

## GDL – New Drivers Learner Stage (Stage 1) at a Glance

GDL Component		Province/Territory													
		BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL	YK	NWT	NU	
Licence class		7L	7	7	5L	G1	5	7 (Level 1)	7	7 (Stage 1)	5 (Level 1)	7	7 (Stage 1)	7	
Age Restrictions	Minimum entry age	16 yrs	14 yrs	15 yrs <sup>1</sup>	15.5 yrs <sup>2</sup>	16 yrs	16 yrs	16 yrs	16 yrs	16 yrs	16 yrs	16 yrs	15 yrs	15 yrs	15 yrs
	Minimum exit age	17 yrs	16 yrs	16 yrs	16 yrs, 3 months	16 yrs, 8 months	16 yrs, 8 months	16 yrs, 4 months		17 yrs	16 yrs, 8 months	16 yrs <sup>3</sup>	16 yrs	16 yrs	
Entry Requirements	Vision test	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Knowledge test	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>4</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>5</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	Parental consent: Age applied	Yes, >19 yrs	Yes, >18 yrs	Yes, >18 yrs	Yes, >18 yrs	No	Yes, >18 yrs	Yes, >18 yrs	Yes, >18 yrs		Yes, >19 yrs	Yes, >18 yrs			
Exit Requirements	Driver Education	Voluntary	Voluntary	Mandatory <sup>6</sup>	Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary <sup>7</sup>	Voluntary	Voluntary <sup>8</sup>	Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary	
	Time completion	12 months, Class 7L	12 months, Class 7	9 months, Class 7	9 months, Class 5L	12 months, Class G1 <sup>9</sup>	12 months, Class 5 <sup>10</sup>	12 months, Class 7 <sup>11</sup>	6 months, Class 7 <sup>12</sup>	Varies <sup>13</sup>	12 months, Level 1 <sup>14</sup>	1 year, Class 7 <sup>15</sup>	12 months, Class 7 <sup>16</sup>	4 weeks, Class 7	
	Pass test/course	Class 7 road test	Alberta standard road test	Class 5 road test	Class 5 road test	Class G1 road test	Class 5 road test	Class 7 (Level 1) road test	Class 5 road test	Class 5 road test	Class 5 road test	Class 5 road test	Class 5 road test	Practical road test	Class 5 Road test
Stage Duration	Minimum duration	12 months	12 months	9 months	9 months	8 months	8 months	4 months <sup>17</sup>	6 months	Varies <sup>18</sup>	8 months	6 months	12 months		
	Maximum holding period	2 years <sup>19</sup>	12 months <sup>20</sup>		No <sup>21</sup>	5 years <sup>22</sup>			1 year		2 years				

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Supervisory Driver	Age	25+ yrs	18+ yrs										18+ yrs		
	Licence held	Class 1-5	Full	Full	Class 5	Full <sup>23</sup>	Class 5	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full	Class 5		
	Time licensed			See notes <sup>24</sup>	3 years	4 years	2 years	2 years	2 years	2 years	4 years	4 years	2 years <sup>25</sup>	2 years	
	BAC level while supervising			Cannot exceed 40mg	<0.05	Zero	≤0.08	≤0.08	Zero	Zero	≤0.05	≤0.05	Zero	No alcohol or drugs in system	
	Driver log	Yes <sup>26</sup>											Yes		
	Location while supervising	Beside driver	Beside driver	Beside driver	Beside driver	Beside driver	Beside driver	Beside driver	Beside driver	Beside driver	Beside driver	Beside driver	Beside Driver	Beside driver	
Supervised Driving	Minimum amount	60 hours <sup>27</sup>	60 hours <sup>28</sup>		9 months			10 hours with approved course <sup>29</sup>					50 hours <sup>30</sup>		
Driver Restrictions and Conditions	BAC level while driving	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero		Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero		
	Night driving	12am-5am	12am-5am	12am-5am		12am-5am			Yes	1am-5am <sup>31</sup>	12am-5am	12am-5am	11pm-6am		
	Passenger restrictions	2 <sup>32</sup>	Yes <sup>33</sup>	Yes <sup>34</sup>	Yes <sup>35</sup>	Yes <sup>36</sup>		Yes <sup>37</sup>	Yes	Yes <sup>38</sup>	Yes <sup>39</sup>	Yes <sup>40</sup>	Yes <sup>41</sup>		
	Road restrictions				Yes <sup>42</sup>	Yes <sup>43</sup>									
	Display "L" sign/plate	Yes									Yes	Yes <sup>44</sup>	Yes		
	Other restrictions										Yes <sup>45</sup>				

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Suspensions / Prohibitions	Lower driver penalty point threshold	2-6 instead of 15-19	7 instead of 14			9 instead of 15	4 instead of 15	4 instead of 10 <sup>46</sup>	4 instead of 12		6 instead of 12	7 instead of 15	6 instead of 15 <sup>47</sup>	
	Suspensions	Yes <sup>48</sup>	Yes <sup>49</sup>	Yes <sup>50</sup>	Yes <sup>51</sup>	Yes <sup>52</sup>	Yes <sup>53</sup>	Yes <sup>54</sup>	Yes <sup>55</sup>	Yes <sup>56</sup>	Yes <sup>57</sup>	Yes <sup>58</sup>	Yes <sup>59</sup>	
Driver Improvement Actions			Yes <sup>60</sup>	Yes <sup>61</sup>	Yes <sup>62</sup>	Yes <sup>63</sup>					Yes <sup>64</sup>			
Additional GDL features			Yes <sup>65</sup>		Yes <sup>66</sup>	Yes <sup>67</sup>	Yes <sup>68</sup>			Yes <sup>69</sup>	Yes <sup>70</sup>	Yes <sup>71</sup>		

<sup>1</sup> 16 years, 15 if in high school program

<sup>2</sup> 16 years, 15.5 if enrolled in high school driver

<sup>3</sup> 16 years, or 6 continuous months if over 16

<sup>4</sup> Must achieve 85% for the part on motorcycle operating techniques; 75% for each of the three parts on traffic rules, road signs and traffic signals

<sup>5</sup> Must score at least 85%

<sup>6</sup> Required high school driver training education (30 hours in class, 6 hours in car) or commercial training (six hours in-class and six hours in-car)

<sup>7</sup> Optional driving course offered by a driving school recognized by CAA-Québec or the Quebec Safety League

<sup>8</sup> There are two versions of the driver training program that is approved by Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations - the short course involves 6 hours of classroom time, while the longer course involves at least 35 hours of classroom time and 10 hours of supervised driving

<sup>9</sup> 12 months (can be reduced to 8 months if a Ministry-approved driver education course is successfully completed)

<sup>10</sup> 12 months with a valid licence (or 8 months if a practical course was completed)

<sup>11</sup> 12 months (can be reduced to 4 months if an approved driver education course is passed)

<sup>12</sup> 6 months, may be reduced to 3 months if a recognized driver education or training program is taken

<sup>13</sup> Applicants who received their Instruction Permit after March 31, 2007 must wait 1 year before they have their first road test, or if enrolled in a driver education program, 275 days; applicants who received their Instruction Permit before April 1, 2007 have a minimum waiting period before their first road test of 180 days under the old Novice Driver Program rules

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- <sup>14</sup> 12 months, may be reduced to 8 months if an approved driver education course is passed
- <sup>15</sup> 1 year or 6 continuous months as a Class 7 Learner
- <sup>16</sup> Hold a Class 7 licence for 12 months suspension-free
- <sup>17</sup> 12 months (can be reduced to 4 months if an approved driver education course is passed)
- <sup>18</sup> Applicants who received their Instruction Permit after March 31, 2007 must wait 1 year before taking their first road test, or if enrolled in a driver education program, 275 days; Applicants who received their Instruction Permit before April 1, 2007 must wait 180 days under the old Novice Driver Program rules
- <sup>19</sup> 2 years before having to re-qualify for the licence (by taking the vision and knowledge tests again)
- <sup>20</sup> While the Learner stage lasts for one year, it can be renewed indefinitely
- <sup>21</sup> No maximum time periods for Learner stage as long as licence remains valid; if licence allowed to lapse for >4 years, then driver must re-write the knowledge exam
- <sup>22</sup> 5 years for exiting combined G1/G2 Graduated Licensing System
- <sup>23</sup> Fully licensed with Class A, B, C, D, E, F, or G
- <sup>24</sup> 365 days in the preceding 3 years
- <sup>25</sup> At least 2 years, suspension-free
- <sup>26</sup> If taking an approved driver education course, the 60-hour log must be completed as a requirement of the course
- <sup>27</sup> 60 hours if taking an ICBC-approved driver education course; no minimum for those who do not take an approved driver education course
- <sup>28</sup> New drivers are strongly encouraged to have a minimum of 60 hours of driving experience before taking the standard road test
- <sup>29</sup> No specified number of hours unless the Class 7 – Level 1 driver has completed a driver education course, in which case they would have a minimum of 10 hours of supervised driving
- <sup>30</sup> 50 hours, with 10 hours in darkness and 10 hours in winter conditions (must be logged separately); must be a Declaration stating that the minimum number of driving hours were completed and the parent/guardian/co-driver who taught the learner must sign the document well
- <sup>31</sup> There are no exemptions for the driving curfew in Stage 1, however, this does not apply to individuals who are 21+ years of age
- <sup>32</sup> Limit of 2 passengers, including supervisor
- <sup>33</sup> No more passengers than seatbelts
- <sup>34</sup> Limited to number of working seatbelts, and must be immediate family members
- <sup>35</sup> Limited to one supervising driver in the front seat, and number of working seatbelts in backseat only
- <sup>36</sup> Must have experienced driver (see above) in vehicle at all times; number of other passengers limited to the number of working seatbelts
- <sup>37</sup> No passengers permitted except for one fully licensed driver, who is seated in the front passenger seat
- <sup>38</sup> The only passengers allowed in the vehicle are the immediate family of the accompanying driver who is giving instruction
- <sup>39</sup> No passengers, except supervisor (exception for parents/guardians if driver is enrolled in driver education and is accompanied by a licensed instructor)
- <sup>40</sup> One passenger, in addition to the co-driver
- <sup>41</sup> No passenger other than supervisor
- <sup>42</sup> Not permitted to operate Class 3 vehicle (farm truck) or off-road vehicle along or across highways
- <sup>43</sup> 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
- <sup>44</sup> Instead of an "L" sign, a "NOVICE DRIVER" sign must be displayed upon the rear of the motor vehicle being driven; lettering must be a minimum of 5 cm in height, in black lettering, on a white background
- <sup>45</sup> No Stage 1 driver shall use a hand-held cellular telephone, headphones, mp3 player or any other hand-held electronic device while operating or having care and control of a motor vehicle
- <sup>46</sup> Drivers start with 4 points on their driving record and they receive an additional 2 points on the anniversary date of their first licence to a maximum of 10 points
- <sup>47</sup> With an accumulation of 6 or more demerit points, the Registrar shall suspend the driver's licence
- <sup>48</sup> 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 and 2) a 1 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

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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

<sup>49</sup> Licence will be suspended at 8 points; any time spent suspended will have to be made up before moving on to the next stage; 30-day licence suspension for violation of the zero-BAC restriction; fine of up to \$100 and two demerit points for violation of the night driving restriction; a \$100 fine and 2 demerit points for violation of passenger restrictions; \$200 fine and 2 demerit points for violation of supervisory driver conditions

<sup>50</sup> See DRIVER IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS section of SK GDL profile

<sup>51</sup> See SUSPENSION/PROHIBITION section in MB GDL profile

<sup>52</sup> 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 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

<sup>53</sup> See SUSPENSION/PROHIBITION section of QC's GDL profile for details

<sup>54</sup> If the driver in the GDL program is suspended for a period of 3 months or greater, the suspension is followed by a return to the beginning of the GDL period with no credit given for previously passed tests or driver training actions

<sup>55</sup> See SUSPENSION/PROHIBITION section of NS' GDL profile

<sup>56</sup> Any violations that carry demerit points will suspend the Instruction Permit of the Stage 1 driver for a minimum of 30 days; Any suspension times will be added to the waiting period to exit Stage 1 (i.e. a 30-day suspension will keep the driver in Stage 1 for an additional 30 days)

<sup>57</sup> Licence suspensions are issued at 6 demerit points accumulated over two years; the suspension periods are: 2 months for 1<sup>st</sup> offence; 4 months for 2<sup>nd</sup> offence; and 6 months for 3<sup>rd</sup> offence; Violation of zero-BAC restriction: Roadside suspensions issued by the police for exceeding 0 mg% BAC, begin immediately upon issuance of the notice by the officer; two suspensions will require the Novice Driver to complete an Alcohol Education Program; three or more suspensions will require the Novice Driver to undergo an alcohol dependency evaluation/treatment program

<sup>58</sup> See SUSPENSION/PROHIBITION section for Class 7 Learner Licence in YK GDL profile

<sup>59</sup> See SUSPENSION/PROHIBITION section of NWT's GDL profile

<sup>60</sup> Voluntary – Defensive Driving Course (3 demerit reduction)

<sup>61</sup> Drivers in any stage who are found at fault for a collision, or who receive traffic convictions, will be placed in the *Graduated Driver's Licensing Improvement Program*. See SK's GDL profile for details.

<sup>62</sup> See DRIVER IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS section in MB's GDL profile

<sup>63</sup> Novice driver program is three-tiered: 1<sup>st</sup> intervention – Novice Warning letter; 2<sup>nd</sup> intervention – Novice Driver Course; 3<sup>rd</sup> intervention – Novice Driver Hearing

<sup>64</sup> "Responsible Drivers Workshop", see DRIVER IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS for Class 5 – Level 1 in NL GDL profile

<sup>65</sup> Cannot serve as an accompanying driver; cannot upgrade to a commercial licence

<sup>66</sup> See ADDITIONAL CLASS 5L FEATURES in MB GDL profile

<sup>67</sup> Not permitted to take instruction in Class 1-4; Not permitted to tow vehicles

<sup>68</sup> Driver can only drive class 5 vehicles

<sup>69</sup> No driver may apply for a Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 driver's Licence until they have successfully completed the GDL Program

<sup>70</sup> See ADDITIONAL CLASS 5 LEVEL 1 FEATURES in NL GDL profile

<sup>71</sup> May drive a vehicle that is equipped to carry more than 7 persons, including the driver, and has registered gross vehicle weight not exceeding 4000kg