

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

GDL Component		Province/Territory												
		BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL	YK	NWT	NU
Licence Class		8L	7 (Learner)	1-7 (Endorsement "6")	6M (Learner)	M1	6R		LM (Learner)	6 (Stage 1)	6 (Level I)	6 (Learner)	6 (Stage 1)	
Age Restrictions	Minimum entry age	16 yrs	14 yrs ¹	16 yrs	16 yrs	16 yrs	16 yrs		16 yrs	16 yrs	16 yrs	15 yrs	15 yrs	
	Minimum exit age	17 yrs	16 yrs	16 yrs, 9 months		16 yrs	16 yrs, 1 month		16 yrs, 3 months	17 yrs		16 yrs ²	16 yrs	
Entry Requirements	Vision test	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	Knowledge test	Yes	Yes	Yes ³	Yes ⁴	Yes	Yes ⁵		Yes	Yes	Yes ⁶	Yes	Yes	
	Parental consent:	Yes,	Yes,	Yes ⁷			Yes,		Yes	Yes,	Yes,	Yes,		
	Age applied	>19 yrs	>18 yrs				>18 yrs		>18 yrs	>18 yrs	>19	>18		
	Driver Education	Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary ⁸	Mandatory ⁹	Voluntary	Mandatory		Voluntary	Voluntary ¹⁰	Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary	
Exit Requirements	Time completion	12 months, Class 8L	12 months, Class 6 (Learner)			60 days ¹¹	1 month, Class 6R		See below ¹²	Varies ¹³	12 months, Level 1 ¹⁴	12 months, Class 6 (Learner) ¹⁵	12 months ¹⁶	
	Pass test / course	Class 8 road test	On-lot / on-road tests	Practical on-road skills test	Approved motorcycle training course	Yes ¹⁷	See notes ¹⁸		Practical skills test	Class 6 road test	Class 6 road test	Class 6 road test	On-lot / On-road tests ¹⁹	
Stage Duration	Minimum duration	12 months ²⁰	12 months	9 months	1 day (for approved course)	60 days	1 month ²¹		3 months	180 days	8 months	6 continuous months	12 months	
	Maximum holding period	2 years ²²				2 years ²³	18 months		1 year		2 years			

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Supervisory Driver	Age	25+ yrs	18+ yrs										18+ yrs	
	Licence held	Class 6	Class 6 ²⁴				See notes ²⁵			Full	Full Class 6	Full	Class 6	
	Time licensed						2 years			4 years	4 years	2 years ²⁶	2 years	
	BAC level while supervising						Zero			≤0.05	≤0.05	Zero	No alcohol or drugs in system	
	Driver log	Optional	Yes ²⁷											
	Location while supervising	Within sight of driver ²⁸	See notes ²⁹							Direct observation		See below ³⁰	On bike, or another bike / vehicle	
Supervised Driving	Minimum amount	60 hours ³¹										30 hours		
Driver Restrictions and Conditions	BAC level while driving	Zero	Zero	Zero		Zero	Zero		Zero	Zero, > 19 yrs	Zero	Zero	Zero	
	Night driving	Only during sunrise - sunset	12am-5am	Yes ³²		Yes ³³			Yes ³⁴		Yes ³⁵	12am-5am	11pm-6am	
	Passenger restrictions	No passengers	Yes ³⁶	No passengers		No passengers			No passengers	Yes ³⁷	No passengers	No passengers ³⁸	Supervisor only	
	Road restrictions	Yes ³⁹		Yes ⁴⁰		Yes ⁴¹					Yes ⁴²		Yes ⁴³	
	Display "L" sign/plate	Yes ⁴⁴								Yes ⁴⁵		Yes ⁴⁶		
	Other restrictions									Yes ⁴⁷				

GDL Component		Province/Territory												
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Suspensions / Prohibitions	Lower driver penalty point threshold	2-6 instead of 15-19	8 instead of 15			9 instead of 15	4 instead of 15		4 instead of 12		6 instead of 12	7 instead of 15	6 instead of 15	
	Suspensions	Yes ⁴⁸	Yes ⁴⁹			Yes ⁵⁰	Yes ⁵¹		Yes ⁵²	Yes ⁵³	Yes ⁵⁴	Yes ⁵⁵	Yes ⁵⁶	
Driver Improvement Actions											Yes ⁵⁷			
Additional GDL features			Yes ⁵⁸			Yes ⁵⁹			Yes ⁶⁰	Yes ⁶¹		Yes ⁶²	Yes ⁶³	

¹ 14 years to receive a Learner's Licence, however, applicants must be 16 years old if choosing to licence first as a motorcycle rider (Class 6)

² 16 years, or 6 continuous months if over 16

³ Written test on motorcycle traffic laws and safe driving practices

⁴ Successful completion of the written knowledge test issues a motorcycle M Stage licence that will allow drivers to take the Motorcycle Training Course only

⁵ Must achieve 85% for the part on motorcycle operating techniques; 75% for the parts on traffic rules, road signs and traffic signals; If the driver already holds a class 5 probationary or driver's licence, they must pass the section on techniques for operating a motorcycle (32 questions)

⁶ A balance test is required in addition to the written and vision tests

⁷ Required for Class 7 licence if applicants are under 18 yrs of age

⁸ In preparing to become a licensed motorcycle driver, attending a motorcycle training course is encouraged

⁹ An approved 1-day Motorcycle Training Course that provides the new motorcyclist with the basic skills required to operate a motorcycle

¹⁰ Although driver education is voluntary, those who do not enrol in a driving course must take a 5-hour knowledge course for novices

¹¹ Motorcycle riders who successfully complete an approved motorcycle safety course that includes a road test with an M1 licence are exempt from taking the ministry's M1 road test and can move to an M2 licence after 60 days

¹² 6 months and successfully completing an advanced skills test, or after 3 months if an approved motorcycle course is successfully completed

¹³ 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

¹⁴ 12 months as a Level 1 driver before taking a road test; this may be reduced to 8 months with successful completion of a motorcycle driver education program, approved by the Minister of Government Services in Class 6 driving

¹⁵ 1 year or 6 continuous months as a Class 6 Learner

¹⁶ Hold a Class 7 or valid operator's licence for 12 months suspension-free

¹⁷ M1 road test or complete an approved motorcycle safety course before receiving a Class M2 licence

¹⁸ A mandatory Driver education course must be passed, which consists of one theory portion and two practical portions, on a closed track and on the road; the theory course may be followed before taking the knowledge test to obtain a class 6R learner's licence

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- ¹⁹ The practical test has two parts - an on-lot and on-road test. The on-lot skill test must be completed prior to doing the road test. The requirement to perform the on-lot skill test portion may be waived if an approved facility is not available.
- ²⁰ 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
- ²¹ If drivers pass the mandatory driver education course, they are eligible to take the closed-track test after holding the 6R licence for 1 month
- ²² 2 years before having to re-qualify for licence (by taking the vision, knowledge and motorcycle skills tests again)
- ²³ While the motorcycle safety course certificate is valid for two years from its issue date, it may only be used for the M1 road test exemption within six months of its issue date
- ²⁴ Class 6; if the accompanying driver is following in a vehicle, they must have both a Motorcycle Licence (Class 6) and a Driver's Licence (Class 5)
- ²⁵ Driving-instructors of the driving school are the only eligible supervisors because this licence allows learners to drive any type of motorcycle, but only as part of a mandatory driving course given in a driving school recognized by CAA-Quebec or the Quebec Safety League (or as part of a SAAQ closed track test).
- ²⁶ At least 2 years, suspension-free
- ²⁷ After the successful completion of the Motorcycle Skills Test, new riders can complete the remaining requirements of the experience log on his/her own, but the log must be signed by a qualified supervisor
- ²⁸ Driver must always ride within sight of a qualified supervisor – requirement removed after successful completion of MST
- ²⁹ On the motorbike with the Learner, or following behind on their own motorbike or in a vehicle
- ³⁰ Seated behind the Learning motorcycle driver, or following closely on another motorcycle or in a motor vehicle. 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 learn to safely balance the bike during driving manoeuvres. It is therefore recommended that the co-driver follow in or on another vehicle
- ³¹ 60 hours of logged riding practice recommended before taking the road test
- ³² No driving between the half hour following sunset and the half hour before sunrise
- ³³ Must ride only during daylight hours (1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset)
- ³⁴ Can only drive only within the half hour before sunrise to the half hour after sunset
- ³⁵ No driving after darkness (½ hour before sunset to ½ hour after sunrise)
- ³⁶ Limited to the supervisor
- ³⁷ Only 1 non-family member as a passenger; the other passengers must be members of the Stage 2 driver's immediate family
- ³⁸ Must not carry any passengers; it is recommended the co-driver follow in another vehicle rather than ride on the Motorcycle in order to not interfere with the learning driver's ability to balance the bike
- ³⁹ Must not exceed 60 km/h - restriction removed after successful completion of MST
- ⁴⁰ Must operate within a 100 km radius of the address or secondary address shown on the certificate of registration for the motorcycle
- ⁴¹ Driver must not ride on highways with speed limits of more than 80 km/h, except highways 11, 17, 61, 69, 71, 101, 102, 144, 655
- ⁴² Not permitted on highways where posted speed limit exceeds 80 km/h
- ⁴³ Not to operate in speed zones of 70 km/h or greater
- ⁴⁴ 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
- ⁴⁵ A small yellow Learner's Decal which is to be placed on the back of the motorcycle operator's helmet
- ⁴⁶ 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
- ⁴⁷ 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
- ⁴⁸ Four penalty points (usually 2 tickets) leads to 1 month prohibition, more points could lead to a longer prohibition; minimum penalty for violating GLP restrictions is a fine of \$109 plus 3 driver penalty points; violation of the zero BAC limit results in 1) an immediate 12-hour suspension 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

⁴⁹ Violation of the zero-BAC limit results in a 30-day licence suspension; violation of Supervisory Driver condition could result in the Learner being fined \$200 and two demerit points if a supervisory driver in an accompanying motor vehicle does not hold both Class 5 and Class 6 licences; violation of the night driving restriction could result in the Learner being fined up to \$100 and two demerit points if riding after sunset; any time spent suspended will have to be made up before moving on to the next stage

⁵⁰ See Class M1 SUSPENSION/PROHIBITION section in ON's GDL profile for details

⁵¹ See SUSPENSION/PROHIBITION section of QC's GDL profile for details

⁵² Suspensions will affect your ability to take the road test and more

⁵³ 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, for example, a 30-day suspension will keep the driver in Stage 1 for an additional 30 days

⁵⁴ Licence suspensions are issued at 6 demerit points accumulated over two years; the suspension periods are: 2 months for 1st offence; 4 months for 2nd offence; and 6 months for 3rd offence. Violation of zero-BAC restriction results in: roadside suspensions being issued by the police for exceeding 0 mg% BAC, which begin immediately upon issuance of the notice by the officer; 2 suspensions will require the Novice Driver to complete an Alcohol Education Program; 3 or more suspensions will require the Novice Driver to undergo an alcohol dependency evaluation/treatment program.

⁵⁵ See Class 6 (Learner) SUSPENSION/PROHIBITION section of YK's GDL profile

⁵⁶ After an accumulation of 6 or more demerit points, the Registrar shall suspend the driver's licence; suspensions will extend the length of the Learner stage

⁵⁷ If demerit points are accumulated, the Novice Driver must complete a demerit points "Responsible Drivers Workshop" reinstatement course; if the Novice Driver has not reached suspension level, a points reduction course will permit the removal of up to four (4) points every five (5) years; a suspension requires the Novice Driver to re-start at the level attained, however, credit is permitted for tests or education courses previously taken

⁵⁸ Learner cannot serve as an accompanying rider to another Learner; cannot upgrade to a commercial licence

⁵⁹ With a Class M1 licence, an operator can drive a moped, limited-speed motorcycle, and a motorcycle

⁶⁰ See ADDITIONAL CLASS LM FEATURES section of NS's GDL profile

⁶¹ Stage 1 drivers cannot apply for a Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 driver's Licence until they have successfully completed the GDL Program

⁶² 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; the holder of a Motorcycle Learner Licence may only drive motorcycles

⁶³ Must hold a valid operator's licence or Class 7 when beginning the program