licence (by taking the vision, knowledge and motorcycle skills tests again)

SUPERVISORY DRIVER

- Age: 19+
- Licence held: Class 6
- Time licensed
- BAC level while supervising
- Driver log
- Location while supervising: Driver must always ride within sight of a qualified supervisor – requirement removed after successful completion of MST

SUPERVISED DRIVING

- Minimum amount

DRIVING RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS

- BAC level while driving: Zero
- Night driving: Only permitted to ride during daylight hours, between sunrise and sunset
- Passenger restrictions: Must not carry passengers
- Road restrictions: Must not exceed 60 km/h - restriction removed after successful completion of MST
- Display "L" sign/plate when driving: Mandatory; driver must display a red L (Learner) sign on the rear of their motorcycle, or on their clothing as long as it is clearly visible from behind
- Other restrictions – no electronic devices

SUSPENSION/PROHIBITION

- Lower driver penalty point threshold: 2-6 (discretionary, instead of 15-19); general rules - four penalty points (usually 2 tickets) leads to one month prohibition, more points could lead to a longer prohibition
- Minimum penalty for violating GLP restrictions: A fine of \$109 plus 3 driver penalty points
- Violation of the zero BAC limit: 1) an immediate 12-hour suspension or 24-hour prohibition and 2) a one month driving prohibition (first violation) or 3) extended prohibition for repeat violations
- Drivers in GLP are also subject to the regular penalties that apply to all drivers
- If a driver receives a driving prohibition during the learner stage, it will extend the learner stage, as time will not accumulate toward graduating to the novice stage until the prohibition is served and the licence reinstated

DRIVER IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS

N/A

ADDITIONAL CLASS 8L GDL FEATURES

N/A

SUPERVISED DRIVING

- Minimum amount

DRIVING RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS

- BAC level while driving: Zero
- Night restrictions
- Passenger restrictions
- Road restrictions
- Must display "N" sign/plate when driving: Mandatory - A green N (Novice) sign replaces the red L sign; when riding, the N sign must be displayed on the back of the rider's motorbike or clothing so that drivers behind can see it
- Other restrictions – no electronic devices

SUSPENSION/PROHIBITION

- Lower driver penalty point threshold: 2-6 (discretionary, instead of 15-19); if a driving prohibition is received, the driver goes back to the beginning of the novice stage after serving their prohibition time, losing all experience time
- See Suspension/Prohibition section for Class 8L drivers

DRIVER IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS

N/A

ADDITIONAL CLASS 8 GDL FEATURES

N/A

SUPERVISED DRIVING

- Minimum amount

DRIVING RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS

- BAC level while driving: Max .05
- Night driving: No night driving; only permitted to ride during daylight hours, between sunrise and sunset
- Passenger restrictions: Must not carry passengers
- Road restrictions: Must not exceed 60 km/h - restriction removed after successful completion of MST
- Display "L" sign/plate when driving
- Other restrictions

SUSPENSION/PROHIBITION

- Subject to the prohibition level of other experienced drivers (at the 15-19 penalty points level)

DRIVER IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS

N/A

ADDITIONAL CLASS 6L GDL FEATURES

N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Websites:

ICBC - Driver Licensing - <http://www.icbc.com/licensing/>

ICBC - How to get your motorcycle driver's licence (*when you don't already have a B.C. driver's licence*) - http://www.icbc.com/licensing/lic_getlic_mbike-noDL.asp

ICBC - How to get your motorcycle driver's licence (*when you already have a B.C. driver's licence*) - http://www.icbc.com/licensing/lic_getlic_mbike-DL.asp