

What is the Graduated Driver Licensing Program?

The Graduated Driver Licensing Program (GDL) is a system of licensing that gives new drivers the opportunity to gradually move into higher risk driving situations after gaining experience in lower risk situations.

The GDL Program has 3 Stages. (Stage 1, 2, and 3). No driver may apply for a Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 driver's license until they have successfully completed the GDL Program, except a Stage 3 driver may apply for a Restricted Class 4 driver's license to operate an ambulance when the Stage 3 driver is enrolled in a paramedic training program.

A Stage 1 or 2 driver cannot operate a motor vehicle under supervision that requires a Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 driver's license.

A Stage 3 driver that is operating a motor vehicle under supervision that requires a Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 must provide a satisfactory medical to PEI's Highway Safety Division.

The required driver's medical form can be found at the following link.

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/forms/pdf/2027.pdf>

Stage 1

Stage 1 is when you receive your Instruction Permit (Class 7). This is often called the Beginners or Learners Permit and is a period of supervised driving. When operating a motor vehicle the Stage 1 driver must be accompanied by a licensed driver who has held a driver's license for at least 4 years. The accompanying driver who is giving instruction must be in the front seat and cannot have a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .05 or more. The only other passengers allowed in the vehicle is the immediate family of the accompanying driver who is giving instruction.

All individuals who received their Instruction Permit are required to wait 365 days or if enrolled in Driver Education, 275 days before they have their first Road Test.

All drivers in the GDL Program (Stage 1) must have a blood alcohol content (BAC) of zero when operating a motor vehicle.

Stage 1 drivers are prohibited from operating motor vehicles between the hours of 1am and 5am. There are no exemptions for the driving curfew in Stage 1. **However, this does not apply to individuals who are 21 years of age or older.**

No person who is a 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.

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 an additional 30 days.

Stage 1 drivers are required to have a Learner`s Decal displayed on any motor vehicle they operate. The Stage 1 driver will receive this decal at the time their photo is taken for their Instruction Permit. The decal is to be placed on the inside of the windshield just above the Motor Vehicle Inspection sticker. There is no cost for the decal and it is made of a material which allows it to be removed and replaced over and over.

If a Decal becomes lost or destroyed during any of the GDL Stages, a replacement decal can be acquired at any Access PEI location. There is no charge for the replacement decal. If this occurs at times when it is not possible to get a replacement decal such as evenings, weekends or the decal was left on another vehicle, an individual may produce a temporary paper decal to be placed on the windshield or print one from the following web address <http://www.gov.pe.ca/tpwpei/> (Follow the Graduated Driver Licensing Program links.)

For those that operate motorcycles there is a small yellow Learner`s Decal which is to be placed on the back of the motorcycle operator`s helmet.

Stage 2

When an individual has met all the requirements of Stage 1 including a successful road test they will graduate into Stage 2 and receive their Class 5 driver`s license. The Stage 2 driver may now operate a vehicle while unsupervised but there are a number of restrictions.

The Stage 2 section of the GDL Program lasts for 1 year.

Stage 2 drivers can only have one non-family member as a passenger. The other passengers must be members of the Stage 2 driver`s immediate family. A Stage 2 driver can be issued a fine if they have a passenger who is not wearing a seatbelt.

- *PEI's Highway Traffic Act defines immediate family as the following:*
- *92.1 (1) In this section, "immediate family member" means, in respect of a newly licensed driver,*
- *(a) the spouse or common-law partner of the newly licensed driver;*
- *(b) the father and mother of the newly licensed driver and the spouse or common-law partner of the father or mother of the newly licensed driver;*
- *(c) the children of the newly licensed driver and the children of the newly licensed driver's spouse or common-law partner;*
- *(d) the grandchildren of the newly licensed driver;*
- *(e) the brothers and sisters of the newly licensed driver;*
- *(f) the grandfather and grandmother of the newly licensed driver;*
- *(g) the father and mother of the spouse or common-law partner of the newly licensed driver and the spouse or common-law partner of the father or mother; and*
- *(h) any relative of the newly licensed driver who resides permanently with the newly licensed driver or with whom the newly licensed driver permanently resides*

All drivers in the GDL Program (Stage 2) must have a blood alcohol content (BAC) of zero when operating a motor vehicle.

An accumulation of 6 or more Demerit Points will result in the suspension of the Stage 2 driver's license, followed by a 1 year probation period. If the driver receives any fines that carry demerit points during the probation period their Stage 2 driver's license will be suspended.

Stage 2 drivers are prohibited from operating motor vehicles between the hours of 1am and 5am. The Stage 2 driver may apply for an exemption from the driving curfew for work purposes and can also operate a motor vehicle between the hours of 1am and 5am if they are accompanied by a licensed driver who has held a license for at least 4 years and the accompanying driver does not have a BAC level of .05 or more. **This does not apply to individuals who are 21 years of age or older.**

Exemption forms are available at all Access PEI locations and the internet at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/tpwpei/> (Follow the Graduated Driver Licensing Program links.)

No person who is a Stage 2 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.

The Stage 2 driver will be suspended for any seatbelt or passenger restriction fines they receive, 1st offence 30 days and 2nd offence 90 days. Any suspension times will be added to the waiting time to exit Stage 2, for example a 30 day suspension will keep the driver in Stage 2 an additional 30days.

Stage 2 drivers are required to have a Graduated Decal displayed on any motor vehicle they operate. The Stage 2 driver will receive this decal at the time their photo is taken for their Class 5 driver's license. There is no cost for the decal.

For those that operate motorcycles there is a small yellow Graduated Decal which is to be placed on the back of the motorcycle operator's helmet.

When the GDL driver has spent the appropriate time in Stage 2 they automatically graduate into Stage 3.

Stage 3

Stage 3 is the last year of the Graduated Driver Licensing Program (GDL) and lasts for 1 year with a number of restrictions.

No more passengers in the vehicle than the number of available seatbelts.

All drivers in the GDL Program (Stage 3) must have a blood alcohol content (BAC) of zero when operating a motor vehicle.

An accumulation of 9 or more Demerit Points will result in the suspension of the Stage 3 driver's license, followed by a 1 year probation period. If the driver receives any fines that carry demerit points during the probation period their Stage 3 driver's license will be suspended.

No person who is a Stage 3 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.

The Stage 3 driver will be suspended for any seatbelt or passenger restriction fines they receive, 1st offence 30 days and 2nd offence 90 days. Any suspension times will be added to the waiting time to exit Stage 3, for example a 30 day suspension will keep the driver in Stage 3 an additional 30days.

Stage 3 drivers are required to have a Graduated Decal displayed on any motor vehicle they operate. This is the same decal the driver received for Stage 2. There is no cost for the decal.

For those that operate motorcycles there is a small yellow Graduated Decal which is to be placed on the back of the motorcycle operator's helmet.

For more information or questions on the GDL Program please visit the following website

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/tpwpei/> (Follow the Graduated Driver Licensing Program links or contact us at 368-5214 or 432-2714.)