

ONTARIO GDL: PASSENGER VEHICLES

PROGRAM INFORMATION

To obtain a licence to operate a passenger vehicle in ON, there are two stages to ON's GDL program: Class G1, which precedes Class G2. Effective date of program implementation: April 1, 1994; revisions Sept.1, 2005; revisions Aug. 1 2010.

NOVICE LICENCE: Class G1

NOVICE LICENCE: Class G2

AGE RESTRICTIONS

- Minimum entry age: 16 years
- Minimum exit age: 16 years and 8 months

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Vision test
- Knowledge test
- Parental consent
- Driver education: Voluntary

EXIT REQUIREMENTS

- Time completion: Hold a Class G1 licence for 12 months
- Successfully pass test/course: Class G1 road test

STAGE DURATION

- Minimum duration: 12 months (can be reduced to 8 months if a Ministry approved driver education course is successfully completed)
- Maximum holding period: 5 years for exiting combined G1/G2 Graduated Licensing System

SUPERVISORY DRIVER

- Age
- Licence held: Fully licensed with Class A, B, C, D, E, F, or G
- Time licensed: At least 4 years
- BAC level while supervising: Zero
- Driver log
- Location while supervising: Seated in the front passenger seat next to the driver at all hours

SUPERVISED DRIVING

- Minimum amount of supervised driving

DRIVING RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS

- BAC level while driving: Zero
- Night restrictions: No driving between midnight and 5 a.m.
- Passenger restrictions: Must have supervisory driver in vehicle at all times; number of other passengers limited to the number of working seatbelts
- Road restrictions:
 - Refrain from driving "400-series" highways or other high-speed expressways such as the Queen Elizabeth Way, Don Valley Parkway, Gardiner Expressway, E.C. Row Expressway and the Conestoga Parkway;
 - If licensed driving instructor is with the driver, may drive on any road.
- Display "L" sign/plate when driving
- Other restrictions

AGE RESTRICTIONS

- Minimum entry age: 16 years and 8 months
- Minimum exit age: 17 years and 8 months

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Time completion: Held a Class G1 licence for 12 months (or 8 if driver education course was completed)
- Successfully passed test/course: Class G1 road test
- Parental consent

EXIT REQUIREMENTS

- Time completion: Hold a Class G2 licence for 12 months
- Successfully pass test/course: Class G2 road test

STAGE DURATION

- Minimum duration: 12 months
- Maximum holding period: This period can be extended through driver improvement action; maximum extension is 200 days at a hearing; should there be subsequent hearings, a further extension can be imposed at each hearing (max of 200 days per hearing)

SUPERVISORY DRIVER

N/A

SUPERVISED DRIVING

- Minimum amount of supervised driving

DRIVING RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS

- BAC level while driving: Zero
- Night restrictions
- Passenger restrictions:
 - > Ensure the number of passengers in the vehicle is limited to the number of working seat belts;
 - > Initially, G2 drivers 19 or under can carry only one passenger aged 19 or under; after the first six months, and until the G2 driver earns a full G licence or turns 20, they can carry only three passengers aged 19 or under;
 - > The passenger restrictions do not apply if the G2 driver is operating a motor vehicle after 5 a.m. and before midnight;
 - > These restrictions will not apply if the G2 driver is accompanied by a full "G" licensed driver (with at least four years driving experience) in the front seat, or if the passengers are immediate family members.
- Road restrictions
- Display "N" sign/plate when driving
- Other restrictions

SUSPENSION/PROHIBITION

- Lower driver penalty point threshold: 9 instead of 15
- If Class G1/G2 drivers get 2 or more demerit points, they will be sent a warning letter
- At 6 points, they may have to go to an interview to discuss their record and give reasons why their licence should not be

SUSPENSION/PROHIBITION

- See SUSPENSION/PROHIBITION section for CLASS G1

DRIVER IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS

- Novice driver program is three-tiered:

- suspended; if they do not attend the interview, their licence may be suspended
- At 9 points, their licence will be suspended for 60 days from the date they surrender it to the Ministry of Transportation; they can lose their licence for up to 2 years if they fail to surrender their licence

DRIVER IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS

Novice driver program is three-tiered:

- > 1st intervention – Novice Warning letter
- > 2nd intervention – Novice Driver Course
- > 3rd intervention – Novice Driver Hearing

NOVICE DRIVERS ESCALATING SANCTIONS PROGRAM

As of August 1, 2010, any driver that holds a novice class licence will face escalating sanctions for any combination of repeat violations of G1, G2, M1 and M2 conditions as well as:

- > convictions for individual HTA offences totalling four or more demerit points or;
- > a court-ordered licence suspension for HTA offences that would have resulted in four or more demerit points had the suspension not been ordered.

The Novice Driver Escalating Sanctions are:

- > 30 days for a first instance;
- > 90 days for a second instance;
- > Cancellation of novice licence, loss of all credit for any fees or time spent in GLS including any Beginner Driver Education time discount, and requirement to re-apply to enter G1 or M1, as the case may be, for a third instance.

ADDITIONAL CLASS G1 FEATURES

Not permitted to take instruction in Class 1-4
Not permitted to tow vehicles

- > 1st intervention – Novice Warning letter
- > 2nd intervention – Novice Driver Course
- > 3rd intervention – Novice Driver Hearing

NOVICE DRIVERS ESCALATING SANCTIONS PROGRAM

See NOVICE DRIVERS ESCALATING SANCTIONS PROGRAM section for CLASS G1

ADDITIONAL CLASS G2 FEATURES

- May take instruction for Class 1-4 licences if at least 18 and meets medical standards

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Effective August 1, 2010, all drivers under 22 years of age, regardless of their class of licence, must maintain a zero blood alcohol concentration level when driving. This is similar to the 0 BAC licence condition that already applies to novice drivers in GLS. Penalties for non-compliance are as follows:

Young Drivers (under 22 years of age)

- > immediate 24-hour licence suspension at roadside
- > upon conviction, a fine of \$60 to \$500 and a 30-day licence suspension

Novice Drivers

- > immediate 24-hour licence suspension at roadside
- > upon conviction, a fine of \$60 to \$500 and a licence suspension as per the Novice Driver Escalating Sanction program, which may include cancellation of the novice licence.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Ministry of Transportation
1201 Wilson Avenue
Downsview, ON M3M 1J8

Ministry of Government Services – Service Ontario Driver and Vehicle Contact Centre
Ph: 1-800-387-3445 or 416-235-2999 in Greater Toronto Area

Website: Graduated Driver Licensing - <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandv/driver/gradu/index.html>

